

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

On Tuesday 20th September 2016, 7.00pm

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

Apologies: Cllr Roger Foster, Cllr Ian Wilkinson

Clerk: Jonathan Dickinson

Members of the public at the meeting:

Members of the public were in attendance. In particular, there was present the current owners and occupiers of Whorlton Croft Cottage. They provided information in connection with item 8 below.

The Chairman invited public comments:

There were none.

1 Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Meeting 26.07.2016

The minutes were approved, and the Chairman signed the minutes.

3 Protection of the village green: proposal for alternative surface near Whorlton Hall

The Chairman observed that the missing councillors were key to this issue.

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

4 State of Woodbine Cottage

There had been some concerns raised about the state of Woodbine Cottage, which is owned and occasionally occupied by Mr Simon Strefford.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk should ask DVLA if the cars outside Woodbine Cottage are legitimate; that the Clerk should write to Simon Strefford to ask him to maintain his property.

5 Bench near the village hall: a) painting b) positioning c) base

The Chairman observed that the missing councillors were key to this issue.

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

6 Annual risk assessment of council activities

The Clerk circulated to the Councillors a risk assessment of council activities.

RESOLVED: that the risk assessment be approved.

7 Telephone box near pub

BT had formally named the telephone box outside the pub in Whorlton to be removed from

service. The Chairman raised the possibility of replacing it with an old-fashioned red booth, and defibrillator.

RESOLVED: that there be no objection to the discontinuation of the telephone service to that box; and that the Clerk contact BT, and ask what options were available, and seek to negotiate the continued presence at least of electric connection, so that the Parish Council could eventually instal a red booth and defibrillator.

8 a) Update on dispute regarding access to development behind pub, and b) Whorlton Croft Cottage: use of access over village green

The Clerk had had no further contact from Carter since their threat of legal proceedings. Nonetheless, it was important to address their argument for a right of access across the village green to the proposed residential development behind the pub. They had argued that Whorlton Croft Cottage enjoyed a new access which had not been stopped by the Parish Council. The current owners and occupiers (present at the meeting) asserted a right to drive to their property over the village green via the pub car park. They said that they could provide documentary evidence.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk obtain the documentary evidence referred to, and then report back to the Councillors.

9 Danshell transfer of land: authorisation of 2 councillors to execute the transfer

The Clerk reported that Danshell were now awaiting consent from their bankers. He requested two councillors to volunteer to execute the deed of transfer, if and when necessary. A third name was thought useful, in case of absence.

RESOLVED: that Councillors George Stastny, Trevor Honeyman, and Lucy Hoskyns-Abrahall be authorised to execute the transfer from Danshell.

10 Bonfire permission

The Clerk advised that he had received a request for a bonfire night celebration from Whorlton Village Community Association. They had supported the request with a risk assessment and a valid certificate of insurance.

RESOLVED: that permission be given for a bonfire on 5th November.

11 Approval of external auditors certificate and annual return prior to permanent publication

The Clerk circulated the Annual Return and certificate received from the external auditors, BDO. The external auditors had not found any irregularities.

RESOLVED: that the Annual Return and certificate from the external auditors be approved.

12 Hire of machine to spread gravel

The Chairman reported that only 2 volunteers had turned out to spread the gravel, and the task proved quite difficult. The Chairman advised that a suitable machine could be hired for approximately £46, and also asked for authorisation for the Clerk to purchase a small quantity of petrol to use the machine.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk be authorised the hire the machine and purchase some petrol for it.

13 Matters Not Requiring a Resolution

The Clerk reported that it would cost £3,800 to pay for the concrete installation of a speed awareness road sign.

Cllr Honeyman reminded the Clerk to chase up Durham County Council (originally emailed on 10th August) regarding the white lines at the road junction where Westwick road meets Whorlton.

Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:

20th September 2016

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

20th September 2016, Chair