

At a Meeting of
WHORLTON AND WESTWICK
PARISH COUNCIL

On Tuesday 15th March 2016, 7.00pm

Present: Cllr George Stastny (Chairman), Cllr Colin Cummins, Cllr Roger Foster, Cllr Martin Saville, Cllr Lucy Hoskyns-Abrahall

Apologies: Cllr Ian Wilkinson, Cllr Trevor Honeyman

Members of the public at the meeting:

Members of the public were in attendance. There was a discussion about the damage occurring to the village green. The Chairman asked that it be listed on the agenda for the next meeting.

1 Interests

No interests were declared.

2 The Minutes of the last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

3 Fibre Optic Cable

The Chairman reported that he had received a request from BT to lay a cable across the village green to serve Whorlton Hall. There was a discussion about
RESOLVED: that the Chairman acting on behalf of the Council would agree to the laying of the cable, but attempt to use the opportunity to ask for faster broadband for Whorlton as a whole.

4 Path Improvement: Quotes for Gravel

The Clerk reported that a tonne bag of gravel (20mm) costs £27 from S&A or Jewsons, and that fine motorway planings (40mm) from Gills costs £15 per tonne. There was a discussion about the qualities of the two different aggregates.
RESOLVED: that the Council should buy 2 large bags of gravel at a cost of approximately £54; that the Clerk should order the gravel to be delivered to the corner of the village green between the Village Hall and the church.

5 Danshell Land Transaction Update

The Clerk reported that Danshell have asked their solicitors to draw up the paperwork for completion, and have asked their investors for consent.

6 Unilateral Notice

The Clerk reported that Hewitts of Bishop Auckland have been instructed to apply for the unilateral notice at the Land Registry, and have done so. The Land Registry should deal with the application one way or the other within a couple of weeks.

7 Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk had obtained a quote from Jane Ascroft at the same rate as last year.
RESOLVED: that Jane Ascroft be appointed as internal auditor again.

8 Future Audit Arrangements

The Clerk explained that in future the audit arrangements would be a little more relaxed, but that there would be an obligation to publish more information on the Parish Council's website. There would still be an official external auditor, and a procedure for auditing the Parish Council's accounts. There was no objection from the councillors to remaining opted into the default arrangements.

9 Deregistration of Village Green

Cllr. Lucy Hoskyns-Abrahall explained the procedure for deregistering the village green. There are two procedures depending upon whether the area is more or less than 200 square metres. However, in both cases, there are several consultees, including Durham County Council, and in both cases the application fee is £4,900, before even instructing a solicitor.

10 New Planning Applications (if any)

There were none.

11 Matters Not Requiring a Resolution (if any)

There were none.

Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:

17th May 2016

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

17th May 2016, Chairman