

Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council
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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 January 2024, at 7.00pm at Whittingham Memorial Hall.

Present : B Wood, Chair (BW), A Whincup, (AW), K Armstrong (KA), Prof. J Clark (JC), J Renner (JR), R Bateson (RB), K Turvey (KT), J Bolton (JB), E Gardiner (EG), S Gray (SG) & D Bateson (DB)

In Attendance : Linda Pullan, Parish Clerk (LP) and 4 members of the public

ITEM	DISCUSSION
001/24 Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest	A Young (AY) Declarations of Interest : RB and DB Planning Application 24/00033/VARYCO
002/24 Public Questions	None
003/24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The minutes of the Meeting on 21 November 2023 were APPROVED as a true record.
004/24 Neighbourhood Plan	Monthly update : JC reported the Steering Committee had identified 2 firms of consultants to put the documents into a professional format and had circulated an appraisal of their proposals a few days before the meeting. The Steering Committee was inclined towards one of them as they had further afield experience. JC explained there was money in the Parish Plan Account if they go over budget. KA enquired about reviewing the draft proposal before it went to the consultants. JC explained they were working towards the draft and circulated a list of themes which are being explored that can be developed further with the consultant. KT asked if the consultants could put more than one option for each topic. JC explained they would collate the opinions and evidence and give these to the consultant. All the opinions and evidence have been published online. KT enquired about Callaly, Alnham and outlying areas involvement in the plan as she hadn't seen any documentation supporting this. It was explained there are representatives from these areas on the Steering Committee, however no residents from these areas had reported any issues. There is already a Northumberland Local Plan in place and the Neighbourhood Plan would have to conform and run alongside it. Discussions were made regarding the themes that had been chosen and that there should be more focus on areas more relevant to the villages. It was felt it would be useful for the information to be circulated regarding this process and any other documents that were being sent to the consultants. The PC agreed to vote on any document/report before anything was sent to NCC. EG enquired about Minutes from the Steering Committee meetings. These were circulated and found to be very useful, and would be useful to be circulated to PC in future. A vote was taken and it was agreed to go ahead with

the consultant Jenny Ludman.

005/24 Highways Matters

- i. Restoration of historic cast iron road signs : BW had tried to contact Mike Mason, as he had operated the Glanton Signs project. RB said that he had 2 cast iron signs at home which were in good condition. BW to update at next meeting.
- ii. Broken speed sign pole : KA reported this had been reported to Highways.
- iii. Speed data : KA explained these had been set at 30mph and had received positive feedback. The PC would like to thank Steven Bridgett for providing the funding. JC reported that he had received negative reviews as the signs block the views of the historic houses. A member of the public enquired whether the sign on the south side of the village could be moved to the other side of the road. Steven Bridget and Highways had chosen the best locality for safety reasons as it would block the view from the corner. KA had received the speed data and will circulate. KA to collate feedback, data and review.

006/24 Planning Applications

23/03953/LBC 3 Garden Wing Callaly Castle - Listed Building Consent to install ten vertical slide (with tilt) secondary glazing units inset from the original sash windows. **NCC GRANTED permission.**

23/03722/LBC The Old Butchers Shop, Whittingham – Listed building consent to install double glazing to front : roof lights to rear and internal alterations. **NCC GRANTED permission.**

23/02597/FUL The Old Butchers Shop, Whittingham – Three conservation roof lights above kitchen. Replacement of existing ground floor front windows and existing external door to the attached building. Internal works. **NCC GRANTED permission.**

23/02063/FUL Pennylaws Alnham - Conversion of existing garage and domestic outbuilding to habitable accommodation. **NCC GRANTED permission.**

23/03785/FUL Hill Top Cottage, Alnham – Demolition of detached timber framed stables. Construction of single storey two-bed timber framed holiday letting unit. Demolition of conservatory and construction of two-storey extension. Construction of first floor extension with ground floor open porch. Construction of 1no dormer window. **WITHDRAWN by Applicant.**

23/03725/FUL Eslington Hall, Eslington - Erection of a glasshouse in the rear courtyard. **NCC GRANTED permission.**

The following application was received since the agenda was prepared.

