

## Whalton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 March 2023

- 1) **Present:** Parish Councillors Nicola Robson (Chair), Andy Shaw and Anne Lennard
- 2) **In attendance:** Peter Ware (Clerk)
- 3) **The Chair's opening remarks:** The Chair welcomed the new clerk to his first meeting of the Council and access to the parish email account was arranged.
- 4) **Apologies for absence:** received from Stephen Trobe, Martin Grix and Marlene Young
- 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 had been received prior to the meeting
- 8) **Report from the County Councillor:** No report had been received prior to the meeting. Clerk to ensure that County Cllr Lyle Darwin is on Agenda email list.
- 9) **Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023** were agreed as a true record and will be signed by the Chair.
- 10) **Any matters arising from the minutes if not minuted elsewhere:** For the clerk's benefit the Chair outlined
  - a) Parish Noticeboard – Cllr Trobe is arranging to get quotes and County Cllr Darwin is to be approached for a contribution
  - b) The Ogle defibrillator has been installed but an invoice remains outstanding. Cllr Shaw has volunteered to check the Whalton defibrillator weekly.
  - c) Ogle broadband - Cllr Lennard explained that the latest procurement process by Openreach & NCC was on going, and clarification from County Cllr Darwin on timescales was awaited.
  - d) Coronation Celebrations will take place on the 6 May 2023, with arrangements led by the WI and Village Hall sub-committee.
- 11) **Planning Matters**
  - a) Clerk to trawl through email backlog for any current new planning applications
  - b) Clerk to trawl through email backlog for any issues arising from previous planning applications. And moving forward, clerk to check NCC's planning portal on a regular basis as well.
- 12) **Highway Issues:**
  - a) There was a general discussion about the need to report any defects using NCC's *Report a Pothole* on-line link, and to let the clerk know when any specific location has been reported so that the message can be reiterated.
  - b) Cllr Shaw reported on pothole repairs on and around Shilvington Lane.
- 13) **Village Hall issues:** There was nothing of substance to discuss
- 14) **Parish Caretaker & Environmental Matters:** There are no new issues for the caretaker, although there are several outstanding invoices.
- 15) **Finance:**
  - a) Appointment of new clerk – Peter Ware was appointed as the new clerk for a 12-month period with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at an initial monthly salary of £140.00.
  - b) The Chair reported that she was still waiting for Lloyds Bank to approve the new mandates for the change of signatories on the bank accounts. Chair to chase again.
  - c) As a consequence, funds are frozen and there are a number of outstanding invoices and payments to be made. Clerk to collate a full list, and to transfer parish account records from paper to spreadsheet.

d) A donation request has been received from PAWS asking for a contribution towards the cost of installing a new oil tank. Clerk to scan and circulate correspondence. Item deferred until the next meeting, when hopefully the Council can access funds and make a decision.

**16) Correspondence & Information items:** Clerk to start circulating significant emails again, including e-newsletters from NALC, CAN and NCC.

**17) Any other business:**

a) Clerk explained about the Northern PowerGrid Community Foundation, a fund of £7 million set up post Storm Arwen to help build community resilience. And also the growing opportunity to secure funding for community EV charging points in rural communities. Clerk to circulate the relevant emails.

b) The Chair mentioned a forthcoming 'music, pie and peas' fundraising evening at the Village Hall on 22 April 2023, all are welcome to attend.

**Date and time of next meeting:** 7.30pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Whalton Village Hall

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**