

**WHALTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held electronically on 15 September 2020**

**Present:**

Councillors Mrs V Cassell, M Grix, Mrs S Richardson (Chairman in the Chair), Mrs J Rushmer and S Trobe

**Also present:**

Two Parishioners who left after item 2

SE Rickitt – Clerk

**1: Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all to the fourth electronic meeting of the Parish Council.

**2: Public Participation**

2.1 No parishioners had emailed questions prior to the meeting

2.2 At this point the Meeting further discussed cycling issues within the Parish and Ogle in particular (see the extensive discussion on 15 September 2020)

- a) Councillors had held a discussion with the regional secretary of *Cycle Time Trials* and a note of that discussion is in the appendix.
- b) The Parishioners made comments on the issue which included
  - The increase in the numbers cycling through Ogle
  - Why was the same route used each time
  - Concern at the informal but large groups of cyclists leading to frustration for drivers unable to safely pass
  - Dismay at their inability to get responses from the MP or their County Councillor
  - A wish for a 20-mph zone in Ogle
- c) There were mixed views about the effectiveness of the signs recently erected by the County Council directed at motorists passing cyclists. Some felt that signs should also be addressed to cyclists.
- d) It was noted that there is Government and County Council support for increased cycling
- e) There was a further lengthy discussion at the end of which it was agreed

- Parishioners were encouraged to write direct to the MP with copies to the County Council and the Parish Council setting out the Parishioners' individual concerns and suggestions
- The clerk will endeavour to see if the Police Speedwatch scheme is accepting new volunteers
- The clerk was asked to seek a copy of CTT's risk assessment to ascertain whether the hazards to other road users, including pedestrians, were included.
- The clerk will write to the MP on behalf of the Parish Council to also express the concerns being voiced by Parishioners
- The clerk will endeavour to open a dialogue with *British Cycling* to see if they are proposing any events through Ogle in 2021

### 3: Apologies for absence

None

### 4: Declarations of interest and grants of dispensations

None

### 5: Coronavirus

Councillors were not aware of any current issues affecting parishioners following the re-imposition of a national lockdown. The Post Office is still visiting the Village Hall on a regular basis and appears to be well-used. Prior to the second lockdown some groups had been using the Hall in a responsible manner.

The Council was pleased to be informed of a generous grant from the Barbour Trust which is being passed on to the Hall, the Church and the School. Councillors continue to appreciate the work of the County Council in collecting waste etc.

### 6: Report from the Beat Manager

No report had been received prior to the meeting. The clerk was asked to make enquiries to see if written reports could be provided.

### 7: Report from the County Councillor

No report had been received prior to the meeting.

### 8: Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2020

The minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved and will be signed by the Chairman

### 9: Any matters arising from the minutes not noted elsewhere in these minutes

- a) Repairs to the Whalton Telephone Box – Cllr Trobe is endeavouring to contact a local trader to see if they were interested in carrying out the refurbishment on the basis that the materials would be obtained from the specialist suppliers. **Action ST**

## 10: Planning

### 10.1 New Applications

The following applications had been received but there were no matters which Councillors wanted to bring to the attention of the local planning authority

- 20/03099/FUL - 1 And 2 Castle View Ogle - Proposed demolition of semi-detached cottages and replacing with 1 no detached house
- 20/03526/LBC - Twizell House Shilvington - replacement of doors and windows and installation of two new Conservation style Velux roof windows
- 20/03513/FUL East Glebe B6524 Whalton To Morpeth Common Road – Installation of two heat source pumps

### 10.2 Issues arising from previous applications

- The Council noted application 20/03098/REM *Goodwills Wood Shavings And Haulage Yard Twizell Cottages Shilvington*, and agreed to respond by firmly stating that brick houses of the type proposed were not acceptable as they would intrude into the openness of the Green Belt
- The clerk reported that he had asked the enforcement officers to investigate the apparent work at application 20/01157/FUL *Blackburn Cottage Ponteland Road – conversion of redundant agricultural building to a dwelling* and will chase up a response
- The clerk reported that application 20/01752/COU - *Land South Of Manor House Shilvington – change of use from highway to agriculture* had been approved by the County Council. An application had been made for a formal stopping-up order to the DfT. The clerk had taken informally advice from a former senior officer of the Highways Dept. A plan was shown to Councillors indicating the splay which might reasonably be requested if no objection were made to the remainder of the plot. Councillors agreed this suggested approach. [A copy of the plan is attached to the signed minutes]

## 11: Highway Issues

*For the discussion on cycling, please see above*

There is a blocked drain outside Blacksmith's Cottage in Whalton which the clerk will report,

## 12: The Parish Caretaker

There was nothing further to report.

