

A Meeting of Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish Council Tuesday 19th January, 2021, via Zoom at 7:00pm

Present: Chair Ian Lepingwell (IL), Councillors: B Wood (BW) K Armstrong (KA), K Turvey (KT), A Young (AY), C Durie (CD) J Renner (JD), A Whincup (AW), S Gray (SG) Lord Ravensworth (LR) H Sordy (HS), R Bateson (RB)

In Attendance: Lesley Long (Clerk)

ITEM

1/21 Public Questions

The Clerk reported that there were no public questions.

2/21 Apologies for Absence & Declaration of Interest

The Chair IL apologised for his late arrival owing to technical problems. The meeting was chaired by BW (Vice Chair). RB declared he had in interest in item 10/21.

3/21 Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday November 17th, 2020.

The Minutes were ACCEPTED as a true record.

4/21 Matters Arising

- a. **Dangerous Tree on Eslington / Netherton Road:** The Clerk has sent a further email to NCC Highways pointing out that it was the 4th request. As yet no response received. **ACTION - Clerk**
- b. **Rural Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme Letters** – The Clerk had circulated a summary of the responses received from the 62 Whittingham properties to whom she had written asking occupiers to confirm their interest in securing superfast broadband. The number of replies had been extremely low - amounting to a total of 11 positive responses. Most occupiers had not replied at all. KT reported that she had spoken with John Watson of Alncom who are rolling out fibre broadband to properties in the Alnham area. She said that it was possible for residents to speak directly with Alncom about available options and packages for superfast, whereas it was not possible to deal directly with Openreach. If residents wish to register their interest getting broadband from Alncom and pledge their Gigabyte voucher they can do so via the website. <https://www.alncom.co.uk/rural-broadband>. KT concluded that if Whittingham residents want superfast broadband they need a community champion to drive things forward.
- c. **Text for website History Page.** Text for the History page is still awaited.
- d. **Quotes from contractors for repairs to the footpath.** No quotes had been supplied. Discussion took place about re-routing the path for safety reasons and laying hardcore to provide a more solid surface. It was mooted that Parish Plan funds might be used for the project which was for the benefit of the community. It was AGREED that AW, and AY would explore potential routes and options, discuss these with LR, the landowner, and report back to the next meeting.
ACTION – AW, AY & LR
- e. **PC liability for risk in event of injury to users of the private footpath.** – The Clerk reported that she had written several times to the insurers requesting a response but had not received a reply. The Clerk will continue to chase.
ACTION – Clerk

- 5/21 **Whittingham Scout Group request for storage space.** The Clerk had circulated a request from the Scout Group for suitable storage space for their camping equipment, within or close to Whittingham, The group is either looking for land where they could place a storage container, or a redundant building that they could make watertight. Councillors undertook to consider options and AGREED to defer further discussion to the Feb 16th meeting. **ACTION - Clerk**

- 6/21** **Need for PC Representative on Whittingham School Governors' Board.** The school need a parish councillor on the board to improve communication and the sharing of relevant information affecting the parish, parents and school children. AW volunteered for the role which was AGREED by the Parish Council. **ACTION - AW**
- 7/21** **Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery Request for a S137 grant.** The Chair of Trustees had written to the parish council detailing the work that the volunteer-led charity does within Alnwick and the surrounding district. After discussion it was AGREED to donate £100. **ACTION – Clerk**
- 8/21** **Operation Acorn – For INFORMATION -** The Clerk had circulated an email from CSO 4965 Russell Stalker, explaining the action being taken to reduce visitor numbers to the national park area and particularly to curb the activities of large groups congregating in breach of national lockdown restrictions. The Police invited parish councillors to contact them by calling 101 if they had any concerns or observed any breach of the restrictions in the local area. Alternatively, residents and councillors can report an incident via the Northumbria Police website at this link. <https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/our-services/report-it/report-an-incident/>
- 9/21** **Elections 2021 – Briefing Note.** The Clerk had circulated information and key dates for the forthcoming May 6th, 2021 elections. All councillors will need to complete a new Nomination Form, whether there is an election in the parish or not. The Clerk is waiting for the election posters and nomination forms from the NCC Elections Officer and will distribute them as soon as they arrive. KA offered to hand in councillors' completed forms to the NCC Officer in Alnwick. **ACTION – Clerk & KA**
- 10/21** **Highways Matters 2021 – Update on request to NCC Highways for repairs to the slip road around the village green.** The Clerk had written to County Councillor Steven Bridget for an update on progress but had heard nothing further. **ACTION – Response awaited from Cllr Bridget**
- 11/21** **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Section 53**
 [RB declared an interest in this item stating that his agent had written to NCC to object to the BOAT Orders].
- i. DMMO (No 9) 2020, BOAT Nos 24 & 25 (Parish of Whittingham)
 - ii. DMMO (No 11) 2020, BOAT No 11 and PF No 15 (Parish of Callaly)
 - iii. DMMO (No 12) 2020 BOAT no 12 (Parish of Callaly)
 - iv. DMMO (No 13) 2020, RB Nos 13, 16 & PF No. 6 (Parish of Callaly)
- After discussion, the Council AGREED to object to the Orders on the following grounds:
- i. The parish council considered that by creating BOATS (Byways Open to All Traffic) it would increase the access of cars and 4 x 4 vehicles on to open countryside in areas of sensitive habitat and wildlife. While the parish council has no objection to these areas being available to users who observe the countryside code, it is extremely concerned that users of off-road vehicles will be far less considerate and respectful of the sensitive habitats and landscape which are so special to this area of rural north Northumberland.
 - ii. Certain of the BOAT Orders made no sense, ending in dead ends.
 The Clerk will write to NCC Legal Services registering the council's objections. **ACTION – Clerk**
- 12/21** **Planning**
- a. **20-04228-FUL** – Construction of single storey dwelling with garage
Location: Plot 1 Land North of Turnpike Cottage Whittingham Northumberland
OUTCOME – The Parish Council raised no objection to the application. **ACTION – Clerk**

