

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

On Tuesday 17th January 2017, 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllr George Stastny (Chairman), Cllr Colin Cummins, Cllr Roger Foster, Cllr Trevor Honeyman

**Apologies:** Cllr Lucy Hoskyns-Abrahall, Cllr Ian Wilkinson, Cllr Martin Saville

**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 15.11.2016**

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

**3 Woodbine Cottage Update**

The Clerk observed that the owner of Woodbine Cottage had registered an area of village green, on the basis of adverse possession, and his cars had remained unmoved on that area for a very long time. The Clerk had contacted Durham County Council, and they confirmed that this did not stop the aforementioned area from being protected as village green. A village green may be in private ownership. Durham County Council had spoken to the owner of Woodbine Cottage, and he had agreed to take remedial action. However, Durham County Council questioned whether primary responsibility for enforcement and for prosecution might fall upon the Parish Council.

**4 Approval of budget, and precept request**

The Clerk produced a revised version of the budget. The councillors asked for clarification of the figures. After clarification, the Clerk stated total income would be £6390.18, and total expenditure would be £11,445.06. On this basis, the councillors recommended an increase of 1.6%, such that a precept of £5,574.18 be requested. The Clerk completed the precept request of this figure, and it was signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the budget be approved, and that the Council request a precept of £5,574.18 in 2017.

**5 Leaves clearance at road narrowing before Whorlton Bridge**

The Chairman observed that there was a dangerous accumulation of leaves at the road narrowing before Whorlton Bridge. This was due to the fact that the Council's vehicle for clearing the road was too big to get through the narrowing. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to Durham County Council to ask for manual clearance, and at the same time to

complain that Westwick had missed its grass cut in September 2016.  
RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Durham County Council accordingly.

**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 for the Clerk, HMRC, WVCA, Jane Ascroft and Wellers Hedleys.

**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 the court had fixed a date for an interlocutory hearing.  
RESOLVED: that the clerk represent the Council at the interlocutory hearing; and that the clerk make contact with Carter to see if a settlement could be discussed.

**Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:**

21<sup>st</sup> March 2017

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

21<sup>st</sup> March 2017, Chair .....