

Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council
Parish Clerk: Linda Pullan, Payne Cottage, Copper Beeches, Whittingham NE66 4BF
 Email: whittinghampc29@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 April 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), K Turvey (KT), A Young (AY), J Bolton (JB), E Gardiner (EG), D Bateson (DB) and S Gray (SG)

In Attendance : Linda Pullan, Parish Clerk (LP) and 9 members of the public

ITEM	DISCUSSION
036/24 Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest	R Bateson (RB) Declarations of interest – AW Planning Application 24/00871/FUL
037/24 Public Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The article printed in the Vale News Issue 121 April/May 2024 written by the PC was raised (this query had been sent to the PC email on 15th April by a local resident). It was explained this had been written in response to the article written in Issue 120 Feb/March 2024 which had not been authorized by the PC and was under the heading of PC. The PC had received complaints about the article. A member of the public expressed concern that the response had caused more concern as there seemed to be confusion over non-designated heritage site lists and English Heritage listed buildings registry. It was explained that the PC had not been advised beforehand of this article. It was noted that the Steering Committee work on behalf of the PC, however the PC felt they receive very little feedback from the Steering Committee. It was agreed that in future all documents sent from the Steering Committee would be agreed by the PC. ii. A member of the public raised the point that the Neighbourhood Plan gives local people the chance to speak and object to inappropriate development. Over 100 parishioners had attended the consultation and 60 questionnaires had been submitted and it was felt that the PC disrespected the community wishes for a strong desire for a Neighbourhood Plan. It was felt that the parish should seize this opportunity for every parishioner to have their say and the vision should be democratic. The PC acknowledged that the opinions of those who had submitted their views shouldn't be ignored and they were entitled to their opinions. However, the PC felt they had received very little feedback from the Steering Committee and had not been shown any draft documents or received any visions or objectives. The free flow of information and lack of communication was the issue. BW explained it had all started in January 2022 and they had met with Sarah Brannigan from NCC Planning Department. JC and CD had volunteered to represent the PC on the Steering Committee, who would be supported by AW, KT and KA. There had been stages to follow and various meetings with Sarah since the start, however the PC felt they had received little feedback from the Steering Committee over the past few years. AW is happy to join the Steering

Committee. JC distributed a document stating over 50 parish councils are currently involved in Neighbourhood planning in Northumberland. It was acknowledged that there had been a 2 way lack of information.

038/24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting held on 19 March 2024 were APPROVED and signed as a true record.

039/24 Matters Arising

- i. Neighbourhood Plan – vote. JC expressed concern that there had been a lack of clarity on what was being voted and that the correct motion and wording was not acceptable. BW explained that since 2021 proxy and online voting is not allowed therefore the vote would be deferred to the next PC meeting.
- ii. Endowment Fund – vote. As above. The vote would be deferred to the next PC meeting.
- iii. Path along riverside. KA/AW reported the gravel will be arriving over the next couple of weeks. KA to liaise with Lee Charlton.
- iv. Flooding at Castle Meadow – BW. The houses had been built on a paddock and the rain runs off from the fields. AW mentioned that measures have been started to be put in place but will be a slow process.

040/24 Highways Matters

Restoration of historic cast iron road signs – BW. BW circulated a document explaining the cost of new cast iron signposts £4000. JC asked if a list could be prepared of all the existing signposts. EG agreed to identify signposts around the parish and take photographs.

8 members of the public left the meeting.

041/24 Planning Applications

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. **NCC REFUSED permission.**

24/00871/FUL Memorial Hall, Whittingham – Installation of 28 PV panels to the south facing roof, with EV charger and generator port. **PC SUPPORTED.**

There were no further applications received since the agenda had been prepared.

042/24 Finance

- i. To receive the monthly finance report for April (*Circulated with Agenda*)
- ii. To approve invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting. **None.**
- iii. Clerk's salary 1 – 30 April '24 15 hours @ £15.00 per hour = £225 to be approved. **Approved.** KT enquired about Clerk's hours. To be put on future agenda for discussion.
- iv. Agreement from Parish Council to appoint Claire Miller as Internal Auditor @ £25.00 per hour up to £250. **Approved.**

- v. Defibrillator grant £750. Payment required to meet funding gap. Will be repaid as a donation by Cllr Steven Bridgett. KA explained an email had been received today saying this scheme had ended. KA to enquire asap. £750 was **approved** for the future.

043/24 Litter beside major roads

Litter beside major roads – JC. JC had raised this with PC previously. He has personally pursued this issue and has been in contact with the Head of Neighbourhood Services. It has been put as an Item in their budget for 2 years and have now set up a team of 4 people to be trained to deal with this issue. The PC congratulated JC on his work.

044/24 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the Agenda)

See 037/24.i. No other correspondence received.

045/24 Any General Matters

KA mentioned the bench opposite St Bartholomew's Church needs to be removed/replaced due to damage. AW to remove.

046/24 Time and Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 7.00 pm Whittingham Memorial Hall

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