

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON

DRAFT Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on the 3rd December 2019 at 6pm at the Parish Rooms, Rothbury

Present: Hilary Dunn (Chair), Alan Winlow (Vice Chair), Peter Henry (Councillor), Fran Tait (Councillor), Sarah Winlow (Clerk) and Tom Burwood (Web Master)

1. APOLOGIES for absence: Val Burwood (Councillor), Alan Tait (parish resident)

2. MINUTES of the meeting held on the 3rd of September 2019 were considered. AW proposed that the minute was a true record of the meeting and this was seconded by FT. The minute was signed by the Chair.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i. Highways and Footways: AW circulated the Highways and Footpaths report for NCC Highways and Technical Maintenance. *A copy of the Highways and Footpaths report can be found on the [WTPC website](#) (under Documents / Other).* The report notes potholes have been patched on the Tosson to Lordenshaws road but that additional work is required to fix potholes and damaged road surface elsewhere in the Tosson locale. AW agreed to fill potholes in the passing places along Carterside Road.

ii. Clerk vacancy: Following the advertising of the position with the current terms and conditions and receiving no expressions of interest, it was decided to make the position salaried. Discussion ensued about the affordability of a salaried clerk. It was agreed that the Parish Council has the means to appoint a clerk for 100 hours over the next financial year. The precept may need to be raised in future to cover the position. The current contract will be amended for use and will include a clause to allow overtime should additional hours be required. HD reported that Garth Rhodes, Clerk for Longframlington Parish Council and for Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council is interested in the position. It was agreed that if GR agrees to the terms in the revised contract, he should be appointed for a trial period of six months. HD thanked SW for clerking since January 2017.

HD to amend contract and approach Garth Rhodes formally with offer. SW to hand over to new clerk in January 2020.

iii. Deposit of archives at Woodhorn: SW has arranged for the deposition of the Parish Council's archive dating from 19XX to 20XX.

4. MATTERS ARISING

i. Whitton wastewater improvements and associated road closure:

Northumbrian Water are proposing to start construction in Spring 2020 of a new sewer running from Whitton to a new pumping station located by the golf club, a rising main (pumped sewer) up Whitton Bank, through Whitton to discharge into a new gravity sewer constructed in Silverton Lane. AW circulated copies of the notes taken at the onsite meeting he attended with VB on the 4th November 2019. The meeting was held to discuss the programme of works, including traffic management, with representatives from Northumbrian Water, NCC Streetworks, Mott MacDonald Bentley (the contractor), the Parish Council and County Cllr Bridgett in attendance. A copy the notes from the meeting can be found on the [WTPC website](#) (under Documents / Other). It was agreed to keep Whitton Bank open to traffic using traffic lights. At the meeting, and following

Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)

Dated.....

it via social media, Cllr Bridgett suggested a one-way system be put in place rather than the traffic light scheme. In response, HD wrote to Cllr Bridgett summarising the Parish Council's preference for the traffic light scheme and requesting he arrange another meeting of all parties if he felt his concerns and preferred solution of a one-way system should be discussed further.

ii. Update from the Joint Burial Committee: The precept for the JBC will be set at its next meeting. HD asked for agreement for approval of Whitton and Tosson's contribution to the JBC precept to be confirmed by email to avoid having to hold an additional meeting. All agreed to approve contribution to JBC precept by email.

iii. Purchase of sandbags: SW has contacted Cllr Bridgett in regard to sandbags. NCC do not supply sandbags and neither do the Environment Agency. NCC holds a supply of sandbags and sand in Alnwick for flood emergency and Cllr Bridgett provided assurance that these would be deployed in emergencies like that experienced by Rothbury in 2008. HD suggested property owners concerned about flooding should invest in protection measures for their properties, such as the flood barriers installed on the front doors of the Ryehill Cottages.

iv. Motion to support the Power for People's campaign for Local Electricity Bill: AW summarised the campaign and noted that whilst it is not directly relevant to this parish, suggested the Parish Council support the motion to encourage development of local renewable energy suppliers and to scale costs to the scale of production. All agreed to support the following motion:

Whitton and Tosson Parish Council

- 1) notes that the Local Electricity Bill
 - aims to address the current situation, whereby the very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,
 - if made law, would make these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation and therefore empower councils, together with their communities to sell locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
 - would result in councils or community organisations that set up local renewable electricity companies receiving revenues that could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emission reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities
- 2) accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by a cross-party group of 115MPs during the 2017-2019 Parliamentary session, and
- 3) further resolves to express support for the Campaign to its organisers and to our elected MP.

