



THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
17th July Thursday 2025
Parish Rooms, Rothbury

Present: Hilary Dunn (HD -Chair); Peter Henry (PH); Alan Tait (AT) Fran Tait (FT).
In attendance: Clerk.

The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m.

- 1. Apologies for absence. None.
2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th May 2025 were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such (Proposed (PH), Seconded (FT), All in Favour).
3. Matters arising from the minutes not included in the agenda. None.
4. Police Report Apologies given. Police reported by email that there was nothing of note which impacted on the local community. It was reported that there had been a recent incident in Rothbury which involved armed police, but no further details were known.

5. Highways and Footways

i) Report. AT reported:

Highways: I have added hardcore stone to the passing places along Carterside Road to reduce the depth of the potholes.
Footpaths: No issues with footpaths have been reported
Verges: The vegetation on the verges of junctions along Carterside Road have now been trimmed to improve visibility. The trees at the end of the bridge in Rothbury have now been cut down by the landowner to improve visibility for vehicles turning into the Whitton Bank Road. This has made the junction much clearer and safer for all traffic.
Seats & Road Signs: The new bench on Whitton Bank has been installed and secured to the ground.
Drains: As the dry weather has been followed by heavy rain showers the drains and grips have been checked and are working normally.

ii) Pedestrian signs along Carterside Road. A request had been received from a resident for the erection of Pedestrian warning signs on Carterside Rd. The members agreed, that as the road had a good sightline, such signage were unnecessary and very unlikely to be approved due to NCCs current policy to reduce street furniture in rural areas. Therefore, the PC agreed not to pursue this matter further. FT to inform the resident of the Council's decision.

Action: FT

6. Finance

i) Notification of receipts since the last meeting. Approved.

Table with 4 columns: Date, Description, Category, Amount. Row: 02/06/2025, Barclays 70103195, Interest, 6.86

ii) Approval of Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and approval of Other Payments since the last meeting. Approved.

Table with 4 columns: Date, Description, Category, Amount. Rows include Rothbury DCC, Rothbury Parish Council, NCC, HMRC, Garth Rhodes, and a Total row of 2267.61.

iii) Requests for donations. Citizens Advice Northumberland. A donation of £30 was agreed.

Action: Clerk

iv) Bank Reconciliation at 14th July 2025. Approved.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Amount, Currency. Rows include Balance per e-bank statements at 14th July, Community account, Business Saver, Less unrepresented payments, Uncredited Deposits, Balance, and Balance per cash book.

7. **Planning:** To consider any planning applications.

Reference	Address	Status	Parish Council Comments
4/04127/VARYCO	Rams Wood Whitton: change in house design and layout. Align previously approved plans	Application Registered	See previous minutes.

An email had been received from the Clerk of Rothbury Parish Council requesting the contact details for the Planning & Enforcement Officers involved in the Rams Wood development, because, since the draining of the pond on the site, the stream that ran down the side of the cemetery had ceased to function. The Clerk had provided the information requested and reported that there had been no response from Planning Enforcement regarding the PCs original report outlining its concerns about the excavation of the pond and felling of trees, prior to planning approval. It was agreed to request an update from Planning.

Action: Clerk

- i) **Community Flood Plan.** A meeting had taken place between the Flood Warden groups from Rothbury and Whitton & Tosson to co-ordinate the operation of the new flood signs at the Haugh car park. A WhatsApp group had been set up so that the two groups could communicate quickly and effectively, when the need to deploy the sign arose. The plan had been further updated : (*Whitton and Tosson Community Flood Plan - Update 170725*) to include instructions on the operation of the Flood Warning signs and the contact numbers for the Community Hospital; as care staff worked there 24 hours a day and needed to be informed when the road was flooded. They would still be able to access the building via a diversion through the top of Whitton
- 8. Bank and Silverton Lane.
- 9. **Rothbury JBC Report**
 - ii) Cllr Foggon had agreed to remain as Vice- Chair.Cemetery fees and charges to be kept the same.
 - iii) Cemetery lodge rent to be kept the same.
 - iv) Minor repairs still required to be undertaken at the lodge
- 10. **Coquetdale Cluster Report** There had not been a meeting since the last PC meeting. The next meeting of the Cluster was to take place in August.
- 11. **The Rothbury Estate update.** The notes based on a talk in Jubilee Hall Rothbury 24.4.25 by Mike Pratt CEO and Duncan Hutt Director of Conservation of Northumberland Wildlife Trust (WLT) produced by Jeff Reynolds for Coquetdale Cluster were noted.
- 12. **Update on new website platform: To discuss NALC Proposal to enable councils to move to their own individual website managed by HugoFox at reduced introductory price.** Northumberland NALC had formally agreed to move their Website Platform to a company called HugoFox(HF). NALC wanted to know whether the PC also wanted to move to HugoFox or to its own website provider. HF hosted over 400 councils and their prices were moderate. It was expected that the move would be easier than with other provides given that HF were working with NALC on the transition and had a model that could easily be transferred to WTPC. HF were also offering a .gov email address package but NALC were looking at other possibilities and advised PCs to hold off on this aspect at present. It was agreed that WTPC move their webpage to HF. **Action: Clerk**
- 13. **Any Other Business**
 - i. NCC Corporate Performance Report The report which sets out the main aims and objectives of the County Council over the next 4 years was noted.
 - ii. £10bn Blackstone QTS Data Centre investment in Cambois. The Invite to a special briefing event regarding the £10bn Blackstone QTS Data Centre investment in Cambois was noted.
 - iii. Councillor Vacancy. There was still one vacancy for a councillor on the PC. Clerk to check the procedure for advertising and recruiting new councillors, now that the post-election vacancy period had ended. **Action: Clerk**
- 14. **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: 7.00 p.m. Thursday 18th September 2025 in the Parish Rooms, Rothbury**

Meeting closed at 7.54 p.m.

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