

Whalton Parish Council (WPC)
Parishioners Annual Meeting 7pm
Parish Council Annual Meeting (PCAM)
Wednesday 15th May 2024
Whalton Village Hall 7.30pm

24:01 Present (PAM)

Councillors: Lennard,Grix,Robson,Young,Trobe

In attendance:

M Burn (Clerk)

Cllr L Darwin (NCC)

No members of the public attended the (PAM)

24:02 Apologies for absence received: Cllr Shaw

24:03 Present (PCAM) As above

Plus X2 Members of the public attended

24:04 Election of Chairman

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

24:05 Election of vice chairman

Cllr S Trobe was elected as vice chairman of WPC

24:06 Declaration of Interests, and grant of any dispensations: None

24:07 Public Questions Received in Advance of the meeting:

None

24:08 Minutes of previous meeting: (Chair)

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th March 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

24:09 Matters Arising from the Minutes (unless separately on the agenda)

24.09.01 Clerk/RFO M Burn was confirmed as now in post

24.09.02 Cllr L Darwin gave the meeting feedback regarding his surgery and the views received regarding bus services throughout the parish. Discussions to continue and report back to the council.

24.09.03 Chair added an additional item regarding the possibility of progress for the provision of broadband service near Ogle. Update to follow.

24:10 Financial Matters: (Clerk)

24.10.01 AGAR documentation internal audit signed(8.1)

24.10.02 Annual Governance Statement approved(8.2)

24.10.03 Accounting Statement Approved(8.3)

24.10.04 Certificate of Exemption Confirmed(8.4)

24.10.05 Notice of publication of public rights - Clerk to confirm

24.10.06 Clerk expressed concerns regarding ongoing issues with banking. Council agreed to make outstanding payment to previous clerk and hold other payments pending a solution. Clerk to draft a letter to the bank to begin correction of banking signatories required. The suggestion by the clerk to change banks was deferred pending any progress.

24.10.07 Payroll arrangements were discussed and the council resolved to use Payroll Solutions Ltd. Clerk to arrange.

24.10.08 WPC resolved to stop chasing the outstanding debt from a previous clerk salary issue due to costs involved.

24:11 Correspondence:(Clerk)

24.11.01 Cllrs continue to receive by email information items including, but not exclusively from, NCC, NALC, the police, Powergen, Rural Services Bulletin and others.

24.11.02 Email correspondence received in favour of a bus service were responded to by the clerk.

24:12 Planning/To consider any planning applications:(Chair)

24.12.01 Clerk confirmed planning officer AC at NCC states no breach was made at Fox wood, clerk to investigate the criteria used for this decision.

24.12.02 24/00633 Old Rectory was closed on 14/05/24

24.12.03 Shilvington West House Farm Cottage. Discussion took place, clerk to confirm residential use only.

24.12.04 Castle Ward Cottage. Discussion took place regarding the proposed erection of an agricultural building...

24:13 Highways Issues: (Chair)

24.13.01 Works were notified to WPC by email with discussion regarding notification of parishioners.

24.13.02 The solar speed panels were discussed, Cllr Darwin suggested more affordable options were available for basic improvements not storing data. Clerk and Cllr Darwin to investigate.

24:14 Communications: (Clerk)

24.14.01 Council was advised by the clerk to consider changing email to business only addresses for all issues relating to WPC. Council resolved to update emails asap. Clerk to arrange.

24.14.02 Discussion took place regarding the issues for production and circulation of a parish newsletter. Chairman Lennard expressed concerns regarding the time and costs involved. Council agreed to defer the matter for consideration at a later date.

24.14 Employment Contract (Chair)

24.14.01 Council agreed to implement the contract for the clerk/RFO

24.15 Policies (Clerk)

24.15.01 The clerk requested WPC to review the policies held by the council. This was agreed. Clerk to circulate documents to Cllrs and revise accordingly.

24:17 Environmental Issues (Chair)

24.17.01 In the absence of Cllr Shaw the clerk confirmed an update stating some progress had been made by the caretaker, however there was 'more to do'. This would be chased up. Discussion took place regarding the issues and the use of a caretaker.

24.17.02 Electric Vehicle Charging at Whalton Village

Information from the climate action team at NCC had suggested funding access and possible suggested locations for the installation of charging points. Discussion took place regarding the practicality of the scheme. Cllr Lennard to approach local businesses for their perspective on the matter.

24.17.03 Residents attending voiced concern regarding uneven curb stones at Whalton village, lack of road sweeping and roadside weeds. Cllrs will investigate and report as necessary to NCC.

24:18 Additional Business (Chair)

24.18.01 Various improvements to the fabric of the village hall were discussed in line with possible funding to subsidise a survey of requirements. Cllr Darwin stated he may be in a position to help WPC with this. Cllr Lennard to investigate and report to the council.

24.18.02 Cllr Robson introduced the meeting to planning portal applications viewed earlier in the day. Discussion took place.

The meeting closed at 20.45

24:19 Date of Next meeting:

Wednesday 17th July 7.30pm

Whalton Village Hall

Signed.....(Chairman)

Date.....

--