

At a Meeting of
WHORLTON AND WESTWICK
PARISH COUNCIL

On Thursday 19th January 2023 at 6:30pm

Present: Cllr George Stastny (Chair), Cllr M. Saville, Cllr T. Honeyman, Cllr N Fox,
Cllr L. Duggan Cllr I. Pollock,

Also Present: C. Simpson, A Young, A Boddy (Residents)

Clerk: Alan Dixon

1/23 Representation by residents

Miss C. Simpson asked Councillors whether there was a need for a new noticeboard in Westwick. As the Parish Council are unable to make a warm space available to residents she asked whether the Parish Council could advertise the availability of warm spaces in Barnard Castle. Miss Simpson informed Councillors that she had been in contact with a Highways Inspector and had informed him of problems with the verges after recent road works, missing road signs, blocked drains near Abbey Bridge and the presence of litter near the bridge.

Below is an article from the Teesdale Mercury showing details of warm spaces in the area.
<https://www.teesdalemercury.co.uk/news/ten-venues-become-official-warm-spaces#:~:text=The%20Witham%2C%20in%20Barnard%20Castle,Warm%20Space%20during%20opening%20hours.>

Mrs Boddy asked whether it would be possible to leave part of the village green uncut as a wild space which would be good for local wildlife.

2/23 Apologies & Interests

Apologies: Cllr P. Bigge

RESOLVED: Chairman to speak to Councillor Bigge and ask if he wishes to continue as a councillor.

3/23 Minutes of Meeting 8th December 2022

The Chair signed the minutes.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved.

4/23 Cemetery extension update

The cemetery has now been advertised in the Teesdale Mercury (once a month over 6 months) and the Flyer. Clerk informed Councillors that another plot has been reserved and there have been other enquiries.

Clerk has undertaken further cemeteries training made available by CDALC.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to add a page to the website showing the price list for the Cemetery.

5/23 Repair of Whorlton bridge

Durham County Council believe that the bridge will be repaired by March 2024. An update can be found on the Durham County Council website.

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/25171/Whorlton-Bridge-current-programme>

6/23 Speeding traffic

Clerk made residents aware of the details of an email from Annalisa Ward of Teesdale Action Partnership regarding recently discussed traffic calming measures.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that that they would like the 30mph sign moved further west on the road from Whorlton to Westwick. They also felt that gates were not appropriate and instead it was felt that the use of dragons teeth or rumble strips well before the 30mph sign would be better. Dragons teeth are used in a lot of small villages to make motorists aware that they need to slow down and are coming into a built up area.

Councillor Fox to ask County Councillor Rowlandson to attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss traffic calming.

7/23 Village garden

RESOLVED: Clerk to complete another form and submit it to the Land Registry and the first form was not enough.

8/23 Path next to the Church

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to wait for Mr Brown to carry out the work. Clerk to contact Durham County Council to see if they would be willing to carry out this repair work.

9/23 Mount Eff Road

Clerk awaiting feedback from Durham County Council.

10/23 New notice board – Westwick

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to install the new notice board.

11/23 Enviro contractor

Clerk has contacted 3 contractors to ask for quotes. It is difficult to find contractors with the correct machinery.

Councillors discussed rewilding part of the village green.

RESOLVED: Clerk to advertise the need for a contractor in the Teesdale Mercury.

12/23 Planning applications arising at late notice

None

13/23 Financial Statement and report

A Receipt and Payments Account dated 31st December 2022 was reviewed by Councillors. The Parish Council need to submit a Precept request by the 20th of January 2023. Clerk asked Councillors to consider the expected significant increase in the cost to cut the grass on the village green when deciding on the increase to the Precept.

Payment of the following invoices was agreed by Councillors:-

194 – Clerk Salary – Jan 2023	£ 328. 63
195 - Parish Noticeboard	£ 480. 00
196 - Whorlton Village Community Association	£ 18. 00
197 - Teesdale Mercury	<u>£ 84. 48</u>
Total	<u>£ 911. 11</u>

RESOLVED: All financial matters agreed as being correct. Clerk to open a separate bank account for the Cemetery. Councillors agreed to increase the Precept by 10% and request a payment of £7303.00.

14/23 Clerks correspondence

None

15/23 Members Reports

None

Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:

RESOLVED: The date of the next ordinary meeting is 16th March 2023.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 7:56 pm.

16th March 2023, Chairman