

At a Meeting of  
**WHORLTON AND WESTWICK  
PARISH COUNCIL**

On Wednesday 10th February 2016, 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllr George Stastny (Chairman), Cllr Colin Cummins, Cllr Ian Wilkinson, Cllr Roger Foster, Cllr Martin Saville, Cllr Lucy Hoskyns-Abrahall, Cllr Trevor Honeyman

**Apologies:** (none)

**Members of the public at the meeting:**

There was a large public gallery. County Councillor George Richardson was also in attendance. The meeting commenced with comments and questions from the public. Most of the public made comments in connection with the planning application DM/15/03464/FPA. There was a comment about the possible remedy of applying for relief to the local government ombudsman on the ground of maladministration. There was a comment about the use of a section 106 agreement. There was a comment about whether the use of delegated authority was appropriate if there is an objection from the Parish Council. County Councillor George Richardson was of the opinion that there was an established protocol that where a planning application is objected to by the Parish Council within the statutory time limit, it should be delegated to a committee of elected members rather than to a single officer. Several members of the public stated that there was illegal removal of trees from the development site prior to the application for permission.

The Chairman took the opportunity to notify County Councillor George Richardson that there was very strong opposition to planning application DM/15/03628/FPA, and that the Parish Council hopes the application will not be delegated to a single officer.

**1 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**2 The Minutes of the last Meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

**3 Financial Update**

The clerk presented a spreadsheet of the current finances of the Council.

**4 What action should be taken regarding the pub development: should the Council apply for judicial review; should the Council apply for a caution against the pub title. If the aforementioned action is taken, which firm of solicitors should be instructed, in the light of the quotes obtained.**

The councillors heard details of the quotes provided by local firms of solicitors. The clerk also supplied some information about unilateral notices, and the procedure for removing them.

**RESOLVED:** that there should be no application for judicial review; that the clerk should write to Durham County Council and query whether the application was appropriate for delegation to a single officer; that the Parish Council should apply for a unilateral notice in connection with the right of way to the development over the village green; and that Hewitts of Bishop Auckland should be appointed for this purpose.

**5 Path Improvement Between Graveyard and Sewage Works**

The clerk explained the negotiations which had occurred with grant givers, and with the farmer concerning this path. The removal of one of the two fences bordering the path was mooted as an option, but some councillors were against it. County Councillor George Richardson was aware of a fund, covering materials and labour up to £500, that might be available to assist in this undertaking.

RESOLVED: that the clerk would obtain a quote for a load of gravel.

**6 New Planning Applications (if any)**

There were none.

**Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2016

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

15<sup>th</sup> March 2016, Chairman .....