



WHITTINGHAM, CALLALY & ALNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/whittingham>

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

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of WCA Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2026, 7:00pm at the Whittingham Memorial Institute Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Andrew Whincup (Chair) Karen Armstrong, Neil Blackshaw, Paul Bradley, Jonathan Clark, Elidh Gardiner, Brian Wood

Clerk: Sarah Trushell

Members of the public: 3

County Councillor Mark Mather

1/26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bateson, Bolton, Marsden, Renner and Gray.

2/26 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Whincup declared an interest in items 7/26(c), (d) and (f)

3/26 Public Participation

A member of the public raised a query regarding previous correspondence. The Council noted this and will respond in due course.

4/26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a) The minutes of 24 March 2026 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

b) The amended minutes of 17 February 2026 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5/26 Matters Arising

Standing Orders will be uploaded to the new website. It was agreed that the latest version will be circulated to all councillors for review prior to publication.

6/26 Parish Council Administration Matters

a) Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group has met since the last meeting and has developed a draft vision and objectives based on analysis of the 2023 survey. These will be used to produce a follow-up consultation survey. A further meeting is scheduled and consultation will be issued as soon as practicable.

A statement was read expressing support for the Steering Group and proposing a motion of confidence. The Council acknowledged concerns regarding the tone of recent public commentary and confirmed its continued support for the Steering Group and the Neighbourhood Plan process.

b) Biodiversity Plan

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



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The draft plan was reviewed in detail and amendments agreed. It was agreed that a Biodiversity Champion role will be considered at the Annual Meeting, with a terms of reference.

The plan will be reviewed annually. Further amendments will be incorporated before adoption.

c) Council Communications Protocol

A draft communications protocol was considered. It was agreed that further guidance will be sought, particularly in relation to the Clerk's role and the distinction between operational correspondence and formal Council decisions. The matter will be brought back to a future meeting.

7/26 Community Matters

a) Parish Projects

- i) Cast Iron Road Signs: There has been no update since the last meeting
- ii) Telephone Box: Work is ongoing to produce an itemised list for Council consideration.
- iii) Bus Shelter: Relocation remains under investigation. Highways are exploring alternative sites with Estates. Further information is awaited.

b) Speeding and Road Safety

Councillor Mark Mather, Cabinet Member for Roads and Highways, provided an update regarding the A697 junction. It was confirmed that double white lines do not meet national criteria due to visibility levels. Accident data does not currently identify the junction as a priority site.

Alternative measures, including countdown markers, are being explored and a site survey will be requested, including review of signage position and visibility.

The Council raised concerns regarding near misses, traffic volumes, and junction layout. Further investigation will continue.

c) Donation Plans

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

Conditions attached to the proposed path project were considered. Concerns were raised regarding financial liability and conditions outside the Council's control.

It was agreed to continue investigating the project, including obtaining indicative costs and clarification of conditions, before making a decision.

Cllr Whincup returned to the meeting and took the Chair.

d) Wooden Footbridge

Northumberland County Council investigated the bridge and have confirmed that works to make necessary repairs will be scheduled.

e) Trees on the Village Green

A quotation of £250 for tree survey work was accepted.

f) Grass Triangle, Whittingham

It was resolved to contact Highways to request that mowing ceases and to explore

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transfer or management arrangements.

The meeting resolved to continue beyond the two-hour limit.

8/26 Planning Matters:

a) 26/01115/FUL

b) 25/04193/FUL

Both applications were withdrawn prior to the meeting.

9/26 Financial Matters:

a) Transaction Report

The Transaction Report has been published on the Council's website in accordance with transparency requirements and was circulated at the meeting.

b) Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation to 21 April 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.

NALC Membership £125.30

10/26 Items for Information or Future Agenda

Matters raised included relocation of bins and review of the grants policy.

11/26 Date of next and future meetings (to start at 7pm unless stated otherwise)

19th May 2026

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