

**Whittingham Callaly & Alnham Parish Council**  
 Clerk Lesley Long, 5 Meadow Riggs, Alnwick NE66 1AP  
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**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of the Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council held on Tuesday October 19th, 2021, at 7.00pm at Whittingham Memorial Hall.

**Present**, BW (Chair), A Whincup (AW), K Turvey (KT), S Gray (SG) A Young (AY) R Bateson (RB), K Armstrong (KA), Elidh Gardner (EG), Prof. J Clark (Prof. JC), N Riordan (NR).

**In attendance:** Clerk - Lesley Long and P Sordy in respect of Planning Application No: 21/04002/FUL Alnham House, Alnham Main Road Alnham Alnwick

ITEM	DISCUSSION
<p><b>121/21 Apologies for Absence &amp; Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p><b>122/21 Public Participation</b></p> <p><b>123/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <p><b>124/21 Matters Arising</b></p>	<p>Apologies: C Durie (CD) J Renner (JR)            Prof JC declared an interest in planning application No: 21/04003/LBC South Wing Callaly Castle.            No questions received</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting on September 21st, 2021, were APPROVED as a true record.</p> <p>i. <b>Progress on construction of footpath</b> - Work will start in November 2021.            ii. <b>Risk assessment for users of the path</b> - in hand <span style="float: right;"><b>ACTION - AW</b></span>            iii. <b>Scout Group storage</b> - AW has completed arrangements for the Scout's storage; there is just a Wayleave agreement to finalise.            iv. <b>Alternative School Parking</b> - AW is progressing options with the various parties involved. School buses are now parking outside the village if they arrive before scheduled pick up times. <span style="float: right;"><b>ACTION - AW</b></span>            v. <b>Submission of LTP Priorities for 2022-23.</b> The Clerk reported that the list had been sent to NCC Highways. A decision is expected in early 2022.            vi. <b>Request to Cllr Steven Bridget re funding of a VA speed limiter sign</b> - The Clerk has approached Cllr Bridgett who confirmed he is willing to help the Parish Council buy a sign in the next financial year.            vii. <b>General Risk Assessment Review</b> - The Clerk is seeking clarification on the work undertaken following the last risk assessment in Feb 2019, including gathering photographic evidence of the current condition of the items on the asset register and contacting the Arboriculturalist who conducted the 2018 survey of the trees on the Village Green. She will report back to the next meeting. <span style="float: right;"><b>ACTION - Clerk</b></span></p>
<p><b>125/21 Adoption of the Telephone Kiosk</b></p>	<p>i. The Clerk had signed and return the contract to adopt the kiosk and is waiting for confirmation of receipt from BT that they will decommission the equipment. The kiosk will be added to the Asset Register.            ii. The Clerk has details of the supplier who can supply paint in the original colours.</p>

**ITEM****DISCUSSION****126/21 Planning Applications**

i. **21/03004/FUL Leaffield Cottage 2 Callaly Road Whittingham NE66 4SL**  
**OUTCOME:** The council noted that the original planning application had been withdrawn.

ii. **21/04003/LBC South Wing, Callaly Castle.**  
**Proposal:** To replace stonework to lintel and jamb of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor window.  
**OUTCOME.** Prof JC recused himself from the decision. The parish council AGREED to SUPPORT the application. **ACTION - Clerk**

iii. **21/04002/FUL Alnham House, Alnham, Alnwick**  
**Proposal:** Proposed 6 yurts and associated structure for holidays and tourism  
**OUTCOME:** The parish council received a short presentation from the applicant, who then withdrew from the meeting. The parish Council AGREED to SUPPORT the application with a request to the Planning Case Officer that a planning condition be applied to the effect that any yurt that has not been used for a period exceeding twelve months be removed, to avoid the potential for a deteriorating and disused structure on the site.  
**ACTION - Clerk**

**127/21 Parish Plan**

- i. Sarah Branningan from NCC Planning Department will deliver a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning to the parish council at the next meeting on Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 2021, at 7.00pm.
- ii. The Clerk supplied Parish Plan Toolkit documents and examples of plans prepared by other local parish councils for parish councillors to view / borrow ahead of the next meeting.

**128/21 Community Climate Champions**

Councillors Prof JC and EG attended the online launch of the NCC Community Climate Champions scheme (part of the NCC Climate Change Action Plan) 29<sup>th</sup> September. Several parish councils had given presentations on the actions they were taking to plant trees, tidy the environment and encourage more natural diversity - but proposals and practical actions for energy efficient heating for rural properties and using renewable energy system were not mentioned.

**Green Homes Grant:** NCC is working with E.ON to offer free energy efficiency improvements to more than 300 homes across the county. The plan is to install a mix of air source heat pumps, solar panels and external wall insulation to 200 private and 140 council owned properties before next winter to help residents save money when heating and powering their homes. Residents do not need to be an existing E.ON customer to benefit from the scheme

To be eligible for the private property installation, residents must:

- Own their own home
- Have a household income of less than £30,000
- Hold an EPC rating of D, E, F or G

It was noted that rural residents in the parish who live in old, stone-built properties within a conservation area, are severely constrained by planning law and conservation regulations in the improvements they can make to their homes to keep them warm and conserve energy. Current local and national building and conservation policies appear to be at odds with practical actions such as replacing old wooden sash windows and doors with heat retaining options.

**ITEM****DISCUSSION**

EG offered to research sources and data for the next meeting on the type of savings that could be made in rural properties if owners were able to take energy saving measures.

**ACTION - EG**

Councillors undertook to reflect upon the question: *“What are the key issues that prevent rural residents from keeping their homes warm and reducing their energy consumption?”*, and to have a discussion at the next meeting. The intention would be to write to the NCC Climate Change Team detailing the specific challenges facing rural residents and highlighting the lack of joined up working between NCC Planning, Building Conservation, and the Climate Change team.

**ACTION - ALL****129/21 Highways**

The Clerk had received a response from NCC Highways asking for details of the specific location for the suggested ‘avenue of trees’ on the approach to Whittingham from Whittingham Lane. AW will send the Clerk a map.

**ACTION - Clerk & AW****130/21 Gateway Planting for Whittingham Village**

It was agreed to defer further discussion on this item until Spring 2022.

**131/21 Finance**

- a. **The Finance report for October** was received and APPROVED
- b. **The following payments** were APPROVED:
  - i. Clerk’s salary for October 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 £156.60
  - ii. NCC Extra grass cuts (VAT 39.60) £237.60
  - iii. Whittingham Hall annual room hire for PC meetings £ 78.00

**ACTION - Clerk****132/21 Defibrillator pads Alnham.**

The parish council AGREED to the purchase of defibrillator pads at a cost of £36 each + shipping and VAT. KT will advise the supplier to send the Invoice to the Clerk to make payment.

**ACTION - Clerk****133/21 Noticeboards for Alnham and Callaly**

The Clerk had circulated an email with examples of different noticeboard styles and an indication of costs. The parish council AGREED that it would like to replace the Callaly noticeboard with an oak board and erect an oak noticeboard in Alnham. Both noticeboards would have headers with the names of the villages on them. AW undertook to liaise with the supplier, Greenbarnes, to negotiate a discount should the parish council purchase two boards. Clerk to provide AW with contact information.

**ACTION - Clerk & AW****134/21 S137 Grant Policy**

- i. The parish council AGREED to formally ADOPT the draft S137 policy for the award of future discretionary S137 grants. The aim of the policy is to ensure that all grants are made in a transparent, equitable and consistent manner and that local community groups and organisations are aware of the opportunity to apply for funding support.
- ii. The application process for the award of discretionary grants will be published in the Vale News, the Whittingham Facebook page and parish council website. Applicants will have to complete a simple application form and return it to the Clerk by 31<sup>st</sup> of January. The parish council will consider all applications at the same time, and award grants for the current financial year at the February meeting. The Clerk will contact all current applicants, as well as previous recipients of grant funding, to inform them of the new process and timescale for their applications. The new policy will be posted on the parish council website.

**ACTION - Clerk**

ITEM	DISCUSSION
<b>135/21 Correspondence</b>	There were no items of correspondence
<b>136/21 Any Other Urgent Business</b>	<p>i. Remembrance Day Wreath (14<sup>th</sup> November). The Clerk had arranged for the delivery of the wreath to the Chair's home address. BW will speak with St Bartholomew's church to discuss arrangements for laying the wreath. <b>ACTION - BW</b></p> <p>ii. <b>Christmas Tree for Whittingham Village Green</b> - Prof JC offered to speak with a neighbour who owns conifer forest to see if he would be willing to donate a tree to the parish council. AY will explore costs for outside solar-powered Christmas tree lights and report back to the next meeting. SG and AW offered to help AY erect the tree at the end of November. <b>ACTION - Prof JC, AY, AW &amp; SG</b></p>
<b>137/21 Operation London Bridge</b>	Discussion on specific parish council arrangements was deferred until the next meeting.
<b>138/21 Date of Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday November 16th at 7.00pm - Whittingham Memorial Hall

Signed as a True Record of the Meeting Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

