

Whalton Parish Council (WPC)

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 17th July 2024

Whalton Village Hall 7.30pm

(Draft minutes until signed)

24:20 Present

Councillors: Lennard, Grix, Trobe, Shaw

In attendance:

M Burn (Clerk)

Cllr L Darwin (NCC)

Two members of the public attended

24:21 Apologies for absence received: Cllr Young

24:22 Election of Chairman

In absence of a permanent chairman Cllr A Shaw took the chair for this meeting.

24:23 Declaration of Interests, and grant of any dispensations: None

24:24 Public Questions Received in Advance of the meeting:

A member of the public requested WPC to review the need for a plaque to be placed at the millennial tree at Whalton. Council to investigate and arrange as necessary. Cllr Trobe to arrange inspection of the health of the tree. Clerk to arrange a TPO if not already in place.

24:25 Minutes of previous meeting: (Chair)

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th May 2024 were agreed and signed by the previous Chair, Cllr Lennard.

24:25 Matters Arising from the Minutes (unless separately on the agenda)

24.25.01 The draft co-option policy was adopted by the council.

24.25.02 The proposed new member of council was not in attendance to which WPC resolved to continue the vacancy for the 2 weeks from date of the meeting. Cllr Lennard to contact another possible new member and encourage

to contact the clerk to express interest.

24.25.03 Cllr Lennard reported that broadband had been installed to 6 properties at Ogle and was now working well.

24.25.04 EV Charging was discussed in detail. Cllr Lennard had consulted with residents and business partners in the village. It was resolved by council to consider the issue again in September with no firm agreement possible at this time.

24.25.05 The uneven curb stones have been reported to the NCC fix my street.

24.25.06 Clerk has circulated samples of new installations from both Elan and Swarco Ltd. Discussion took place regarding the information and price. Cllr Darwin confirmed his support for the scheme and his ability to help funding. Clerk to contact Elan to arrange contact between Cllr Shaw and Cllr Darwin.

24.26 County Cllr Darwin - Update

24.26.01 Cllr L Darwin updated council regarding his involvement with speed control signs and his upcoming surgery on the afternoon of August 3rd. Discussion took place regarding the possible future provision of new bus services with Cllr Darwin continuing to establish a suitable route to connect the parish to Morpeth directly.

24:27 Financial Matters: (Clerk)

24.27.01 Banking change over from Lloyds to Unity Trust was confirmed. Clerk thanked now MOP Robson for her efforts to assist during the banking changeover.

24.27.02 Invoices paid via Unity bank were confirmed with only clerk salary outstanding.

NALC Subscriptions	227.64
Mr R Macfarlane - Audit	65.00
G A Christie Caretaking duties	50.00

24.27.03 Balances confirmed as current account 14,087.36GBP and zero in the savings account to date. Both remaining Lloyds accounts holding a balance of 1.00GBP will be abandoned.

24.27.04 Savings account to be opened with 3,418GBP to be topped up by the wayleave payment from powergrid. Subject to completion.

24.27.05 The payroll services agreement was signed and returned.

24.27.06 Clerk explained to the council a number of new financial regulations. Limit on immediate spend was resolved as 500GBP.

24.27.07 The public rights period has expired without any notification.

24.27.08 The powergrid wayleave 30 year agreement was resolved and confirmed to be 582.00GBP.

24:28 Correspondence

- 24.28.01 Clerk confirmed the formal resignation of Cllr Robson. WPC thanked Cllr Robson for all her efforts and support shown to the council.
- 24.28.02 Numerous electronic bulletins were confirmed as received by Cllrs.
- 24.28.03 New notifications have been requested by the clerk in relation to NCC business in the area of the parish.

24:29 Planning/To consider any planning applications:(Chair)

- 24.29.01 Whalton Mill 24/01646/FUL was discussed.
- 24.29.02 Cherry Tree Cottage 24/02430/FUL was discussed.
- 24.29.03 Cllr Shaw brought to the attention of the meeting other planning issues which were discussed in detail.

24:30 Highways Issues: (Chair)

- 24.30.01 The Local Transport Plan for 25/26 (LTP) was discussed. Item 1 was agreed the continued improvements required at Shilvington Road. Item 2 The BOAT track between Ogle Mill and the Highlander public house signs forbidding motorcycles and 4 wheel drive vehicles from using this track which is very churned up and the motorcycles are causing a noise nuisance to the residents of Tod hill as the track runs behind their properties. Clerk to action the LTP.

4.30.02 A discussion took place regarding the poor drainage issues around the parish, Cllr Darwin reminded the council that such problems can be reported to the NCC application online - Fix My Street.

24:31 Communications: (Clerk)

24.31.01 Council advised by the clerk to consider changing email to business only addresses. Those attending who have not yet done so agreed.

24.31.02 Discussion took place regarding the use of the Whatsapp group for both Ogle and Whalton. WPC resolved to use this for directing the users to see information upon the public notices or website to the parish council.

24.31.03 Clerk informed the council that the computer used by the clerk would not be compatible with Windows 11. Discussion took place.

24.32 Environmental Issues (Chair)

24.32.01 Cllr Shaw had completed a maintenance list at Whalton for WPC to consider as a yearly programme. It was agreed Ogle will require similar and Cllr Lennard to arrange. Discussion took place regarding allocation of tasks and responsibilities. Clerk stressed costs required well in advance of the budget in November. WPC resolved to explore the schedule of maintenance as a yearly programme of work. To be developed by the council and updated at the September meeting.

24.32.02 Cllr Grix presented council with the new post sample and discussion

took place regarding quality and the need for renewed chains.

The meeting closed at 21.15

24:33 Date of Next meeting:

Wednesday 11th September 7.30pm

Whalton Village Hall

Signed.....(Chairman)

Date.....