

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

Minutes of the meeting of the Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council held on Tuesday 20 June 2023, at 7.00pm at Whittingham Memorial Hall.

Present, In attendance A Whincup, Vice Chair (AW), K Armstrong (KA), Prof. J Clark (JC), J Bolton (JB), J Renner (JR), E Gardiner (EG), S Gray (SG), R Bateson (RB)

ITEM

DISCUSSION

**082/23 Apologies for
Absence &
Declarations
of Interest**

B Wood Chair (BW), K Turvey (KT), A Young (AY)

Declarations of interest - None

**083/23 Public
Participation/
Questions**

Linda Pullan, New Parish Clerk who will start the role on 1 August 2023

**084/23 Minutes of the
Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting on 16 May 2023 were APPROVED as a true record.

**085/23 Resignation of
Councillor**

We received 1 volunteer which was unanimously accepted by the Councillors.

The Parish Council is delighted to welcome David Bateson.

**086/23
Neighbourhood Plan**

A monthly update was given by JC on the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Steering Group are currently looking into how and when they can apply for the Government Grant available to pay for Consultancy Services.

During this delay they are taking the time to review other Neighbourhood Plans in other Northumberland locations.

It has been confirmed that the Professional Consultant will see all individual responses from the recent questionnaires.

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/whittingham>

**087/23 Highways
Matters**

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign - There seems to be an issue of missing paperwork between NCC and Steven Bridgett's office which is currently being investigated.

White Railings in Village - Ongoing

Traffic in Whittingham - As part of the Neighbourhood Plan research it appears that the volume and speed of traffic that goes through Whittingham has been raised.

This is a known issue and has been brought up many times but the problem is exacerbated in that the roads and bridges are narrow and there are no public footpaths in certain parts which means walking on the road.

The school cars and buses, quarry, logging, cattle & grain wagons, tractors, combine harvesters, funeral traffic are a constant part of village life.

Speed is not a problem around 8.15 - 9am and say 3 - 3.30pm as more often than not the village is gridlocked with traffic and parked cars all over the place.

The PC would love to make a car park within the village but following investigation land surrounding Whittingham is spread across a number of private individuals, some of whom do not live in the parish or surrounding area. There appears to be no obvious solution that would work without using the outskirts of the village which, in view of the lack of pavements, then leads to road safety issues plus would probably not be embraced in the dark winter months.

In terms of speed JC has suggested that self-enforcing solutions such as rumble strips, chicanes & sleeping policemen. It may be that the latter (tarmac humps in the road) are too intrusive but the first two, installed on the outskirts of the village, might not?

It has also been suggested that 20mph is adopted throughout the whole village. This could be helpful as would alleviate the confusion as to what and where the 20 mph speed limit starts and stops in the village as there are random signs all over the village and in particular on the green triangle.

As a conservation village all speed signs and traffic prevention measures are not in keeping so the easier it is the better.

As the Local Transport Plan is currently being collated by NCC the PC have agreed that it will suggest rumble strips and chicanes at the entrance/exits of the village.

Action Ongoing - Acting Clerk

**088/23 Planning
Applications**

22/04679/FUL - Land South West of Mile Moor Farm Cottages The Mile Glanton
Notification of prior approval for a proposed shared rural network telecommunications installation: Proposed 25.0m High DC410 Heavy Duty Lattice Tower reinforced concrete base and associated ancillary works - **NCC Granted**

To consider applications received since the agenda was prepared.

089/23 Finance

- i. To receive the monthly finance report for June (*Circulated with the agenda*)
- ii. To approve invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting.
- iii. Clerk's salary and expenses not required in June 2023 as per 57/22

090/23 Matters Arising

- i. Request for £50 donation for flowers for Ravensworth Memorial Fountain - In view of the budget shortfall this year the PC have declined this request.
- ii. Request by Citizens Advice Bureau for donation - In view of the budget shortfall this year the PC have declined this request.

091/23 Notice Board for Callaly & Alnham

Callaly and Alnham each have £500 set aside in the budget for a new Notice Board. They are currently in the process of being developed.

092/23 Highways Programme - LTP

As part of the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme for 2024/25 NCC have asked the Parish Council to put forward the top three highways and transport priority issues so they can be considered for inclusion in the Programme.

As indicated in 87/023 Highways Matters above the PC wish to put forward the following suggestions:As

- 1) In view of the traffic issues in Whittingham Rumble Strips would be welcome at the entrance/exit of the Village.
- 2) As an alternative chicanes could also offer the same effect and slow down traffic especially as there are school cars and buses, quarry, logging, cattle & grain wagons, tractors, combine harvesters, funeral traffic constantly travelling in and out of the village all day long.
- 3)
Footpaths around Whittingham to improve pedestrian safety. The parish council would like NCC Highways to conduct a survey of current road and paved footpaths around Whittingham to identify how the routes could be made safer for pedestrians of all ages (i.e. school children, parents with pushchairs accompanied by small children, elderly residents and visitors walking in the village). The number of people walking in the village has increased, but a commensurate increase in car traffic along the rural roads, and the threat to safety posed by heavy lorries passing through, are posing a worrying safety hazard. The parish council would like NCC Highways to review the routes to identify and report on any opportunities to mitigate the risks to walkers. There are areas in the village where there is no footpath and very limited verge. The only footpath that offers safety over the River Aln past the Peel Tower is not accessible to those with physical limitations.

Ongoing annual request:

- 4) The road at Rothill to the A697 Middle Barton continues to be almost impassable in a car due to the state of the tarmac. Residents constantly raise this to the PC.

093/23 Correspondence None

094/23 Any General Matters None

095/23 Time and Date Tuesday 18 July 2022 at 7.00pm. Whittingham Memorial Hall.
of Next Meeting

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

ADDENDUM TO WHITTINGHAM, CALLALY AND ALNHAM PC MEETING - 20 JUNE 2023

085/23 - The Parish Council accepted an application from David Bateson as a volunteer Councillor to fill the Whittingham vacancy.

Unfortunately it has come to light that an additional application from Anna Maria Brudenell was also sent to the Parish Council E Mail Account but this was left in an unchecked Spam box.

In the interest of fairness and in order to offer both applicants the same opportunity the Parish Council have withdrawn the offer to David Bateson.

The Acting Parish Clerk will circulate both applications to all Councillors and include on the 18 July Meeting Agenda.

**2 July 2023
Acting Parish Clerk**