

An Electronic Meeting meeting of Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council was held at 7pm on Tuesday 19th May, 2020.

Present: Chair Ian Lepingwell, Councillors B Wood, K Armstrong, A Whincup, A Young, C Durie, A Smith (Clerk).

Draft Minutes

1. Public Questions: Any public questions were to have been emailed to the clerk by 7pm on Monday 18th April. The clerk reported there were no public questions.

2. Apologies: The clerk had received apologies from Councillors K Tuvey, R Bateson, Lord Ravensworth, H Sordy, S Gray and J Renner. There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday April 21st 2020 (previously circulated) were accepted as a true record (to be signed at a later date).

4. Any matters arising not on hold due to the National Emergency

White railings on Whittingham Bridge: The clerk had again been in touch with NCC's highways department who confirmed an officer had been out and inspected the railings. Although they were found to be generally in a good state of repair there were one or two points that needed replacement work and when the Ivy is removed further damage may be uncovered. Officer Graham Bucknall asked for the parish council's patience in the matter as he promised the work would be carried out but due to the national emergency there was now a backlog of work.

5. Coronavirus

Any actions or provisional expenditure to authorise None.

Following the last meeting the clerk had posted a round-up of services by and help being offered by volunteers and local businesses for those self-isolating.

7. Approval of annual accounts 2019/20, Certificate of Exemption and Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) These documents had been previously circulated among councillors. An internal audit had been kindly been carried out by John Rutherford. The accounts were approved and the chair agreed the Annual Governance Statement. The clerk will post the Certificate of Exemption to PKF LittleJohn. Dates for public inspection of the accounts will be given in due course following further guidance from NALC due to the Coronavirus lockdown but they are all available to view on the Parish website.

8. Planning Any new applications since agenda prepared There had been no new applications.

9. Finance The following information was received:

Parish Council Account

Brought forward from previous meeting

£ 8839.63

Paid out since meeting of 21st April 2020

Chq 933 NALC annual subscription and website fee £226.74

Chq 932 Clerks Wages for April £113.21

Paid in since meeting of 21st April 2020 £0

Balance Carried Forward £8499.68

Parish Plan Account

No transactions this period.

1157.03

Accounts for payment as of 19th May 2020

Clerks Wages for May £113.21

Clerks travel(Alnwick to Whittingham return x2)

to drop-off&collect file for internal audit at £0.45 per mile £12.60

12x 2nd class stamps £7.80

Total to clerk £ 133.01

10. Any other non-coronavirus urgent issues

a. Resignation of current clerk and advert for vacancy of clerk: The chair explained that unfortunately the clerk would have to resign the post of clerk from September when she is due to start teacher training. The clerk apologised for being in the role for only a short period of time as she had not expected this opportunity to arise. An advert for the vacancy will be published in the NALC newsletter and on the parish website. The chair highlighted that training could be provided for candidates and the current clerk would also support in this. Cllr Armstrong said she was happy to help in the process of recruiting a new clerk.

b. Letter from a resident regarding Whittingham Vale: The clerk had received from correspondence a local resident regarding two issues:

- 1) He raised concern that the grass verge between Whittingham and Glanton is being cut too frequently and therefore damaging wildlife.
- 2) He is concerned that a farmer's gate on the C178 road to Callaly out of Whittingham swings outwards onto the road and also that a white skinned Birch tree paid for with public donations and planted in 2001 by the enhancement committee of the Parish Council has been uprooted.

Following discussion the Parish Council agreed that the grass verge was only cut in the correct time frame and was necessary for road safety. It was understood that the gate had to open outwards as the land is too high for it to open inwards but that it does not pose a danger to road safety as it swings back off the road and is used infrequently for heavy machinery.

Regarding the tree it was understood this had had to be removed due to a power cable and shouldn't have originally been planted in that position. However it was agreed that the Parish Council would fund the cost of a replacement tree to be planted slightly further along the hedgerow.

Time and date of next meeting: Tuesday 16th June 2020

Amy Smith Clerk to the Council

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