

An Electronic Meeting meeting of Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council was held at 7pm on Tuesday 21st July, 2020.

Present: Chair Ian Lepingwell, Councillors B Wood, K Armstrong, K Turvey, H Sordy, A Whincup, A Smith (Clerk). L Long (newly appointed clerk from September 1).

Draft Minutes

1. Public Questions: Any public questions were to have been emailed to the clerk by 7pm on Monday 20th July. The clerk reported there were no public questions.

2. Apologies: The clerk had received apologies from Councillors C Durie, J Renner, R Bateson, A Young, S Gray and Lord Ravensworth, . K Armstrong declared an interest in item 7 and B Wood declared an interest in item 4 grass cutting.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday June 16th 2020 (previously circulated) were accepted as a true record (to be signed at a later date).

4. Any matters arising:

(i) Formal letter of appointment to clerk: The chair welcomed the new clerk who will take over on September 1 and confirmed that all terms had been agreed. Ms Long introduced herself to councillors and said she was looking forward to taking up the post.

(ii) Whittingham Vale; Tree planting and grass cutting: The clerk had received correspondence from another resident of Whittingham expressing concern at the cutting of grass verges adversely affecting wildlife and wildflowers. Councillors discussed the matter and it was agreed the clerk will write to the concerned residents to explain that “The Parish Council has considered this very carefully over three meetings and we value your opinions and understand why you are making these points of concern. Following discussion councillors agreed that grass will be cut as necessary to keep the Parish looking tidy for all.”

(iii) Dangerous tree at Eslington/Netherton Road Cllr Whincup clarified the tree is on Northumberland County Council’s land and that it is posing a danger of falling onto the road. The clerk will write to NCC to state that it is the PC’s belief the tree is dangerous and requests that NCC provides a second opinion on its removal. A Whincup said he had previously asked NCC about the tree and they had not considered it unsafe. Cllr Whincup had offered to remove it but NCC had clarified with the clerk that it would require a road closure which would cost a private individual £1200 or £500 if it could be proved it was unsafe.

(iv) iNorthumberland The clerk will liaise with Sylvia Young of iNorthumberland who had offered to pull together a list of addresses in Whittingham where there is poor broadband with an intention of securing grants through DCMS and the Borderlands fund. Cllr Turvey said that Alnham had been working with iNorthumberland to improve broadband there for the last two years and it was quite a lengthy process.

5. Project to restore cast iron signposts; The chair explained that a project by the Glanton Heritage Group to secure funding from the Calor Community Fund to restore cast iron signs had not succeeded.

6. Proposed BT telephone box removals; 20/02010BT Proposal to remove phone box 01669630227, Location: PCO PCO1 Alnham Alnwick 20/02011/BT Proposal to remove phone box 01665574271 Location: O/S Post Office PCO1 Whittingham Alnwick.

Following discussion it was agreed to pose no objection to the removal of the phone box at Alnham. However the PC will object to the removal of the phone box at Whittingham as it presents a historical landmark. The PC

agreed that it will look to retain the phone box through the Adopt a Kiosk scheme. The chair asked that councillors give some consideration as to what use the phone box could be put to.

7.Planning:(circulated between meetings);

(i)App 20/01887/FUL; construction of 3 timber stables and steel framed workshop/garage, Land South of Hope Cottage, Whittingham. (Cllr Armstrong declared an interest). No objections.

(ii) 20/00139/VARYCO Variation of condition to allow rearrangement of windows , Sayer Cottage, Whittingham. No objections.

(iii) 19/02774/FUL and 19/02775/LBC Applications withdrawn; Extension to existing listed lodge house and Listed Building Consent for extension to existing listed lodge house, South Lodge Callaly.

(iv) 20/00900/FUL 2 Scrainwood Cottages, Alnham, proposed rear extension to cottage, Granted.

(v) 20/00618/LBC Installation of Stannah domestic platform, East Wing, Callaly Castle, Granted.

There were no further plans/

8.Finance The following information was received:

(i)Request for donation from Fundraising Officer Ninette Edwards at Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team. It was agreed that Ninette had highlighted the important work locally of the Team and a donation of £50 was agreed.

(ii) Parish Council Account:

Brought forward from previous meeting

£ 8366.67

Paid out since meeting of 16th June 2020

Chq 940 Approval for Replacement Defibrillator Pads and Battery £100

Chq Friends of the Burial Grounds £900 (not cashed as yet)

Chq 936 Clerks Wages for June £113.21

Chq HMRC Paye First quarter £84.60 (not cashed as yet)

Chq 938 Donation for planting up of the Ravensworth Memorial Fountain £30 H Durie.

Paid in since meeting of 16th June 2020 £0

Balance Carried Forward £7673.46 (cheque 931 Whittingham Vale donation cashed)

Parish Plan Account

No transactions this period.

1157.03

Accounts for payment as of 21st June 2020

Clerk's wages for July&August £226.42

Final HMRC payment for current clerk £56.40

Northumberland Mountain Rescue Team £50

9. Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) Northumberland Local Plan The clerk will circulate the link to view the additional evidence from NCC and confirmed that she has also received a memory stick with the documents.

10. Any other issues

Cllr Whincup said that he would forward some emails to the clerk for circulation with councillors regarding BOATs (A Byway Open to All Traffic).

11. Time and date of next meeting: Tuesday September 15th 2020

Amy Smith Clerk to the Council

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