



WHITTINGHAM, CALLALY & ALNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/whittingham>

Clerk: Sarah Trushell | whittinghampc29@gmail.com | 07455 004164

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of WCA Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at the Whittingham Memorial Institute Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Andrew Whincup (Chair) Karen Armstrong, Neil Blackshaw, Jamie Bolton, Paul Bradley, Jonathan Clark, Elidh Gardiner, Stuart Gray, Toni Marsden, James Renner, Brian Wood

Clerk: Sarah Trushell

Members of the public: 17

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bateson

2. Election of Chair

Cllr Whincup was elected Chair of the Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

3. Signing of Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Whincup signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

4. Election of the Vice Chair

Cllr Armstrong was elected Vice Chair of the Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

5. Appointments to Working Groups and Committees

The following appointments were made for the 2026/27 municipal year:

School Representative: Cllr Marsden

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Representatives: Cllrs Bateson, Blackshaw and Bradley (Chair)

Village Hall Representative: Cllr Gardiner

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of WCA Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th May 2026, at the Whittingham Memorial Institute Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Andrew Whincup (Chair) Karen Armstrong, Neil Blackshaw, Jamie Bolton, Paul Bradley, Jonathan Clark, Elidh Gardiner, Stuart Gray, Toni Marsden, James Renner, Brian Wood

Clerk: Sarah Trushell

Members of the public: 17

12/26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bateson.

13/26 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Whincup declared an interest in item 18/26(c).

Signed as a true record of the meeting _____ on Date _____



WHITTINGHAM, CALLALY & ALNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/whittingham>

Clerk: Sarah Trushell | whittinghampc29@gmail.com | 07455 004164

14/26 Public Participation

Members of the public raised questions regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, council communications, and matters relating to the bus shelter site.

15/26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Amendments were requested to item 7/26(b), Speeding and Road Safety, including clarification of the wording used to record comments made by Cllr Mather during the discussion. Members also requested that the minute record that Cllr Mather had agreed to provide further information regarding the relevant criteria discussed at the meeting.

Approval of the minutes was deferred pending amendment.

16/26 Matters Arising

The Council noted an enquiry relating to the historic amalgamation of the parishes.

17/26 Parish Council Administration Matters

a) Neighbourhood Plan

The Council received an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

b) Publication and Circulation of Draft Minutes

The Council reviewed the current arrangements for the circulation and publication of draft minutes.

c) Council Communications

The Council reviewed its communication arrangements and agreed that council-related communications should be administered through the Clerk and published via the Council website where appropriate.

d) Grant Policy

The updated Grant Policy was approved.

e) AGAR 2025/26 Certificate of Exemption

The Certificate of Exemption for the year ended 31 March 2026 was approved and signed.

18/26 Community Matters

a) Parish Projects

i) Cast Iron Road Signs: The Council received an update regarding cast iron road signs.

ii) Telephone Box: The Council considered a list of items required for the telephone box project and RESOLVED to purchase the items.

iii) Bus Shelter: The Council received an update regarding the former bus shelter site.

The Council confirmed its wish to retain the site should ownership be established.

b) Litter Bins in the Parish

The Council agreed in principle to relocate a litter bin and requested a further report for consideration at the next meeting.

c) Donation Plans

The Chair declared an interest and left the room. Cllr Armstrong took the Chair.

Signed as a true record of the meeting _____ on Date _____



WHITTINGHAM, CALLALY & ALNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/whittingham>

Clerk: Sarah Trushell | whittinghampc29@gmail.com | 07455 004164

The Council considered options for the use of donated parish funds and RESOLVED to continue investigating the proposed footpath project.

Cllr Whincup returned to the meeting and took the Chair.

19/26 Financial Matters:

a) Transaction Report

The Transaction Report was received.

b) Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation to 19 May 2026 was received and accepted.

c) Payments for Authorisation

The Clerk's wages and Working from Home Allowance (£26) were noted as contractually approved and paid in accordance with the Clerk's contract of employment.

Payments for accounting software and hall hire were approved.

20/26 Items for Information or Future Agenda

No items were raised.

21/26 Date of next and future meetings (to start at 7pm unless stated otherwise)

16th June 2026

22/26 Exclusion of Press and Public

It was RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the following item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

23/26 Formal Complaint

The Council considered a formal complaint relating to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The matters raised were reviewed and a formal response will be issued to the complainant.