

**Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council**  
**Parish Clerk: Linda Pullan, Payne Cottage, Copper Beeches, Whittingham NE66 4BF**  
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**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of the Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council held on Tuesday 21 November 2023, 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), D Bateson (DB), K Turvey (KT), A Young (AY) and J Bolton (JB)

**In Attendance :** Linda Pullan, Parish Clerk (LP)

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>134/23 Apologies for Absence &amp; Declarations of Interest</b>	R Bateson (RB) and E Gardiner (EG)  Declarations of Interest : AW139/23 – 23/03725/FUL & 23/03726/LBC.  JC 139/23 – 23/03953/LBC
<b>135/23 Public Questions</b>	None
<b>136/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	The minutes of the Meeting on 17 October 2023 were APPROVED as a true record.
<b>137/23 Neighbourhood Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Monthly update : JC reported that they now have access to the funds to recruit a consultant. However, the funds can only be used for the financial year granted, therefore they plan to apply from 6 April 2024 onwards. The Parish Council will need to view and agree before any draft is given to the consultants.</li> <li>ii. Steering Committee representative : Following the resignation of Councillor Chris Durie earlier in the year, has meant that the Parish Council are lacking on representation to the Steering Committee with regards to the Parish Plan. JC felt that it was not deemed necessary as all findings and consultee comments are fed back to the PC, however it was felt that a further Councillor should volunteer to join the Steering Committee before it moves onto the next stage. Both Councillors AY and AW volunteered to fill the position and the PC voted to propose AY join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee to replace Chris Durie. Meeting dates will be passed to AY in due course. Also, AW to check with Belinda Athey, Head Teacher on her position on the Committee and report back to the Parish Council in January 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>138/23 Highways Matters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Traffic in Whittingham &amp; Vehicle Activated Speed Sign : AY reported that a 3m pole had been erected in front of the Castle Inn for the speed sign. KA explained this will be cut down to 2.1m once the speed sign has been fitted. NCC had decided this was the best place for the speed sign due to line of sight coming into the village. KA had received communication from a parishioner regarding the positioning of the pole near to the bridge and the 20mph signs. NCC had reassured KA this was the best place for the sign to maximise impact. NCC to monitor and review once the signs are in</li> </ul>

place. Highways have recently been monitoring the speed around the village.

- ii. Drainage South Side of Whittingham : AY reported there had been flooding from the fields due to recent sustained rainfall, next to the Castle Inn. He has contacted Lead Flood Authority, Natural England, Highways and the Environment Agency regarding this issue. Drainage work has already started next to the hedges and will be ongoing.
- iii. Vehicle Activated Speed Sign : see 138/23.i.
- iv. White Railings : These have been repainted and have been improved. KA to thank Dave Moat at NCC.
- v. Restoration of historic cast iron road signs : JC had received an email from Keith Hann regarding restoration of the signs. The signs can be welded and restored, however glass fibre reproductions are cheaper. BW to investigate.

### 139/23 Planning Applications

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

**Supported by Parish Council.**

**23/02744/VARYCO Lane Head, The Lane Whittingham** – Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) to allow for internal layout changes in the annex area (ground floor), additional first floor space in the annex area, installation of wood burning stove in the dining area, and installation of independent wall lining & insulation to ground floor areas as shown (to replace defective and damp wall finishes which was a combination of directly applied gypsum plaster and sand and cement render which ) on approved application 22/01319/LBC. **NCC GRANTED permission.**

**23/02752/VARYCO Lane Head, The Lane Whittingham** – Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 22/01327/FUL to include for internal layout changes in annex area (ground floor), additional first floor space in annex area, installation of wood burning stove in dining area and installation of independent wall lining and insulation to ground floor areas as shown. **NCC GRANTED permission.**

**23/03725/FUL Eslington Hall, Eslington** – Erection of a glasshouse in the rear courtyard. AW left the meeting. **PC SUPPORTED.**

**23/03726/LBC Eslington Hall, Eslington** – Listed Building Consent for erection of a glasshouse in the rear courtyard. AW left the meeting. **PC SUPPORTED.**

**23/03953/LBC 3 Garden Wing, Callaly Castle, Callaly** – Listed Building Consent to install ten vertical slide (with tilt) secondary glazing units inset from the original sash windows. JC left the meeting. **PC SUPPORTED.**

There were no applications received since the agenda was prepared.

