

At a Meeting of
WHORLTON AND WESTWICK
PARISH COUNCIL

On Tuesday 15th November 2016, 7.00pm

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

Apologies: Cllr Colin Cummins, Cllr Ian Wilkinson

Clerk: Jonathan Dickinson

Members of the public at the meeting:

Members of the public were in attendance. A parishioner complained that the grass verges at Westwick had not received a second cut. The Chairman asked the clerk to make inquiries about this with Durham County Council.

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 11.10.2016

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

3 Woodbine Cottage: appropriation of the village green by adverse possession

The Clerk observed that the owner of Woodbine Cottage had registered an area of village green, on the basis of adverse possession. The Clerk considered that the Council might be able to oppose this, but ought to wait until after the conclusion of the Carter dispute. The Clerk also produced a map from 1856 showing that a large portion of the village green on the west had been lost by adverse possession, and a portion on the north east.

4 Infringements of the village green – a policy for the future

The Clerk produced a draft policy for dealing with infringements of the village green. Some councillors wanted to defer consideration of this policy until after the outcome of the Carter dispute.

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred to a later meeting.

5 Approval of budget

The Clerk put before the Councillors a budget to form the basis of the application for precept. It was noted to be missing a sum for potential completion of the purchase of the cemetery extension.

RESOLVED: that the budget be amended to include a sum for the potential completion of the purchase of the cemetery extension, and approved subject to that amendment.

6 Update on the transaction with Danshell

The Clerk provided an update on the purchase transaction with Danshell.

7 Planning applications arising at late notice

There were none.

8 Cheques

Cheques were authorised and signed.

9 Matters not requiring a resolution

There were none.

10 Resolution to exclude the public

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting, being item 11.

11 Legal proceedings with Carter

The Clerk notified the Councillors that a Reply had been made to the Defence.

RESOLVED: that Cllr. Honeyman and Cllr. Hoskyns-Abrahall be authorised to represent the Council alongside the Clerk in any meetings that might be arranged in connection with the legal proceedings.

Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:

15th November 2016

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8pm.

15th November 2016, Chair