- b. **20/03226/FUL** - Proposed Replacement Sunroom
Location: The Old School, Whittingham
NOTED - NCC Decision – GRANTED
- c. **20/03751/FUL** 5th Glamping pod
Location: Land North East of Northfieldhead Plantation, Alnham Main Road
NOTED - NCC Decision – GRANTED

13/21 Finance Report & Payments

- a. The Finance Report for January was RECEIVED and AGREED
- The balance of the Treasurers Current Account is = £7,280.21
 - The balance of the Parish Plan Account is = £1,157.03
- b. The following payments were AGREED
- Retrospective approval**
- i. NCC Insurance Premium Inv 210446 £268.63
 - ii. Clerk's salary for Dec 1st – 31st 2020 (15 hours @£10.44) £156.60
- Current approvals**
- i. Clerk's salary for Jan 1st – 31st 2021 (15 hours @£10.44 less PAYE) £131.60
 - ii. Clerk's expenses (including consumables & postage) £ 11.81
 - iii. James Douglas supply and deliver Xmas tree to Whittingham Village Green £130.00

- 14/21 Village Maintenance** -The parish council NOTED the email from NCC's Bill Pringle advising That the cost of 3 extra grass cuts in 21/22 will increase to £198 + VAT should the PC decide extra cuts are needed. The Clerk to note. **ACTION – Clerk**

15/21 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the Agenda)

- a. Email from Northumberland COVID Community Champions – Town and Parish Councillor briefing seeking to recruit Community Champions (*circulated*)
- b. Email from Cllr Steven Bridgett – re Transport available for Covid-19 vaccinations – (*circulated*)
- c. Email from MP Anne Marie Trevelyan re cross border transport review (*circulated*)
- d. Upper Coquetdale Bereavement Visiting Service leaflet together with a notice telling people how to contact the service to be posted on noticeboards. (*circulated*)
- e. Northumberland AGE UK – thank you for PC's £50 donation which will go towards the Friendship Line
- f. London Hearts email offering grant of up to £200 for installation of heart defibrillators and cabinets. (*Circulated*) The parish council did not wish to take up the offer.
- g. Northumberland Communities Together: Feeling Connected Webinar invitation from Ian Hedley NCC Community Engagement Officer (*circulated*) 12.01.2021)
- h. MIND Time to Talk Day - Thursday 4th February - Mind have produced a series of activity packs for people affected by mental health issues, especially during the pandemic – to encourage communities to start conversations to break down myths and barriers and end mental health stigma and discrimination. (*IL circulated details to all councillors by email*).
The link to the activity packs can be found at: <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/time-talk-day/activity-packs#toc-1>

- 16/21 Any General Matters** – AY reported the possibility of a parent from Eslington becoming a school Governor.

- 17/21 Time and Date of next meeting** - Tuesday, February 16th, 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom

Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2021

- March 16th at 7.00pm
- April 20th at 7.00pm
- May 18th at 7.00pm
- 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