

At a Meeting of
WHORLTON AND WESTWICK
PARISH COUNCIL

On Tuesday 19th November 2019, 7.00pm

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

Clerk: Jonathan Dickinson

The Clerk distributed some documents amongst the councillors, including an up-to-date cashflow statement. The councillors reviewed the current financial position.

Members of the public were at the meeting. The Chairwoman (Cllr Lucy Hoskyns-Abrahall) invited public comments, and the councillors listened.

1 Apologies & Interests

Apologies were accepted from Cllr David Kinch. No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Meeting 22.10.2019

The Chair signed the minutes.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved.

3 Clerk's job: advertisement

The Clerk reported to the meeting that, following his resignation, the council would have to decide on the terms for the new clerk, and then advertise appropriately.

RESOLVED: that the new role be on the standard terms as previously, for the same hours, but at the SCP recommended by NALC, subject to negotiations.

4 Pub: ACV: whether to trigger moratorium

This was the final opportunity for the Parish Council to declare itself a potential bidder for the pub, which was a registered asset of community value.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council declare itself a potential bidder for the pub, thereby triggering the six-month moratorium.

5 Pub planning application: continue to oppose; representation at planning committee

The Clerk advised the councillors that it would be necessary for the Parish Council to continue its opposition to the pub planning application at the planning committee with oral representations both from the clerk and a nominated councillor.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council continue to oppose the pub planning application; and that Cllr George Stastny represent the Parish Council.

6 Bridge Closure: update

The Clerk gave the meeting an update on the progress being made in repairing Whorlton

suspension bridge.

7 Play Area: final accounts: WVCA offer: finishing touches: quotes

The Clerk circulated detailed accounts concerning the play area, which showed the amount of the underspend in relation to the grants. The Clerk also reported on the quotes obtained from 3 contractors, and the councillors considered the prices and quality of work.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council select Keith Brown to complete the remaining work.

8 Approval of budget, and precept amount

The Clerk circulated a detailed budget, and the councillors discussed the level of precept.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council keep the precept at exactly the same level.

9 Cemetery Extension: sale to DCC; legal costs

Present at the meeting was Councillor James Rowlandson. The Clerk explained that progress on transferring the cemetery extension to Durham County Council was difficult, as nobody appeared to be authorised to make the necessary decision.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk liaise with Councillor James Rowlandson in order to progress the transfer of the cemetery extension to Durham County Council.

10 Woodbine Cottage: question about property rights

The Clerk had previously circulated a letter from a solicitor representing the owner of Woodbine Cottage about vehicular access over the village green.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council respond in line with its previous policy, explaining the statutory protections for village greens.

8 Planning applications arising at late notice

There were none.

9 Cheques

Cheques were authorised and signed for:

Website, £100.80

Village Hall Hire, £120

10 Matters not requiring a resolution

The Clerk was asked to speak to a resident about parking.

Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:

18 January 2020

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

18 January 2020, Chair