

At a Meeting of
WHORLTON AND WESTWICK
PARISH COUNCIL

On Tuesday 11th October 2016, 5.00pm

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

Apologies: Cllr Colin Cummins, Cllr Trevor Honeyman

Clerk: Jonathan Dickinson

Members of the public at the meeting:

Members of the public were in attendance.

The Chairman invited public comments:

There were comments in relation to several items on the agenda.

1 Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Meeting 29.09.2016

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

3 Protection of the village green near Whorlton Hall

The Chairman explained the background to this issue. There is frequently damage to the village green near Whorlton Hall, due to the number of cars parked near that corner of the village green. This makes it difficult for large vehicles to simultaneously pass those cars, and round the corner.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Durham County Council to enquire about the possibility of double yellow lines 30 yards either side of that corner, to prevent cars from parking.

4 State of Woodbine Cottage: action under section 215

The Clerk explained the power under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and confirmed that a letter had been written to the owner of Woodbine Cottage asking him to improve the condition of his property. As on previous occasions, the owner has not taken any action following the complaint.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Durham County Council and ask for action to be taken under section 215 against the owner of Woodbine Cottage.

5 Code of conduct amendment

The Clerk put before the Councillors an amendment to the Code of Conduct, which merely clarifies the obligations with respect to disclosable interests.

RESOLVED: that the Council adopt the Code of Conduct as amended.

6 Update: Telephone box near pub

At a previous meeting, after receiving notice that the telephone kiosk outside the pub would be disconnected, the Council had voted to change the telephone kiosk for an old-fashioned

red one. The Clerk reported that this would cost £3,000, and mentioned an alternative option of keeping the existing kiosk, and placing adverts in it. The Clerk has notified BT that there is no objection from the Parish Council to the disconnection of the telephone service.

7 Resolution to exclude the public (due to legal proceedings) from and to resolve the following matters:

(i) Legal advice on dispute regarding access to development behind pub: whether to defend or not

(ii) Negotiated settlement on dispute: what scope for compromise

(iii) Whorlton Croft Cottage: right of way over village green

(iv) Other minor infringements on village green

The Clerk explained that advice had been obtained from a solicitor in relation to a claim issued against the Council for a declaration that the owner of the pub had a full right of way over the village green.

The public was invited to make comments regarding this matter, before being excluded.

Some members of the public objected to being excluded, but the councillors were unanimous.

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded on the ground that confidential legal advice was being discussed.

The public then left the meeting.

The councillors then discussed the matters listed on the agenda.

RESOLVED: (i) that the Parish Council defend the claim; (ii) item deferred; (iii) that the Clerk write to the owners of Whorlton Croft Cottage; (iv) item deferred.

Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:

15th November 2016

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 6.15pm.

15th November 2016, Chair