



Newsletter—February 2022

Working for our future....

Because Community Matters

So what does a Parish Council do?

There is sometimes confusion between the roles of your 3 different councils but there are also many similarities. A Parish Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people of the Parish. It is the first tier of government with the closest links to the community. Like other tiers of government it has to follow many of the same regulations but there is a major difference in the number of duties that has to be done. These are mainly local issues like providing allotments, community centres, play areas and equipment. The parish council offers grants to help local

organisations and also respond to consultations on neighbourhood planning. Whitwick Parish Council has for many years met the criteria to exercise the Power of General Competence. This gives a wider range of powers that can be exercised in Whitwick. Please do look at our website <https://whitwickpc.org.uk/council-services/> for a short leaflet that explains what you pay your parish council to do for you. **Your parish council endeavours to do the best it can to make a difference here locally. Working for our future because community matters.**

How do councillors work together and take decisions?

Whitwick is divided into 4 wards—Broom Leys, Hermitage, Holly Hayes and Thornborough. The number of councillors is based on the population of the electorate and was set in 2011 when the Parish Council was created – this is 11 councillors. Contact details for all councillors are shown on our website. Councillors are prevented by legislation from acting alone or independently and decisions have to be made at council/committee meetings. The council is referred to as an 'it' because in law the council is a single corporate body and the decisions it takes are the responsibility of the council as a whole. Training is important and the Parish Manager gives professional advice to remind members of their legal responsibilities. There are many regulations that have to be met (more about our financial processes in a future newsletter). If things go wrong, the Parish Manager (not the councillors) would normally be the person in court and potentially sent to PRISON— a risk you might not be prepared for or want to face!

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Parish Manager: Mrs Cathy Tibbles
- Community Office, 3a Market Place, Whitwick, LE67 5DT (Opening hours: Weds 1.00pm to 4.00pm, Thurs / Fri 10.00am to 1.00pm)
- Telephone: 01530 459527
- Email: clerk@whitwickpc.org
- Whitwick Park Hall, North Street, Whitwick, LE67 5HA (available for hire)
- Park Hall Bookings: bookings@whitwickpc.org

COUNCIL MEETINGS are held regularly at Park Hall and you can come and even ask a question if you wish. Dates are shown below, at the Office, Parish Noticeboard and website. Topics for the council to discuss are shown on each agenda—which is a summons for councillors to attend (not an invitation). Agendas are displayed on our website, with extra information, about 3 days before a meeting. Minutes are also published when available so you can see what has been decided for Whitwick. Standing orders and terms of reference govern how decisions are made. Discussion meetings are less formal and sometimes held on site. Online meetings were only temporary for the pandemic.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.WHITWICKPC.ORG.UK

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: THURSDAYS 17 FEBRUARY & 17 MARCH AT WHITWICK PARK HALL