

Whittingham Callaly & Alnham Parish Council
Acting Clerk: Councillor Karen Armstrong, Sayer Cottage, Whittingham, NE66 4UP
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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 January 2023, at 7.00pm at Whittingham Memorial Hall.

Present, In attendance B Wood (BW) Chair, K Armstrong (KA), Prof. J Clark (JC), A Whincup (AW), E Gardner (EG), J Renner (JR),

ITEM	DISCUSSION
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001/23 Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest	K Turvey (KT), C Durie (CD), N Riordan (NR), A Young (AY), S Gray (SG) There were no declarations of interest.
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002/23 Public Participation/ Questions	Meeting attended by Paul Bradley, resident of Callaly
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003/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the meeting on 15 November 2022 were APPROVED as a true record.
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004/23 Neighbourhood Plan	An update was given by JC on the Neighbourhood Plan who confirms that great progress is being made with group members writing up their own topics which include the likes of traffic management, holiday homes policy, climate change, building design code, heritage preservation, landscape, environment and settlement boundaries. Following their research this will give a huge amount of local information that can potentially be used and included within the plan depending on public consultation and residents support.
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JC has also spent a lot of time on the nuances of NCC Planning and learning how the overall process works.

Under 10.57 on the NCC Local Plan regarding the designation of a conservation area JC wishes to take up with the Council "its duty, from time to time, to draw up and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas and consult local people on them".

Further monthly updates to follow.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

The very first Public Meeting on the Parishes Neighbourhood Plan is Saturday March 11th 2023 from 10am - 1pm.

005/23 Highways Matters

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign - Following the agreement of Councillor Steven Bridgett to fund a speed sign out of his 22/23 Budget NCC have now come back with his requested quotes. The overall fully commissioned price is £6052.

No response to Clerk or Chair from Councillor Bridgett.

AW is to pick up directly as part of other ongoing matters and report back.

ACTION - AW

006/23 Planning Applications

22/02604/VARYCO - Land West of Treetops, Callaly Road, Whittingham - **Granted by NCC**

APP/P2935/W/22/3310351 - Land South East of Alnham House, Alnham Main Road, Alnham - Appeal to the Secretary of State against the refusal of planning permission NCC - **Following initial support the PC have added additional comments and support to the Appeal**

22/02059/FUL - Land South West of Mill Covert, The Lane, Whittingham - **NCC Granted**

22/04164/FUL - Meikle House, Copper Beeches, Whittingham - **PC Supported now NCC Granted**

22/04487/FUL - Land North of Pennylaws Farm, Alnham - **PC Supported**

22/04682/FUL - Yelwater, Whittingham - **PC Supported**

22/04679/FUL - Hill Top Cottage, Alnham Main Road - **PC Supported**

To consider applications received since the agenda was prepared.

EAS0108 - Home Office Planning Consultation, Mile Moor, Phone Mast - **Site plan wrong and therefore to be re-issued.**

22/03390/FUL - Plot 1, Land North of Turnpike Cottage, Whittingham - **NCC Granted**

007/23 Finance

- i). The monthly finance report for January 2023 was received.
- ii) Defibrillator battery as agreed in December (no meeting) via unanimous E Mail responses and paid £196.80. Retrospective approval minuted.
- iii). Clerk's salary and expenses not required in January 2023 as per 57/22

008/23 Adoption of Phone Box

The phone box is to be repaired and refurbished by the Village Handyman. The specialist paint has kindly been donated by a local resident. The Parish Council wish to thank Alan Hall of Whittingham for this kind donation which is gratefully received.

Action - KA

**009/23 Matters
Arising**

- i. Risk Assessment Tree Survey March 15th and Tree Surgeon - Ongoing covered off in 132/22 - **Should be actioned in the next 4 weeks**
- ii. Defibrillator - Feedback from Ninette Edwards - **The defibrillator in Whittingham is now out of warranty therefore will need to be replaced within the next 5 years or sooner if required. Looking at a cost of around £1000 + VAT so need to bear in mind**
- iii. Grass cutting - 3 additional cuts for Whittingham. 2 x October, 1 x Spring = £224.57 - **Discussed - The PC wish to accept this offer to ensure safety across the village.**
- iv. Christmas Tree and Lights - **Grumbles received around delay in putting up the tree so in order to get this right in 2023 the PC have decided to ask for a volunteer to co-ordinate via advert in the Vale News.**
"Whittingham Village Green Christmas Tree Officer!

The Parish Council are looking for a Volunteer to co-ordinate and take responsibility for the Village Christmas Tree to ensure it is decorated with lights, in a timely fashion, in or around the 1st December annually.

The tree will be kindly donated and erected by the Eslington Estate.

Please contact Acting Clerk, Karen Armstrong, 07780 438936"

- v. School update - **The School has a real issue going forward with a decrease in numbers in 4 - 5 years hence so need to consider growth in the local area and how the PC can support. Difficult to change the access and pinch point in terms of drop off and pick up, possibility of better footpaths around the village with lighting, affordable housing/ first time buyers what can we do to support?**
- vi. Planning applications being sent to the neighbourhood planning team - **Confirmed.**
- vii. Use of the Village Hall as a rural hub - **AW has been in discussion with Councillor Steven Bridgett on the basis the Whittingham Village Hall worked very well during Storm Arwen as a great co-ordination point. As there is a local Mountain Rescue Team looking to equip with satellite phone, full time generator and ensure the kitchen has all essentials to cater to allow it to be a central location in an emergency.**
- viii. Parish Clerk Vacancy - **Advert for a parish Clerk included in Vale News, Parish Council Website, NALC**

Anyone interested or who would like a chat please contact Acting Clerk, Karen Armstrong on 07780 438936

**010/23 Notice Board
for Callaly**

There is ongoing discussion around Notice Boards for both Callaly and Alnham.

Callaly - RB has confirmed that he is in contact with a local craftsman and wishes to have an open noticeboard with a sloping roof. It will also have "Callaly" placed at the top so visitors are aware of their location.

This will be built when the weather is better in April/May.

Alnham - KT has taken on this challenge and is currently in discussions as to how and where this can be placed within the church and revert back.

A budget of 2 x £500 has been set aside.

Action - RB & KT

**011/23 Possible
Designation of the
Parish as Area of Great
Landscape Value**

JC raised this topic following a report by Alison Farmer Associates on behalf of the Northumberland and Newcastle Society which talks about evidential gaps around the County regarding local designation of valued landscapes. This report has been produced to support the compilation of Neighbourhood Planning policies and is something that JC and the Steering Group will be looking to review in relation to the Parish of Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham.

012/23 Correspondence

- i. **Planning Enforcement Strategy Consultation Paper - Circulated to all Councillors in December 2022 with a deadline to respond by 6 January 2023 - No action required.**

**013/23 Any General
Matters**

None

**014/23 Time and Date
of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 21 February 2022 at 7.00pm. Whittingham Memorial Hall.

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