24/00033/VARYCO Buildings East of 6 Callaly High Houses, Whittingham – Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) on approved application 21/01523/FUL in order to address building alignment and site layout with the creation of a more useable and desirable room layout and accommodation. **PC SUPPORTED.**

Three members of the public left the meeting.

007/24 Finance

- i. To receive the monthly finance report for January (*Circulated with the agenda*)
- ii. To approve invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting. **Approved Clerk's Salary for December '23 and tax refund.**
- iii. Clerk's salary 1 – 31 January 2024 15 hours @ £15.00 per hour = £225 to be approved. **Approved.**
- iv. Path along riverside. Quotation received from Lee Charleton £1900.00. AW to discuss permissive right of way access with Eslington Estate. PC will probably need to sign a declaration. The area may not be suitable for benches due to flooding and safety risks. KA to enquire with Tarmac and Steven Bridgett regarding supplying the gravel as had agreed in previous years. Concerns were discussed regarding the unloading of the gravel from the lorries and the possibility of removing a section of the railings. Liaison would need to take place with Tarmac. It was suggested the ground work should take place now rather than wait until the summer. PC agreed to go ahead.

008/24 Matters Arising

- i. Donation : KA had contacted the family who had no preference on what it was spent on. JC had suggested an Endowment Fund and has documents on Community Foundation and Charities Aid Foundation. Concerns were made regarding who would manage and take responsibility or be a trustee. KA thought the sum of money may be too small to make any considerable amount of return ie due to interest rates, annual fees, setting up fees etc. JC explained this would be a long term investment. KT said that it may encourage other people to donate money to the Parish. KA and EG to review the documentation and report back to the next meeting.
- ii. Energy upgrading for rural off gas grid homes : JC had received an email from a resident. NCC had been allocated money to upgrade off gas grid homes. This is restricted to low income households but does include rented properties. It was agreed to put information on noticeboards, Vale News and the PC website to allow individual households to apply.
- iii. Northern Power Programme : JC reported that overhead cables are being replaced with new underground networks in areas of outstanding natural beauty and should this be explored.

009/24 Correspondence

- i. Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 53. Definitive Map Modification Order (No 7) 2023 – RB No 29 & BOAT No 30 (Parish of Whittingham). No objections were made.
- ii. Strengthen Alnham East Bridge – updated diversion route was mentioned.
- iii. Correspondence received from resident regarding damage to the Green on Callaly Road. This was reported to the Landowner who will investigate. However, it was noted that the problem will be worse at this time of year.
- iv. LP had received correspondence from Charlie Smith, Chairman of the Whittingham Memorial Institute regarding the PC applying for a free framed picture of The King for the Hall. This was agreed.
- v. Correspondence has been received from Charlie Smith regarding funding for the solar panels for the Hall. The PC will consider grants at the next meeting.

010/24 Any General Matters

- i. A huge thank you was given to Lord Ravensworth and Eslington Estate for the donation of the Christmas tree to the village. Thank you to AY and the Christmas tree Officers for the installation and the lights. An article to be placed in the Vale News.
- ii. A member of the public enquired about the drainage on the road to Callaly, where there is a dip in the road. In recent heavy rainfall, the surface water had been knee high causing severe driving issues. Some of the drains have been covered up with tarmac. KA explained that all issues can be reported on www.fixmystreet.com . This is a service that individual residents can report and track problems with NCC. Photographs should be used for evidence.
- iii. The run off from the fields on the road to Callaly (just after the lodges) was also mentioned, due to the recent heavy rainfall. The silt on the road is causing driving issues. This can also be reported via the fix my street website.

011/24 Time and Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 7.00pm Whittingham Memorial Institute Hall.

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