

## Whalton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 March 2024

- 1) **Present:** Parish Councillors Andy Shaw, Nicola Robson, Martin Grix, Marlene Young and County Cllr Lyle Darwin
- 2) **In attendance:** Peter Ware (Clerk)
- 3) **Apologies for absence:** Anne Lennard, Stephen Trobe
- 4) **The Chair's opening remarks:** In Cllr Trobe's absence Cllr Young took the Chair.
- 5) **Public Questions & Participation:** two Twizell residents, led by Sandra Charlton, thanked members and the clerk for their efforts in trying to resolve their bus stop and site issues with NCC and Cussins.
- 6) **Declarations of interests and the grant of dispensations:** none
- 7) **Report from the Police:** none, clerk to resend contact details to Cllr Shaw.
- 8) **Report from the County Councillor:** County Cllr Darwin to hold a surgery at 11am on Saturday 20 April 2024 at Whalton Village Hall - all Whalton Parish residents are welcome to attend.
- 9) **Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024** were agreed as a true record and was signed by the Acting Chair.
- 10) **Any matters arising from the minutes if not minuted elsewhere:** none
- 11) **Parish Clerk Vacancy:** there were two applications for the post, members asked clerk to invite both for interview.
- 12) **Planning Matters**
  - a) 23/04323/FUL Close House – it was noted that permission was granted on 23 January 2024
  - b) 23/04485/FUL & 23/04486/LBC Lyn Law Farm House – it was noted that permission was granted on 2 February 2024
  - c) 24/00117/FUL – Whalton House - the Council responded to NCC planning with no objections on 7 February 2024
  - d) 24/00633/FUL – Old Rectory Whalton – members discussed the application and had no objections, clerk to follow up with NCC.
  - e) Window frames at Fox Wood – a terse response was received from Mr & Mrs Todrick about their need to submit a pre application enquiry to NCC. Clerk to contact NCC planning enforcement.
- 13) **Highway Issues:**
  - a) County Cllr Darwin explained that NCC's Fix My Street app was having some teething problems and has also raised with NCC the apparent random nature of pothole repairs.
  - b) Clerk previously circulated information on the various types of speed indicator signs, with prices, currently used on NCC's network. Members felt the costs may be too prohibitive and asked for a revised price for updating the existing flashing signs instead. Clerk to follow up. County Cllr Darwin suggested some funding may be available from his Members Allowance.
- 14) **Local Bus Services:** a briefing note was previously circulated by Cllr Lennard, following a meeting with Chris Curtis from NCC. The existing grant secures service 777 for three years, so further consideration should be given to the frequency of service, start and finish times, the possibility of varying the route and also vehicle sizes. Feedback from residents could be taken at County Cllr Darwin's forthcoming surgery session.
- 15) **Environmental Matters:**
  - a) Cllr Shaw met with Gavin Christie for a village walkaround. Cllr Shaw to prepare a schedule/rota of works, similar to Mitford PC's, for members to consider.

- b) Replacement of posts and chains: Approximately 70% of them need replacing so Cllr Shaw to investigate alternatives and members to ask residents for views. Clerk suggested doing so at the surgery session in April.
- c) A dangerous overhanging branch on the Meldon Road needs attention, landowner to be contacted. Clerk to follow up.
- 16) Ogle Broadband:** no progress.
- 17) EV Charging Points:** no progress.
- 18) Community Resilience:** no progress.
- 19) Correspondence & information items:** all NALC, CAN and NCC e-letters were all noted.
  - a) NCC - Changes to voting/Working at elections notices.
  - b) A letter from St Mary Magdalene's Church requesting a donation, handed to Cllr Shaw
- 20) Finance:**
  - a) Online banking: signatory documents for Cllr Lennard to be signed and returned to Lloyds Bank.
  - b) The clerk gave a report of this year's spend to date, with a Finance Summary circulated, showing a balance of £10,598.97 after today's payments were authorised.
  - c) Payments were authorised for the clerk's salary for February, March and expenses at a cost of £338.15.
  - d) Previous Clerk overpayment: no response from Justin Clayton, a Morpeth Town Councillor, husband of the previous clerk, when contacted by Cllr Shaw.
- 21) AOB:** none

**Date and time of next meeting:** 7.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Whalton Village Hall

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**