

Whalton Parish Council:

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 22nd February 2023:

Present: Nicola Robson – Chair
Stephen Trobe – Vice Chair
Marlene Young
Andy Shaw
Anne Lennard
Martin Grix

No apologies

There was scheduled to be a meeting with a potential clerk, Peter Ware, on Thursday 2nd March, and all councillors were welcome. **Update:** Peter has agreed to take on the role of clerk, initially for a 12 month period, then to be reviewed.

No report or contact from police or county councillor, Andy Shaw has suggested that he makes contact with both, this was agreed upon.

Planning: no comments in regard to Beanley Cross House, Close House application much more recent, initial response was that it was much reduced from original plans, and much less of an impact on the area. Beresford Arms plans – NCC were asking for more detail in regard to these.

Highways: still need action from NCC for road repairs in Ogle, and especially Shilvington Lane. Andy Shaw has suggested he will contact in regard to this.

Village Hall: Stephen said the go-ahead from Hall Committee had been received, and plans were being drawn ready for submission. Solar panels were discussed, and may be added to the plans, which would help with the planning permission.

New noticeboard for Hall/village: a quote of £450 + postage for a wooden one with Perspex had been received, and it was agreed that County Councillor should be contacted to request a donation for this.

Village caretaker: Andy Shaw to contact by text, Gavin has since been in touch, asking what items should he be scheduling for the Spring months, tbc.

Donation requests: Cambo Young Farmers requested £500, it was felt this was a large amount for outside Whalton/Ogle, and a suggested donation of £150 once we have access to the bank was agreed upon.

Whalton Church: requested donations for churchyard maintenance/hedging & tree maintenance/new noticeboard/removal of scrub. It was felt that this was again a little

excessive, and agreed a donation of £2000 as in previous years (when access to bank is established) primarily for the upkeep of the churchyard. There was opposition to the suggestion of church 'renovations' as outlined in the donation letter request.

Parishioner J Peile of Ogle, had copied the Council in to a letter sent to the County Councillor regarding the width of a particular section of highway between Whalton & Kirkley. It was felt that the NCC would be unlikely to take remedial action, given the amount of outstanding highways issues.

Coronation: at the time, it was mentioned that there would be a meeting for all interested parishioners the following evening at the Hall. Subsequently a committee has been formed, with an event pencilled in for Sunday 7th May. An application has been made to the County Council's Community Fund for a donation to the event.

AOB: Anne Lennard brought the council up to date with the efforts she and other Ogle parishioners have been making to improve the provision of fibre broadband to the outlying & rural areas, mentioning that the new houses at Twizell automatically received fibre, whereas the longterm residents are not prioritised, leading to inequality in areas such as business, working from home, home schooling, amongst others.

Next meeting to be scheduled for Wednesday 15th in the Village Hall at 7.30.