

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

On Tuesday 21st March 2017, 7.00pm

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Lucy Hoskyns-Abrahall

**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 the dilapidation of 4 and 6 Grange Terrace. It was suggested that the Clerk find out the policy of English Heritage on this.

**1 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**2 Minutes of Meeting 21.02.2017**

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

**3 Danshell Transaction**

The Clerk reported that Danshell was not forthcoming about the costs of Langleys solicitors. RESOLVED: that the Parish Council should contact Danshell directly at board level, to chase up the costs information.

**4 Vodafone Signal in Whorlton**

There was a discussion about the quality of the Vodafone signal in Whorlton. It has been very poor lately. The Clerk reported that there had been some work to the network locally, and that it should improve soon.

**5 Litter Pick**

The Chairman suggested cooperation between the Parish Council and the WVCA to arrange volunteers for a litter pick on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact Durham County Council for support; that the Chairman put a notice in the flyer.

**6 Review and Renew Annual Insurance**

The Clerk reported that the current insurance might not be sufficient for some important risks, but that appropriate cover might be significantly more expensive.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk identify the most appropriate insurance cover, not solely on the basis of cost.

**7 Stone Wall**

There was a discussion about the boundary between the C44 road on the approach into Whorlton from the north, and the field on the eastern side of the road. The boundary was originally a stone wall, but in 2012, it was damaged by a severe flood. The owner of the wall took it down, and replaced it with a fence. There is a rule that in a conservation area, a stone wall of more than a meter in height, cannot be taken down without planning permission. RESOLVED: that the Parish Council pursue a complaint that the stone wall should not have been taken down.

## **8 Election**

The Clerk distributed nomination forms to the existing councillors, and explained the timetable for the election. The Clerk also explained the contingencies of more nominations than seats, and less nominations than seats.

## **9 Planning applications arising at late notice**

There was a late planning application in respect of 3 Grange Cottages. The councillors were provided with a drawing of the proposed planning development by Mrs Smith, the applicant. RESOLVED: not to make any comment on the planning application.

## **10 Cheques**

Cheques were authorised and signed for CDALC and Jamie McBain.

## **11 Matters not requiring a resolution**

The Chairman reported that an HGV had caused damage to the village green, and he had reported it to the police. They were investigating the incident.

The Councillors discussed the confidentiality of the issue relating to 7 Grange Terrace, and decided that it should be debated in public, and that consequently it should be moved up the order of the agenda.

## **12 7 Grange Terrace**

The councillors discussed the area of land which borders 7 Grange Terrace, and is also bordered by Boat House Lane and the C44.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council should not assert any village green rights over this piece of land.

## **13 Resolution to exclude the public and press, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, for Agenda item number 13, in that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting, being item 14.

## **14 Legal proceedings with Carter**

The Councillors were updated on the legal proceedings, and the settlement negotiations.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk ask the solicitors for specific advice.

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

14 May 2017

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

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