Whittington Parish Council

 Monday 19th May 2025 in Whittington Village Hall

Annual Parishioners Assembly

Present: Cllrs Hall, the Clerk G.Newton and 6 members of the public.

The guidelines for the meeting were outlined, Cllr Hall read his Chair’s Report and Hosticle Lane was discussed: speed of vehicles, usage, and especially by larger vehicles.

Minutes for the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Contact: The Clerk Gillian Newton, 14 Marton Drive, Bare, Morecambe, LA4 6RB.

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Agenda & Full Minutes of meetings available on the noticeboard, by request from the Clerk & on the website <https://www.whittington-pc.gov.uk/>

Audit details available by request & on the website <https://www.whittington-pc.gov.uk/other-documents/>

Present at the meeting were Cllrs Colin Hall, Malcolm Fell, David Hutton, Janet Preston, Ray Woollard, the Clerk Gillian Newton and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence from City Cllr Ross Hunter.

1623 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting Monday 20th May 2024 were read, agreed by Cllrs and signed as a true record by Cllr Hall.

1624 No matters arose from the previous minutes.

1625 PACT Annual report : 2024 – 2025 **PACT** Police & Communities Together

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/lancashire-constabulary/upper-lune-valley/?tab=CrimeMap>

March – Sexual violence towards a person on or near Loyne Park

September – Criminal damage and/or arson on or near Docker Lane, Newton

November - Sexual violence towards a person on or near Docker Lane, Newton

April, May, June, July, August, October, December, January, February - none

Crimes are recorded as on or near the postcode and may not be at an identified property.

1626 **Chair’s report -**

 As I hastily scribble this, my 10th report so far, to meet tomorrow’s impending deadline I can not help but reflect on the strong community spirit that has been forged here over the past few years. To date, and not necessarily in any order of importance we have had the pleasure of celebrating the anniversary the D -Day landings, Whitington Open Gardens, a further celebration of VE Day plus numerous smaller yet just as significant community events contributing to what has been, in my opinion, quite a successful year. The D-Day Beacon, held by kind permission of Mr and Mrs S Metcalfe on Sellet Bank was, for once, blessed with clement weather and aided by refreshments at Sellet Hall raised in excess of £1000 for NW Air Ambulance. Volunteers, too numerous to mention, individually created what is now recognised as the brightest Beacon in the Lune Valley. For only the second time, select gardens in the village, ranging from the grand splendour of Whitington Hall to the more modest cottage garden, were open to the general public attracting visitors from far and wide. Interest was such that hopefully this event will be held bi-annually, once again ably organised by Caroline and Val. Substantial funds were raised for the Church and Village Hall. Continuing on a celebratory theme the Village Hall Committee organised VE Day refreshments and entertainment again drawing in the crowds to sample our very own gastronomic speciality Wagtail Pies! A significant sum raised and donated to Help for Heroes. Many will note that the village railings are in pristine condition. Thanks go to the volunteers who risked life and limb to quickly paint them an eye catching white whilst the B6254 was partially closed. It’s hard to believe that long standing resident Mike Barr tackled the job single-handedly for many years. Easily available via the link on Whittington News the Draft Consultation on the extension of Whittington Conservation Area can be viewed. This has been commissioned over the last few months by L.C.C and far from the usual dry, statistical and formal document one often expects from local government, it is surprisingly interesting and full of historical and local information pertaining to Whittington. It’s well worth a read. No report can be written without mentioning the vibrancy of the Village Hall activities this year. We now have yoga, pickleball, badminton, sewing, Post Office and of course the monthly POP-UP social evening. The Quiz Night was a sell out and is sure to be repeated again. Whittington Farm Developments is now rising like the proverbial Phoenix, as is the transformation of the old Dragons Head. These developments can only enhance the image of Whittington. We have our problems, with the introduction of speed cameras south of the river increased traffic, in particular motorcycles, are now using the B6254 as an alternative route. Residents quite rightly are concerned about the increase in noise and volume of traffic so, not for the first time, Parish Council are actively engaged with the authorities in asking for speed restrictions through the village. A traffic survey has been conducted, we await results. Parking in the village has over time become an issue often mentioned at Council meetings. Unfortunately, we have no public carpark space and have never been able to identify a suitable site. Problems may be increased with the completion of the various developments here but a solution still evades us. In conclusion I would, as usual, like to thank all of those residents that offer their services willingly, all Parish Councillors, Village Hall Committee and of course the PCC, without whose help and cooperation none of our projects would happen.

Colin Hall

1627. **Clerk’s report** - The closing balance in the Current Account at the end of March 2025 is £12,934.46 The reconciliation shows the true balance to be £12,970.66 One unpresented cheque 723 £26.80 G.Newton expenses. The closing balance in the Bonus Saver account at the end of March 2025 is £148.59 Precept received from Lancaster City Council of £6,200,00 as requested.

 The accounts have been internally audited by Anne Pettifor May 2025. The accounts are due to be audited externally by PK Littlejohn July 2025 . Certificate of Exemption to be completed and returned to external auditors.

The Annual Return, cash book, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating to the accounts will be available for inspection and to make copies, by request, from Tuesday 3rd June to Monday 14th July 2025 as required by regulations.

1628. **Election** of Chair, Vice-Chair, LALC representative and Trustee for Whittington Charity.

Chair : Cllr Hall was nominated by Cllr Hutton and seconded by Cllr Preston. Cllr Hall agreed to remain as Chairperson.

Vice Chair : Cllr Fell stood Deputy Vice Chair, nominated by Cllr Preston and seconded by Cllr Hutton. Cllr Fell agreed to become Vice-Chairperson.

Cllrs agreed no LALC representative was required and that Cllrs would attend meetings when available.

Trustee : Cllr Preston agreed to be the Trustee representative.

1629. **Finances**:

Annual Grazing Rights - Cllrs agreed to continue at £50 p/a

Annual Shooting Rights – Cllrs agreed the increase to £300 p/a, due December for January 2026, with the proviso that land opposite the Chestnuts be used by the Parish Council and the community for an annual event.

**The acreage for Whittington Quarry is 1.6 acres. What 3 words is - Voice. Joystick. Letter**

Clerk’s Salary will increase to £2,000.00 nett as agreed by Cllrs.

1630. All members present signed new Declarations of Acceptance of Office and agreed there are no changes to be made to the Notification by Members of Parish Council of Other Interests and the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests forms.

1631. Risk Assessment of street furniture, assets, fidelity guarantee and transparency requirements completed.

1632. Proposed dates for the following year were agreed on the 3rd Monday of alternate months.

2025 21st July, 15th September, 17th November.

2026 19th January, 16th March, 18th May, 20th July, 21st September, 16th November

1634. No Business introduced by Councillors.