SW to draft letters to Power for People campaign and Anne Marie Trevelyan MP.

Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)

Dated.....

5. FINANCE

i. Balance of accounts: Community Account **£2668.85** and Savers Account **£1404.19**. HD suggested £600 should be transferred from the Community Account to the Savers Account to ensure enough funds available should the Parish Council have to hold an election. All agreed. *SW to draft letter for two bank signatories to sign.*

ii. Precept for 2020/2021 All agreed to keep the precept at £1500. It was agreed that once the Rothbury Joint Burial Committee precept for Whitton and Tosson is known (expected in early January), that this figure be added to the parish precept. The deadline for the return of the precept request is 27th January 2020. The precept will be paid in two tranches – the first 50% will be paid by 30th April 2020 and the remaining tranche by 30th September 2020.
Confirmation of Whitton and Tosson's contribution to the Rothbury JBC was received in early January - £3592. This has been added to the precept request that now totals £5092.

iii. Hire of meeting room £12: Approved (*NB the cheque was made out incorrectly – the amount for December's meeting should be added to the cheque for the hire of the meeting room in March 2020 – SW*)

iv. Clerk's honorarium £60: Approved

v. David Smith – grass strimming services £120: Approved

vi. Request for funding from Great North Air Ambulance Service. All agreed to donate **£100**

vii. Donation to Over The Bridges for placing clerk vacancy advert: All agreed to donate **£20**

viii. Request for funding from Community Action Northumberland: Declined

6. PLANNING

i. 19/04177/FUL Garage conversion to extend kitchen, Grange Cottage, Whitton: All supportive of this proposal.

ii. 19/01344/VARYCO Coquetdale Caravan Park – alterations to allow reorganisation of site boundary and reduction in density of pitches: The planning proposal was withdrawn by the applicant in early September.

iii. 19/03930/FUL Carterside – redundant barns app for holiday lets: The number of units has been reduced from five to four. The design remains similar to the previous application. All supportive of the application. PH asked whether the drainage problem has been fixed at Carterside – AW confirmed NCC Highways had fixed the problem.

iv. Consultation on Scoping Documents for the Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations SPDs: noted

Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)

Dated.....

v. Notification of submission of Northumberland National Park Local Plan:
noted

7. CORRESPONDENCE

i. Request to support national local energy campaign from Power to People:
see Matters Arising 4iv.

ii. Correspondence from Cllr Bridgett re Northumbria Water road closure: noted

iii. Consultation on NCC's Public Spaces Protection Order for the Control of Dogs: noted

iv. Notification of 'Nowhere to go' – recent research carried out by NU: noted

v. Call to action from Friends of the Earth – 20-point local guide for local councils: noted

vi. Reference book offer: 'Tribute to the Fallen, 1914-1920...': noted

vii. Notification of Robert Albert Clark Rally at Harwood: noted

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

i. WTPC's response to the Climate Emergency: Prompted by the urgency to which climate change needs to be addressed and following the example of Longhoughton Parish Council who have recently set up a Climate Change Action Group, AW has been considering action that could be taken by WTPC. To this end, he has agreed areas along the roadside verges of the parish with NCC Highways for planting of 1000 trees. A small group of parish residents and residents of Rothbury are eager to help plant these trees in early 2020, and to support AW in their maintenance.

ii. Date of next meeting: 17th of March, 2020.

All meetings to be held at the Parish Hall, Rothbury.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20pm.