13: Financial Matters

13.1 The Council noted the current accounts, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and approved the following payments

- Gavin Christie – Parish Caretaker – August & September - £192.00 – retrospective
- Staits Photos Ltd – Framing picture of award to Honorary Freeman Billy Grix - £54.00

13.2 The Council agreed to make the following support payments

- Whalton School PTA - £1000 [One thousand pounds]
- Whalton Pre-School Group - £500 [Five hundred pounds]
- Whalton Church – towards the costs of maintaining the Churchyard - £1500 [One thousand five hundred pounds]
- Whalton Village Hall – to include the costs of insurance for the Ba'al Bonfire - £1600 [One thousand six hundred pounds]
- The Great North Air Ambulance - £250 [Two hundred and fifty pounds]

13.3 The Council considered a report on the budget and precept for 2021/2022, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes. Noting the change in the Council Tax Base for the parish, the Council agreed to set the budget as set out in the table below and resolved to set a precept of £7500.00 [Seven thousand five hundred pounds].

Budget for 2021/2022

<b>Budget Heads and Number</b>	<b>Budget for 2021/2022</b>
Clerks Costs – Salary, Travel & PAYE <b>(1)</b>	1730.00
Misc. Admin (Postage, etc.) <b>(2)</b>	150.00
Insurance <b>(3)</b>	450.00
Legal/Audit/Subscriptions <b>(4)</b>	335.00
Support Payments <b>(5)</b>	5000.00
Hall Hire <b>(6)</b>	100.00
Maintenance <b>(7)</b>	250.00
Parish Caretaker <b>(8)</b>	1500.00
Environmental Work <b>(9)</b>	3000.00
Contingencies/Elections <b>(10)</b>	600.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13115.00</b>
<i>Precept</i>	<b>7500.00</b>
<i>(Surplus) / Balance from Reserves</i>	<b>5615.00</b>

14: Time and date of the next scheduled meeting

The Council agreed that the next meeting would be held digitally on Tuesday 19 January 2021.

Confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

..... Date .....

DRAFT

Appendix - Note of a digital meeting held on Monday 26 October to discuss cycle time trials through Ogle.

1. Members of the Parish Council and their clerk met a regional representative of *Cycle Time Trials* [CTT] to discuss parishioners' concerns about the apparent number and frequency of events passing through Ogle.
2. The representative explained that CTT have no jurisdiction over leisure cyclists or those possibly training for events. Complaints about those groups should be directed to the police.
3. In recent pre-Covid-19 years, CTT and its clubs have typically organised one major event and five club events in their season which runs from late April to September. The major event has usually been on a Saturday morning and the club events on Thursday evenings. The club events start at about 7.00 pm and involve up to 30 riders starting at one-minute intervals who ride against the clock over a fixed route. All competitors will have a number on their back and marshals are stationed around the course. Usually there will be a marshal in Ogle at the road junction. Risk assessments are made in advance of any event.
4. Parish Councillors were dismayed to learn that CTT's provisional programme for 2021 has the one major event but a doubling of the club events to ten. CTT were asked why other routes could not be used and especially routes which did not pass through villages, often with no footpaths.
5. CTT explained that they provide advance notification to the police but they are not obliged to notify the County Council as the highway authority. The clerk offered to obtain an email for such notifications to be provided to the County Council.
6. Parish Councillors asked why the local parish councils on the route were not provided with notification. CTT are working with the Neighbourhood Police Team to see if the notification can be cascaded within the Force. Given that the 1960 Regulations were drafted at a time when postal notifications were needed, CTT confirmed that now the notifications are emailed at which the Parish Council suggested that it would be relatively easy to add parish councils to that notification.
7. The potential conflicts with agricultural traffic were pointed out especially as the later summer evening events are likely to coincide with the movement of harvest traffic.
8. Councillors raised parishioners' complaints about the abuse being given by cyclists to other highway users. The representative said that if a parishioner was abused by a cyclist during one of the CTT events, then an immediate complaint should be made to the nearest marshal.