

At a Meeting of
WHORLTON AND WESTWICK
PARISH COUNCIL

On Tuesday 19th July 2016, 7.00pm

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

Apologies: Cllr Ian Wilkinson

Clerk: Jonathan Dickinson

Members of the public at the meeting:

Members of the public were in attendance.

The Chairman invited public comments:

A parishioner complained about possible vermin at 4 and 6 Grange Terrace.

A parishioner complained about the state of the play area.

The Chairman instructed the Clerk to list both these matters on the agenda for the next meeting.

1 Interests

The Chairman declared an interest in item 14.

2 Minutes of Meeting 27.06.2016

The minutes of the last meeting were approved, signed and initialled.

3 Protection of the village green: proposal for different bollards

The Chairman proposed the installation of large wooden gate posts around key locations of the village green, in order to deter HGVs from driving over the edge. There was an offer from Keith Brown to lend special machinery for free to instal the wooden posts.

RESOLVED: not to proceed with the proposal.

4 Danshell transfer of land - progress report by Clerk

The Clerk reported that Danshell had instructed new solicitors, and the new solicitors had sent the Clerk a form TP1 for comments.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk check that the original estimate of legal costs would still apply.

5 Speed restriction at north approach to Whorlton

Some parishioners had been complaining about speeding from the north approach into the village, especially around school run times.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk notify Durham County Council, and suggest traffic calming installations.

6 Egglestone Abbey Bridge repairs – progress report by Clerk

The Clerk reported that Egglestone Abbey Bridge would probably be closed for 3 days towards the end of September, in order to carry out the repairs.

7 Parking beside the village green by Danshell

Some parishioners had complained about parking by employees of Danshell or visitors to Whorlton Hall, parking beside the corner of the village green.

RESOLVED: to write to Durham County Council, and ask whether anything could be done to discourage parking at certain points around the village green.

8 Fibre optic broadband for Whorlton

The Clerk reported that Whorlton Hall had received the benefit of a fibre optic broadband connection, and that consequently it would soon be available for Whorlton village as a whole. The process could be boosted if more villagers expressed their interest using BT's online form.

RESOLVED: to encourage villagers to go online and express their interest in fibre optic to BT.

9 Rotten bench outside village hall

The Chairman had noticed that the bench outside the village hall which dates from 2007, is now rotten.

RESOLVED: to move one of the (2) benches from the village garden to replace it (Roger Foster to organise).

10 Possible planning contraventions: bulkhead lights on pub; gate on 7 Grange Terrace.

Cllr Colin Cummins reported that there were possible contraventions of planning law at the pub, in respect of the bulkhead lights, and at 7 Grange Terrace, in respect of the garden gate.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk enquire with the planners at Durham County Council as to whether there is any infringement.

11 Path repairs and gravel application

The Chairman asked Rod Dawson, the chairman of the village community association, to report. He has asked GSK in Barnard Castle if they can provide volunteers to help spread the gravel purchased by the Parish Council on the path from the graveyard to the sewerage works. He expects this request to be successful, since GSK have subscribed to a scheme of providing volunteers for community projects requiring unskilled labour.

12 Right of way to pub development

The Clerk reported that the application to register the pub as an asset of community value was only partially successful, as Durham County Council refused the part of the application covered by the recent planning permission granted behind the pub. The Clerk then reported on the letter from Meikles, especially the argument in relation to vehicle access by Farrier House over the village green, without objection from the Parish Council. Councillors were of the opinion that the old Blacksmiths property might have enjoyed a right of way by prescription, decades prior to the building of the garage at Farrier House, though nobody was certain.

RESOLVED: to accept the decision of Durham County Council regarding the registration of the pub as an asset of community value; that the Clerk respond to Meikles stating that the access by Farrier House might have been acquired while it was the old Blacksmiths.

13 Award of Transparency Grant

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been successful in its application for the Transparency Grant from central government (administered locally), and had been awarded £706.08.

14 Planning applications arising (if any)

The Vice-Chairwoman presided, and the Chairman left the room.

There was a new planning application by Mr Peter Bigge in respect of Whorlton Croft (actually 2 for the same property): DM/16/02166/LB for Listed Building Consent for single storey extension, demolition of outbuildings and chimney; and, DM/16/02274/FPA for a single storey extension, demolition of outbuildings and chimney. The information on the planning website of Durham County Council appeared to be incomplete.

RESOLVED: to defer the item for 7 days, so that the clerk could get more information about the application.

The Chairman returned and resumed his position.

15 Matters Not Requiring a Resolution (if any)

Cheques were signed to Mill Gardens and Jane Ascroft.

Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:

26th July 2016

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

26th July 2016, Chair