

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

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 at 6:30pm

**Present:** Cllr George Stastny, Cllr Martin Saville, Cllr I. Pollock, Cllr T. Honeyman, M. Sanderson

**Also Present:** C Simpson, A Boddy, A Young, S Smith, A Woodward (Residents)

**Clerk:** Alan Dixon

**70/21 Representation by residents**

A resident asked whether when the village clean up is carried out that the top end of the village be included.

Ann Woodward urged Councillors to have upright headstones in the cemetery extension instead of flat memorials.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to the use of upright headstones.

Alison Boddy asked Councillors to consider the installation of flashing speed signs within Whorlton as there is legislation which allows Parish Councils to contribute towards the costs of traffic calming works – S274A Highways Act 1980. Funding may be available from local County Councillors.

Cherry Simpson made Councillors aware of her concerns regarding a number of matters including maintenance of the churchyard by Durham County Council, Winter road salting which is causing damage to road verges and the cost of the court case between the Parish Council and the owner of the village pub.

**71/21 Apologies & Interests**

Apologies: Cllr N. Fox, Cllr P. Bigge,

No interests were declared.

**72/21 Minutes of Meeting 27 July 2021**

The Chair signed the minutes.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved.

**73/21 Cemetery extension update**

Clerk and Chairman updated Councillors on this matter.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to accept the quote from SE Landscaping Ltd to trim and clear up the cemetery extension. To ensure continuity of the cemetery records Councillors also agreed to the purchase of a laptop the cost of which should not exceed £500.

**74/21 Repair of Whorlton bridge.**

Investigation works have begun.

**75/21 K6 Red Telephone Box**

Chairman updated Councillors on this matter.

RESOLVED: Clerk to bank the cheques from residents who have agreed to support this project. A cheque for £250 to be sent to X2 Connect Ltd as a deposit for the telephone box.

**76/21 Speeding traffic**

Clerk informed Councillors and residents that he had received a response from the Traffic Assets Department at Durham County Council stating that there would be no change in the speed limits or road signs in and around Whorlton and Westwick as they are considered appropriate. There have been no significant accidents in the area. DCC are willing to install "Please Drive Carefully" signs. Clerk reiterated that the Police and Crime Commissioner stated that if incidents are not reported then nothing will be done although residents felt that this is difficult without evidence.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to the installation of the signs offered by Traffic Assets. Clerk to request that DCC consider the installation of flashing speed signs and also that the road within Whorlton be inspected as the top surface is very poor.

**77/21 Grass cutting standard – Whorlton village green**

Clerk informed Councillors that he had made SE Landscaping Ltd aware of the concerns regarding the standard of the grass cutting on the village green and was notified that the use of a mulching header would be used in future which would improve the quality of the cut.

**78/21 Defibrillator / First Aid Training**

Chairman informed members that WelMedical would provide a defibrillator training session on Wednesday 22nd September.

**79/21 Change of Bank**

Clerk informed Councillors that the change of bank to Barclays had still not happened due to the lack of appointments to open an account at any of the local branches.

**80/21 Councillors email addresses**

Clerk updated Councillors on this matter.

**81/21 Bonfire on the village green (6 November 2021) by WVCA**

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to a bonfire being lit on the village green subject to the appropriate risk assessment being carried out.

**82/21 Noticeboard**

Clerk updated Councillors on this matter.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to increase the amount of information available to residents in the Parish Council noticeboards including the publication of draft minutes and contact details for Councillors.

**83/21 Planning applications arising at late notice**

There were none

**84/21 Financial Statement and report**

Balance of Current and Deposit Accounts £8, 549.12 as at 31 August 2021.

A Receipt and Payments Account dated 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 was reviewed by Councillors.  
Payment of the following invoices was agreed by Councillors :-

145 -	WVCA invoices	£ 54. 00
146 –	A. Dixon – Clerk Salary	£ 542. 08
147 –	R0SPA	£ 82. 20
148 –	SLCC	£ 54. 00
149 –	A. Dixon – Clerk Salary	<u>£ 214. 40</u>
	Total	<u>£ 946. 68</u>

RESOLVED: All financial matters agreed as being correct.

**85/21 Clerks correspondence**

**A66 Northern Trans-Pennine project**

Public consultation starts for the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine project on 24 September and runs through to 6 November 2021. This will be an opportunity to learn more about plans for dualling the A66.

**Keep in the Know**

Clerk made Councillors and residents aware of a website called [Keep In The Know :: Home](#) which is a way to receive neighbourhood alerts from the Police, Durham County Council etc.

**Whorlton Village Hall Play Area**

Clerk notified Councillors that the play area had been inspected by R0SPA in line with insurance guidelines.

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

16th November 2021

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

16 November 2021, Chairman .....