

Whalton Parish Council

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

- 1) **Present:** Parish Councillors Anne Lennard, Nicola Robson, Martin Grix, Marlene Young, Stephen Trobe and County Councillor Lyle Darwin
- 2) **In attendance:** Peter Ware (Clerk)
- 3) **Apologies for absence:** Andy Shaw
- 4) **The Chair's opening remarks:** Cllr Grix took the Chair and thanked Cllr Shaw for his previous efforts. Acting Chair at the next meeting is scheduled to be Cllr Trobe.
- 5) **Public Questions & Participation:** a delegation of Twizell residents, led by Sandra Charlton with four others, expressed concerns at the misleading behaviour of the developer Cussins, the lack of a planned bus stop in the area and the lack of consultation about a proposed new bus service. Clerk and County Cllr Darwin to follow up with NCC, residents urged to collectively contact Cussins.
- 6) **Declarations of interests and the grant of dispensations:** none
- 7) **Report from the Police:** none
- 8) **Report from the County Councillor:** County Cllr Darwin apologised for his non-attendance at recent parish meetings due to personal issues. He reported on several items and assisted the Council with information during the discussion of items on the agenda, and explained that for a trial period, NCC's Local Area Committees will move away from County Hall and into local venues, to encourage participation with members of the public and to make NCC senior officers more accessible.
- 9) **Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2023** were agreed as a true record and was signed by the previous Chair.
- 10) **Any matters arising from the minutes if not minuted elsewhere:** none
- 11) **Planning Matters**
 - a) 23/03841/LBC Whalton House - the Council responded to NCC planning with no objections on 23 October 2023.
 - b) 23/02654/FUL Ogle Castle Farm - it was noted that permission was granted on 01 November 2023.
 - c) 23/02587/LBC Lynn Law Farm House – it was noted that permission was granted on 03 November 2023
 - d) Window frames at Fox Wood – NCC planning confirmed that the property is within the Whalton Conservation Area, but not subject to an Article 4 direction. However, a pre application enquiry is the minimum requirement for any alterations. Clerk advised resident on 20 October 2023.
- 12) **Highway Issues:**
 - a) Cllr Lennard met with highway inspector Lee Dundas to discuss the flooding and pothole problems on the U9057 and the nuisance caused by vehicles using the BOAT. Some ditches and channels were cleared to alleviate some of the flooding, with signs to be installed in BOAT area.
 - b) Four other areas of severe flooding / standing water were identified by members around the parish. Clerk to log with NCC's *report a pothole link* and County Cllr Darwin to follow up.
 - c) A survey request in next year's LTP submission should be done to address the issues of increasing speed, quantity and type of vehicles driving through Whalton. Clerk to follow up the flashing 20mph signs that often don't function during inclement weather or at night.
- 13) **Environmental Matters:** none raised, clerk to follow up about replacement posts survey.

- 14) Ogle Broadband:** Cllr Lennard met separately with County Cllr Darwin to discuss lack of progress, latter to follow up.
- 15) EV Charging Points:** No progress, clerk still to work through the Toolkit.
- 16) Community Resilience:** No progress, clerk to follow up with Cllr Lennard.
- 17) Correspondence & information items:** all NALC, CAN and NCC e-letters were all noted along with mail from Redeswood Tree Surveying and The War Memorials Trust.
- 18) Finance:**
- a) Cllr Robson explained it was slow progress with Lloyds Bank to get Cllr Lennard approved as the second signatory for the online bank account.
 - b) The clerk gave a report of this year's spend to date, with a Finance Summary circulated, showing a balance of £10,096.29 after today's payments were authorised.
 - c) Payments were authorised for the Caretaker's October invoice and clerk's salary for November at a total cost of 231.00, with the ICO Data Protection fee payment by direct debit due on 1 December 2023 .
 - d) Previous Clerk overpayment: Statement of Particulars were served on 5/10/23, still no response from previous clerk, so a Notice of Judgment was entered on 24/10/23.
- 19) The Budget & Precept for 2024/25:** The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2024/25. Noting the increase in the Council Tax base for the parish, and the increased precept last year, the Council considered the report and agreed to an unchanged precept of £8,000 for 2024/25.

Any other business: none

Date and time of next meeting: 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at Whalton Village Hall

_____ **Chairman**

_____ **Date**