

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

On Tuesday 21st January 2020, 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllr Ian Wilkinson, Cllr Martin Saville, Cllr George Stastny, Cllr Roger Foster, Cllr Lynda Powell, Cllr David Kinch

**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 Chairman (Cllr George Stastny) invited public comments, and the councillors listened.

**1 Apologies & Interests**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Lucy Hoskyns-Abrahall. No interests were declared.

**2 Minutes of Meeting 19.11.2019**

The Chair signed the minutes.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved.

**3 Grasscutting Tenders**

The clerk presented to the meeting an analysis of four quotations from contractors.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk check the capacity of Andrew Legge, and subject to a satisfactory response, grant him the contract.

**4 Clerk's Role**

Prior to the meeting, the council had interviewed a candidate for the job of Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk obtain references for the applicant, and negotiate a contract.

**5 Bridge Closure: update**

The Clerk updated the meeting on the current position.

**6 Precept request**

At the meeting on 19th November 2019, the councillors had resolved to keep the precept at the same level, and the Clerk completed the precept request form in line with this resolution, asking for £6,243.45. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the precept request.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council authorise and submit the precept request.

**7 Potential insurance liability**

The Clerk provided an update to the councillors regarding the insurance of legal costs associated with the litigation with Geo A. Carter Limited in connection with the rights over the village green. The councillors considered the risks and potential liabilities.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council do not pay any money to the legal expenses insurer, and

resist any requests; but that two signatories attend the local branch of Natwest to transfer a precautionary sum into the reserve account pending expiry of the limitation period in 2024.

**8 Cemetery Extension: update**

The Clerk updated the meeting on the current position.

**9 Planning applications arising at late notice**

There were none.

**10 Cheques**

Cheques were authorised and signed for:

Clerk, £393.72

Teesdale Mercury, £50.40

**11 Matters not requiring a resolution**

The Clerk was asked to email Durham County Council about the possibility of a speed restriction in Westwick.

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

17 March 2020

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

17 March 2020, Chair .....