### 140/23 Finance

- i. To receive the monthly finance report for November (*Circulated with the agenda*)
- ii. To approve invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting

- iii. Clerk's salary 1 – 30 November '23 15 hours @ £15.00 per hour = £225 to be approved. **Approved.**
- iv. Parish Council Insurance 2023-24 £291.37 to be approved. **Approved.**
- v. NCC additional grass cuts. VAT not included on NCC initial request. (£240.28 approved 19 September 23). VAT amount £48.06 to be approved. **Approved.**
- vi. NCC Loan received £4435.00
- vii. Review Annual Budget and allocate priorities (*Circulated with the agenda*). KA reviewed the Budget. The reserves had previously been allocated to pay for the noticeboards and the path along the river. Seats around the village need to be repaired/replaced. It was suggested the benches next to the river should be replaced with composite (instead of wood) due to flooding. KT mentioned a bench in Alnham. AY to liaise with Lee Charleton for an up-to-date quote to replace the footpath next to the river. An email had been received from Ninette Edwards regarding the village defibrillator. This is beyond its warranty period and is no longer looked after by the North East Ambulance Service. KA to check, when receive paperwork for the speed signs, about extended warranty for 5 years. KA & LP will review and photograph village assets in Jan/Feb 2024.
- viii. Agree Parish Precept for 2024/25 and submit to Northumberland County Council.  
As there was an error in 2023/24 the PC felt there should be no financial increase as residents will end up paying double in the new financial year. NCC agreed to fund the deficit which needs to be repaid in 2024/25 plus there will be interest. Interest to be funded from existing income on the basis there was no clerk's salary for 4 months so will have no impact on parish budget. When calculating the Precept the PC took into consideration existing commitments plus the additional uplift in salary for the new clerk. The Parish Council Agreed. JC suggested that he investigated NCC potentially funding the clerks salary directly.
- ix. Path along riverside – see 140/23.vii.
- x. The Parish Council agreed to pay Alnham Church £500 for the noticeboard (see 142/23).

#### 141/23 Matters Arising

- i. Phone Box refurbishment : The Parish Council wish to thank Chris Breeze for his great work in the refurbishment of the Phone Box. Whilst this is still an ongoing project, the Parish Council thank Chris for kindly donating his time on this project free of charge. An article will be placed in the Vale News. The RSPCA would like to use the phone box.
- ii. Donation : JC had researched Endowment Funds using Charities Aid Foundation and Communities Foundation. A suggestion was made to create a separate page on the Parish Council website for doners and benefactors. KA to contact Col. Hutchinson family and to review in January 2024.
- iii. Relocation of Christmas tree : It was agreed to relocate the Christmas tree to the entrance of the village, next to Castle Inn, so it can be seen by more parishioners. AY happy to supply an electric cable and for Christmas Carols to access his grassed area. KA/LP to contact Ninette Edwards regarding the Carols and the Christmas Tree Officers.

**142/23 Notice Board for Alnham**

KT reported that the noticeboard has been erected in the porchway of St Michael & All Angels, Alnham Church. KT to forward the Church bank details for payment of £500 to be passed to James Hunter. The Parish Council would like to thank James Hunter for the fabulous new noticeboard.

**143/23 Correspondence**

- i. Whittingham Memorial Institute : The Parish Council had received correspondence regarding Whittingham Memorial Institute.
- ii. Open Space Assessment Survey : KA and LP had completed the survey online.
- iii. An email had been received from Jon Radgick, Chairman Glanton Parish Council regarding a footpath between the two parishes. AW to investigate.

**144/23 Any General Matters**

KA and LP had attended a Vale News 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebration on behalf of the Parish Council. A huge thank you was given to Penelope Bayley for her hard work and dedication to the Vale News over the past 21 years.

**145/23 Time and Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 7.00pm Whittingham Memorial Institute Hall.

Signed as a True Record of the Meeting Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_