

Whalton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 13 July 2023

- 1) **Present:** Parish Councillors Nicola Robson, Anne Lennard, Marlene Young, Martin Grix and Stephen Trobe
- 2) **In attendance:** Peter Ware (Clerk)
- 3) **Apologies for absence:** Andy Shaw, County Councillor Lyle Darwin
- 4) **The Chair's opening remarks:** Cllr Lennard took the Chair and thanked Cllr Robson for her previous efforts. Acting Chair at the next meeting scheduled to be Cllr Shaw.
- 5) **Public Questions & Participation:** there were none
- 6) **Declarations of interests and the grant of dispensations:** there were none
- 7) **Report from the Police:** No report received
- 8) **Report from the County Councillor:** No report received
- 9) **Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2023** were agreed as a true record and was signed by the Chair.
- 10) **Any matters arising from the minutes if not minuted elsewhere:**
 - a) Parish Noticeboard – Cllr Trobe confirmed a large noticeboard has now been delivered and needs to be erected. A small noticeboard, donated to Whalton Village Hall, may be surplus to requirements. Cllr Trobe has inspected the Ogle one which is in satisfactory condition.
 - b) Whalton defibrillator – Cllr Trobe confirmed there was a handover with resident Stuart Nevin, who has agreed to check the defibrillator on a regular basis. New pads may be needed.
- 11) **Planning Matters**
 - a) 22/01909/CCMEIA Northside Quarry, Kirkharle – a resident contacted the clerk about possible traffic concerns but after a consultation with members the Council did not formally respond to NCC planning.
 - b) 23/01801/FUL Close House Whalton – the Council responded to NCC planning with no objections on 20 June 2023
 - c) 23/02100/FUL 4 Greystoke Place Ponteland – the Council responded to NCC planning with no objections on 10 July 2023
 - d) The window frames at Fox Wood have been painted black, however, most of the property appears to be within the Whalton Conservation area. Clerk to follow up.
- 12) **Highway Issues:**
 - a) Cllr Lennard had not heard from NCC Highways about a site visit re the problem of flooding and potholes on the U9057 in the Bonas Hill area or about the noise and nuisance caused by vehicles using the BOAT. Clerk to follow up.
 - b) Members identified several locations where potholes had appeared or worsened. Clerk to log with NCC's *report a pothole link*, and reminded members to do likewise, or to use the new *Fix My Street* phone app.
 - c) For NCC's Capital Programme for 2024/25 members resolved to seek further improvements on the Shilvington Road, including road widening as seen on Berwick Hill Road.
- 13) **Environmental Matters:** A list of works for the caretaker was prepared including
 - a) the strimming of edges adjacent to the recently cut grass in Whalton, especially in front of the Manor House and around the phone box; clearing the gutters, verges and footpaths of leaves and debris especially around Manor Close. The chain links on Whalton green also need attention as do tree roots near to the Church to prevent damage to the highway.

- b) Clerk to contact NCC about grass cutting schedule, including frequency and rates for additional cuts. Cllr Robson requested a cut a week or a few days prior to *The Whalton Show*.
- 14) EV Charging Points:** Clerk to work through the Toolkit application process for the next meeting
- 15) Community Resilience:** Prior to the meeting Clerk circulated background information about Warm Hubs, Emergency Planning and the Northern PowerGrid Foundation. Await the latter to re-open to applications, clerk to enquire about getting advice from NPg concerning available options for generator and or environmentally friendly heating options for the village hall etc.
- 16) Correspondence & information items:** NALC, CAN and NCC e-letters were all noted, as well as
- a) The Pension Regulator
 - b) NPg Wayleave payment
 - c) GNAAS thank you letter
 - d) NBB Recycled Furniture
- 17) Barnesbury Cycling Club centenary race:** was scheduled for 16 July but was cancelled
- 18) Finance:**
- a) Internet Banking: Cllr Robson confirmed she can now create and authorise payments, and print bank statements. Cllr Lennard volunteered to be the second signatory on the account, Cllr Robson to arrange a mandate form to be printed, signed, and returned to Lloyds Bank.
 - b) The clerk gave a report of this year's spend to date, with a Finance Summary circulated, showing a balance of £15,347.56 after payments for the clerk's salary and Whalton Village Hall hire were deducted.
 - c) Payments authorised: members resolved to make donations of £500 to GNAAS, £1,800 to Whalton PCC, £1,800 to Whalton PAWs and £2,000 to Whalton Village Hall, along with an invoice for £760.50 for the large noticeboard. Also, members authorised an additional payment of £140 to the clerk for the additional hours worked during March, April, and May.
 - d) Laptop & software: members approved the purchase of, details circulated previously by clerk.
 - e) Overpayments to previous clerk: members scrutinised the documents, then resolved to give Jayne Clayton, the previous clerk, one more opportunity to return the overpayments before the Council resorts to HM Courts & Tribunals Service to recover the monies. Clerk to prepare a 'seven-day notice' letter.
- 19) Any other business:**
- a) Ogle Broadband: Cllr Lennard updated members on the procurement timescales, May/June 2023 was the latest to slip again, IT team at NCC to be monitored
 - b) Cllr Robson reminded all *The Whalton Village Hall Show* will be on Saturday 16 September 2023 11.00am – 5.00pm, everybody welcome

Date and time of next meetings: 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 September 2023 at Whalton Village Hall
then on Wednesday 15th November 2023 also at 7.30pm.

_____ **Chairman**

_____ **Date**