

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 18 July 2023, at 7.00pm at Whittingham Memorial Hall.

Present, In attendance B Wood, Chair (BW), A Whincup (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
096/23 Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest	K Turvey (KT) Declarations of interest - KA 100/23 - 23/02250/VARYCO AY - 100/23 - 23/01832/FUL
097/23 Public Participation/Questions	None
098/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the meeting on 20 June 2023 were APPROVED as a true record.

**099/23 Vale View
Planning
Application**

Vale View Planning Application - Local residents

There was a request from local residents to include an Agenda item to discuss the Vale View Planning Application.

Around 30 members of the public attended to voice their questions and concerns before the Parish Council voted on the Planning Application 23/01832/FUL as detailed in 100/23 below.

Parish Councillor, Andrew Young (AY) confirmed that the Planning Application was not in his name but in the name of his parents via a connected company then confirmed that he would answer any questions from the floor. It then followed with an open question and answer session between the Parish Council, local residents as well as occupants of the existing Vale View site.

At the request of the floor AY was then asked to leave the room which then allowed the opportunity to raise further questions and/or concerns.

The PC listened to a number of objections and the rationale behind, most of which were already posted on the NCC Planning Portal, by the particular individuals.

These discussions covered the key areas around light and glass pollution, housing, conservation and design, flood risk, traffic and landscape and biodiversity, all of which will have some impact, within the conservation area.

Following these discussions all members of the public left the meeting.

100/23 Planning Applications

23/01832/FUL - Land to the West of Vale View, Whittingham - Change of use of land for the extension of neighbouring lodge site, to facilitate the siting of 8 no. mobile home compliant park homes together with drainage, hardstanding, access road and landscaping - **PC Objected**

23/02063/FUL - Pennylaws, Alnham Main Road, Alnham - Conversion of existing garage and domestic outbuildings to habitable accommodation - **PC Supported**

23/02069/FUL - Thrunton Longcrag Trout Fishery, Thrunton - Proposed conversion of existing building to tourism accommodation and the erection of 1 no. workshop/storage building - **PC Supported**

23/02278/LBC - Lane Head, The Lane, Whittingham - Listed building consent for removal of roof covering (and salvage roof re-use), replace rotten/defective A Frame trusses with new like for like and re-roof with salvaged pan tiles - **PC Supported**

To consider any applications received since the agenda was prepared

23/02295/LBC - 1 Garden Wing, Callaly Castle, Callaly - Listed building consent to connect electric supply from substation at Callaly Castle to garage belonging to 1 Garden Wing, Callaly Castle, installation of EV charging point within garage and metre box on rear elevation of garage - **PC Supported**

23/02394/FUL - 1 Garden Wing, Callaly Castle, Callaly - Consent to connect electric supply from substation at Callaly Castle to garage belonging to 1 Garden Wing, Callaly Castle, installation of EV charging point within garage and metre box on rear elevation of garage - **PC Supported**

23/02250/VARYCO - Land South of Hope Cottage, Whittingham - Variation of Condition 2 on approved application 22/01089/FUL in order to increase building footprint and reposition it 3.3m to the East and 1m to the South, add double flue chimney, reposition 2 windows & increase car port size (to double) - **PC Supported**

23/01832/FUL - There have been some requests for the **interactive speed signs** for this proposal. NCC Highways Development have requested the views of the Parish Council - **In view of objection above PC declined to comment at this moment in time**

23/0244/FUL - Coeburn, Thrunton - Change of use of existing holiday let (use class C1) To dwelling (use class C3) - **PC Supported**

101/23 Neighbourhood Plan Monthly Update

JC confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan is ongoing and continue to liaise with Sarah Brannigan at NCC with regards to funding to move forward with the next steps and engage Consultancy support. Further updates to follow.

Further information can be found at

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/whittingham>

102/23 Highways Matters

- i. Vehicle Activated Speed Sign for the Village - **Ongoing Monthly Agenda item**. Will continue to chase following summer break.
- ii. Traffic in Whittingham - **Update KA**. Meeting with NCC Highways on 14 August to discuss Whittingham speed signs.

103/23 Finance

- i.* To receive the monthly finance report for July(*Circulated with the agenda*)
- ii.* To approve invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting. Invoice for Callaly Notice Board Approved.
- iii.* New Notice Board at Callaly - £450 **Approved**
- iv.* Clerk's salary and expenses not required in July/Aug 2023 as per 57/22

Confirmation that Linda Pullen will start as Parish Clerk on 1 August 2023. Acting PC, Councillor Karen Armstrong confirmed she will work with LP over the next few months as well as offer training and support. KA also confirmed to Councillors that whilst she has enjoyed her time in the role and been happy to support the local community, if required, it is not a role she would be willing to pick up again in future.

**104/23 Matters
Arising**

Phone Box Refurbishment - By way of background BT confirmed that they had completed the decommissioning of the Whittingham Kiosk on 13 June 2022. They also advised us that according to their records there was no electrical supply connected to the kiosk.

The Parish Council had arranged that the Village Handyman, Chris Breeze, would paint and refurbish the phone box so on 22 June 2023 the Parish Clerk (KA) asked him if he was in a position to start the work as soon as convenient.

On 27 June 2023 KA received a phone call from resident Hilary Durie advising that Chris Breeze was sitting with her having started work dismantling the historical fixings and had received an electric shock. As the Acting Parish Clerk they thought that KA would be able to take forward.

Immediately E Mailed the PC contact at BT who passed KA over to David Tynan who is the BT contact who started their investigation and emergency process.

BT were excellent and contacted KA several times per day with updates.

Northern Power Grid were called out and they confirmed that there was live electricity to the phone box.

Team arrived and the work was carried out on the evening of 29 June and KA was advised that the service was now dead.

Upon arrival at the KA found wires and boxes all over the floor as well as the "dead" wires still connected within the phone box. KA was uncomfortable with the state of the kiosk so advised DT at BT that the PC required written confirmation that it was safe. The door was also jammed shut with a screw. More photos were taken and sent to BT for comment.

On 30 June BT did confirm that NPG had confirmed everything was absolutely fine.

KA was still not happy to proceed so spoke to BT once again and send further photos and evidence of all the debris in and around the phone box. Following sight BT called NPG out as a further emergency. On 3 July KA met with the very helpful NPG Engineer who took out wires and whilst the main dead wire still comes into the phone box in a red metal tube the wire has now been pushed down and a putty type solution placed on top. The screw has been taken from the door and it has been left open.

It was also swept out.

More photos and evidence sent to BT as well as a big thank you for their outstanding service regarding this very serious issue.

CB has also been advised that all parties confirm that it is now safe to refurbish the kiosk.

The PC are very grateful to CB for all his work on this project - Thank you

105/23 Notice Board for Callaly & Alnham

The new Notice Board has been fitted at Callaly.
Our thanks go to James Hunter and Richard Bateson who funded the labour free of charge.

The Acting Clerk will contact James Hunter to say thank you for his very valuable contribution to the community.

The notice board will add value to Callaly residents and looks the part.

106/23 Resignation of Councillor Nick Riordan

Co-option for the Ward of Whittingham

Details circulated to all Councillors of volunteer applicants:

David Bateson - Callaly
Anna Maria Brudenell - Callaly

In relation to point 085/23 Agenda item in June 2023 and Addendum to Minutes 20 June 2023.

Following the subsequent withdrawal of Anna Maria Brudenell on 17 July that left 1 candidate for the above vacancy.

David Bateson will fill the vacancy for Whittingham

107/23 Correspondence None

108/23 Any General Matters None

109/23 Time and Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 7.00pm. Whittingham Memorial Hall.

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