

MINUTES of a Meeting of Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish Council Tuesday 20th April, 2021, via Zoom at 7:00pm

Present: Chair Ian Lepingwell (IL), Councillors: B Wood (BW) K Armstrong (KA), A Young (AY), C Durie (CD) J Renner (JD), A Whincup (AW), S Gray (SG)

In Attendance: Lesley Long (Clerk)

ITEM

50/21 Public Questions

The Clerk reported that there were no public questions.

51/21 Apologies for Absence & Declaration of Interest

K Turvey, R Bateson, H Sordy, Lord Ravensworth. There were no declarations of interest.

52/21 Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday March 16th, 2021.

The Minutes were ACCEPTED as a true record.

53/21 Matters Arising

- i. **Progress construction of private footpath** AW confirmed the works were in hand. The contractor's quote of £1,450 + VAT to undertake the preparatory work was approved at a previous parish council meeting and he is available to do the work in approximately 3 weeks. After this date, the delivery of stone from the quarry can be arranged. **Action - AW**
- ii. **Risk Assessment for users of the private footpath.** – AW confirmed he will prepare the risk assessment and take supporting photographs for the Clerk to send to the insurers as soon as construction of the path is complete. **ACTION AW & Clerk**
- ii. **Whittingham Scout Group request for storage space.** AW has been in contact with the Scout Group Leader and they are looking at the suitability of a property on Lord Ravensworth land. **ACTION - AW**
- iii. **Request for permission to paint Whittingham red telephone kiosk.** The Clerk is clarifying who needs to grant permission and whether she can source a free supply of the correct paint. **ACTION - Clerk**

54/21 Highway Matters

- i. **Residents concerns with stones on the village green posing hazard for delivery drivers.** IL reminded councillors that the stones had originally been placed on the edge of the green to prevent erosion by traffic and parked cars. The parish council confirmed the stones should stay on the green, but that a group of residents could be asked to help lay them flat and move them slightly to pose less of a risk.
- ii. **Repairs to the slip roads around village green.** NCC Highways have filled in the worst of the potholes. Resurfacing will take place later in the year.

55/21 Planning

- i. **21/00904/FUL Land West Brickwork Cottages, Thrunton.** Proposed redevelopment for 14 dwellings and 3 tourism units. The parish council was of the view the development would improve the area significantly and decided to SUPPORT the application. **ACTION - Clerk**

56/21 Great British Spring Clean Campaign May - June 2021 - The parish council supported the aims of the campaign but has no plans to organise any volunteer activity at the present time.

57/21 Election Outcome 2021 – The following parish councillors have been returned unopposed and will take office with effect from May 10th 2021, with the first meeting of the new parish council being held on May 18th 2021. Ian Lepingwell, Chris Durie, Brian Wood, Kate Turvey, Stu Gray, Richard Bateson, Andrew Young, Andrew Whincup, Karen Armstrong and James Renner. There are two vacancies for which the council may co-opt after May 6th. The parish council thanked KA for the significant time and organising effort she had put in to help fellow councillors complete and submit

their nomination papers during lockdown. The Clerk will send out Acceptance of Office, Declaration of Interest and Contact Information forms to incoming parish councillors before the next meeting.

ACTION – Clerk

- 58/21 NALC Coronavirus Update.** NALC are pursuing action in the High Court to permit the continuance of remote meetings after May 7th. The decision of the High Court will be known by the end of April. Councillors indicated they would prefer meetings to continue via Zoom if permitted, until such time as the Covid social distancing regulations are relaxed.

59/21 Finance Report & Payments

- a. The Finance Report for April 2021 was RECEIVED and AGREED
- i. The balance of the Treasurers Current Account is = £8,836.00
- ii. The balance of the Parish Plan Account is = £1,157.03

- b. The following payments were AGREED
- i. Clerk's salary for April 1st – 30th, 2021 (15 hours @£10.44) less PAYE £138.60
- ii. HMRC PAYE due for Quarter 4 £ 61.80
- iii. NALC Invoice for annual subscriptions and website hosting £230.26

- c. The Clerk confirmed she had received the instructions and timescale for completing the annual AGAR external audit forms from PKF Littlejohn. She would shortly prepare the end of year accounts and asked if the previous internal auditor was still willing to audit the parish accounts. IL undertook to find out. **ACTION - IL & Clerk**

- d. The Clerk advised that the parish council should nominate another full signatory who would be happy to use online banking. It was agreed that KA would become a signatory. **ACTION - Clerk**

60/21 Correspondence

- i. **Northumberland Communities National Park New Communities Fund.** The Clerk will find out if the fund would consider granting funds to enable the Parish Council to convert the Whittingham telephone kiosk, into a community hub / tourism information box. **ACTION - Clerk**
- ii. A resident who looks after the Whittingham Facebook page has offered to post the parish council Agenda and Minutes on the page in future. It was agreed this was an excellent idea and the Clerk will liaise. **ACTION - Clerk**

61/21 Any General Matters

- i. **Re-allocation of funds following recent sale of Netherton First School.** AW had circulated an email from the Whittingham School Headteacher, asking for the parish council's support to ask county council election candidates to clarify their position on supporting the schools in their electoral division, particularly with reference to the re-investment of funds from the sale of Netherton First School. It would be hoped the funds would be invested in Whittingham C of E School and used for other educational needs in the parish. AW will contact Cllr Steven Bridget for a response. KA will provide the Clerk with candidate contact details and the Clerk will write on behalf of the parish council. **ACTION - AW, KA, Clerk**
- ii. **Alternative Parking for the Village School** - RB mooted an idea for an alternative site for parking for cars and buses when delivering and collecting children from the school, to reduce the safety hazards posed by the current arrangements. The proposal would require the consent of two local landowners and NCC. AW will pursue and report back to the next meeting. **ACTION - AW**
- iii **Vale News in 2021.** Penelope Bailey confirmed the newsletter will be published once again on May 1st and is looking for contributions. IL agreed to write a short piece for the next edition. **ACTION - IL**

62/21 Time and Date of next meeting - Tuesday, May 18th, 2021. Time and venue to be confirmed.
Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2021

- June 15th at 7.00pm

- July 20th at 7.00pm
- September 21st at 7.00pm
- October 19th at 7.00pm
- November 16th at 7.00pm

Signed as a True Record of the Meeting Chair: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT