

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, March 15th, 2022, at 7.00pm at Whittingham Memorial Hall.

Present, B Wood (BW) Chair, C Durie (CD), A Whincup (AW), K Armstrong (KA), Elidh Gardner (EG), Prof. J Clark (Prof. JC), R Bateson (RB), K Turvey (KT), N Riordan (NR)

In attendance: Clerk - Lesley Long, Sarah Branningan of NCC Planning Department

ITEM	DISCUSSION
30/22 Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest	A Young (AY), S Gray (SG), James Renner (JR) There were no declarations of interest
31/22 Public Participation	No questions received
32/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the meeting on February 15th, 2022, were APPROVED as a true record.
33/22 Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. General Risk Assessment - The parish council has received 1 quote in response to the invitation circulated by the Clerk. To be discussed at the next meeting on April 12th, 2022. ACTION - ALL ii. Village Green Tree Survey - Woodsman Arboricultural is conducting the survey and will submit a report and invoice for £150 + VAT shortly. ACTION - Clerk iii. Quotes for Village Noticeboards. AW proposed deferring the purchase for the time being as timber costs are extremely high owing to supply chain issues. ACTION - AW
34/22 Neighbourhood Plan	<p>Sarah Branningan attended a preliminary meeting with Councillors Prof JC and CD prior to the parish council meeting. The Chair signed the Application to Register the parish as a Neighbourhood Area with NCC and the Clerk will return the form to SB. As the parish straddles the boundary with the Northumberland National Park Authority, it will also be necessary to apply to register the parish as a Neighbourhood Area with the NNPA. ACTION - Clerk</p> <p>SB explained that once the parish is formally designated, the parish council can apply for funding and the Steering Group could meet to discuss the next steps including extending the size of the group. SB confirmed she would be able to help with suggestions for community consultation and publicity. ACTION - CD, Prof JC & SB</p>
35/22 Highways Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NCC response to remove redundant sign poles - NCC Highways had confirmed all 3 poles have been added to the Mayrise system for removal. ii. NCC response to replace sodium lights with LED lamps - NCC Street Lighting will replace lamps 13WJ and 15WJ at Castle Inn and Garden Terrace in the new financial year. The streetlight at Village Farm Cottage is privately owned. iii. NCC response to request for site meeting to review speed limits in the village and structural review of the bridge. The Clerk had circulated the reply from Highways Officer, Richard McKenzie (RM), prior to the meeting. <p>In his reply, RM stated that he could not agree to the suggested changes to the speed limit. 30mph speed limits should be associated with development so they make sense to motorists. Extending the 30mph speed limit into open countryside</p>

would not meet this criteria and experience has shown that doing so has little or no effect on speeds.

RM suggested that that if councillors wished to reduce speeds within the village, then physical traffic calming measures such as chicanes would be required. However, NCC could only consider putting these in place if the parish council submitted a request as a 2023 - 24 LTP priority - and the request would need to be corroborated by speed data. To progress this, RM undertook to request speed surveys to be conducted at all 3 approaches to the village.

RM also confirmed that any request to extend the 20mph limit within the village would also need to be supported by speed data, and that he would organise the required survey.

RM had referred the enquiry about the frequency of the bridge structural survey to the Bridges Team who had yet to reply.

The Clerk will reply to RM and ask him to deal directly with AW on the speed limit issues going forward. **ACTION - Clerk & AW**

- iv. **Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) Request** - the Clerk will write to Cllr Bridget and invite him to meet with the parish council to discuss the process and location for a vehicle activated sign. **ACTION - Clerk**

36/22 Planning Applications

- i. **NOTED: 21/04616/FUL Land East of Coeburn, Thrunton** - PERMISSION GRANTED
There were no other planning applications to consider.
- ii. AY, who had sent apologies, had asked that his agenda item on the timing of planning applications, be carried forward to the agenda for April 19th, 2022
ACTION - Clerk

37/22 Finance

- i. The monthly finance report for March was received.
- ii. The following payments were APPROVED
- | | |
|---|--------------|
| a. Clerk's' salary for March 1 st - 31st 2022 at the new NJC pay scale to include back pay from 1 st April 2021 | = £187.00 |
| b. It was noted that PAYE of £7.40 would be payable to HMRC in June 2022 | |
| c. Woodsman Arboricultural Tree Survey | = £150 + VAT |
| d. Clerk's Expenses Nov 16 th , 2021 - Mar 31 st 2022 | = £18.45 |
- iii. The Parish Council approved a S137 grant of £550 to the Friends of the Vale towards the production of the Vale News.
- iv. The Clerk confirmed that Russell Bambling of Lucid Accountants had agreed to act as internal auditor for the financial year ending March 31st, 2022, and that his fee would be £55 + VAT.
- v. The parish council noted the 2021-22 NJC pay award for local council clerks had been settled at 1.75%

38/22 Recruitment of Parish Clerk

In the absence of applicants for the post, councillors will share the task of minuting meetings in the interim. Clerk and KA to meet to arrange a planned handover and checklist. **ACTION - Clerk & KA**

39/22 Queens Platinum Jubilee June 2nd - 5th

Residents had enquired if the parish council had plans to organise / support any events. It was noted that if residents would like the parish council's support, they need to apply to the council directly. AW undertook to find out what ideas were being discussed and report back to the next parish council meeting.

ACTION - AW

**40/22 Armed Forces
Covenant Briefing
Invitation**

Clerk to forward the link to the online briefing session on April 6th at 7.00pm to AW
ACTION - Clerk & AW

41/22 Correspondence

- i. **Northumbria Connected** - The Clerk had circulated an email with details of new ways of reporting incidents to Northumbria Police. It had also been sent to the Whittingham Facebook Administrator and Vale News.
- ii. **Friends of Whittingham Burial Ground Trust** -The Clerk had circulated a letter confirming the winding up of the trust and the transfer of monies to a ring-fenced account exclusively for the maintenance of the burial ground.

**42/22 Any General
Matters**

None

**43/22 Time and Date of
Next Meeting**

Tuesday April 19th, 2022, at 7.00pm. Whittingham Memorial Hall.

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

