

At a Meeting of
WHORLTON AND WESTWICK
PARISH COUNCIL
On Thursday 18th July 2024 at 6:30pm

Present: Cllr George Stastny (Chair), Cllr S. Dickinson, Cllr T. Honeyman,

Also Present: (Residents) A Young, A Boddy, M Lockyear, C Simpson, A Long, A Woodward

Clerk: Alan Dixon

44/24 Representation by residents

Residents made Councillors aware that the newly installed traffic calming measures are ineffective. They said that the main problem is around school time. Signs to ask motorists to slow down were suggested. Also, that the Parish Council write to the Head Teacher at the School in Barnard Castle. Residents of Whorlton and Westwick should be asked to comply with the village speed limits by putting an advert in The Flyer or via a village Whatsapp Group. The foliage on some of the road signs needs to be cut back.

45/24 Apologies & Interests

Apologies: Cllr I. Pollock, Cllr I. Fox, Cllr M Saville

Interests: None

46/24 Minutes of Meeting 16th May 2024

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved.

47/24 Co-option of Parish Councillor

Councillors agreed to co-opt Howard Haughton as a Parish Councillor.

48/24 Whorlton Parish Council Cemetery update / sign / spare timber

Clerk informed Councillors that a sign for the cemetery and play area would cost £30 + VAT. Amanda Long reported to Councillors that she is continuing with the maintenance of the cemetery but the water in the water butt is green and stagnant. The water butt needs to be emptied and cleaned. She is trying to get rid of the weeds under the holly tree. Kelly Harding from Volker Laser has contacted the Clerk, notifying him that they are happy to donate spare timber but could not guarantee it's condition.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to purchase a sign so that visitors can be directed towards the cemetery and play area. Chairman agreed to deal with emptying the water butt. Clerk to liaise with the team from Volker Laser.

49/24 Repair of Whorlton bridge

The repair of the bridge is still underway.

[Whorlton Bridge refurbishment updates - Durham County Council](#)

50/24 Speeding traffic

Clerk informed Councillors that he had been in contact with the PCSO dealing with the speed camera van and he is willing to locate the van within the village in the future. A resident informed the Council that she had offered to volunteer on the speed van but had not had a response. Clerk has written to Durham County Council but has had no response. A resident suggested setting up a working party to find a solution to the speeding traffic problem.

RESOLVED: Councillor Honeyman offered to be part of a working group with residents to come up with a plan on how to deal with speeding traffic. Clerk to contact the PCSO dealing with the speed camera van and ask whether the van could come to the village between 8-9 am and 4-5 pm during term time.

51/24 Signs Mount Eff Road.

Clerk informed Councillors that an officer has been given the job to put in a new sign.

RESOLVED: Clerk to monitor the DCC portal showing when the work is completed.

52/24 Grass cutting – parish paths

Mr Toward gave a quote of £80 to strim and tidy or £120 to spray the weeds around the edge of the village green.

RESOLVED: Councillors asked the Clerk to contact Keith Brown to get a quote to spray the weeds.

53/24 Access to Village Garden

The matter has been raised and discussed but the Parish Council will not be taking any further action.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Mr Richardson stating that the matter has been discussed and the matter is now closed.

54/24 Redevelopment of Whorlton Hall

Chairman informed Councillors that bats have been found within the hall and a survey is to be carried out.

55/24 Grant for bulbs

Councillors wish to apply for a grant through Teesdale Area Action Partnership.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Teesdale Action Partnership to apply for a grant to purchase bulbs for the cemetery.

56/24 The Teesdale Way

Clerk informed Councillors that he had been in contact with the Parish Paths Department at Durham County Council to discuss the eroded section of the Teesdale Way near Grafts Farm. The officer in charge of this matter is on sick leave and no decision regarding diverting the path can be made until he returns.

57/24 Check of playground equipment by RoSPA

Clerk informed Councillors that the play area had been inspected in line with the requirements of the Parish Councils insurance policy. No repair work is required.

58/24 Invitation to join the Rural Services Network

Clerk informed members that the Parish Council had been invited to join the Rural

Services Network and that an annual fee would be payable.


RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to decline the invitation as they could not see any benefit.

59/24 Cycle parking

Clerk informed members that he had been contacted by Peter Andrews at Park that Bike offering a cycle rack that could be installed somewhere in the village. Councillors agreed that as the bridge and pub are currently closed cyclists are unlikely to stop in the village.


RESOLVED: Councillors asked the Clerk to find out whether planning permission would be required to install a cycle rack and whether there is a deadline for when this scheme ends.

60/24 Planning applications arising at late notice.

Conversion of stone barns to form a single residential dwelling to include demolition of existing open sided barns and rebuilding to form extension. Creation of new vehicle access and driveway (blocking up of existing access). 

Barns To The West Of East Whorley Hill Winston Darlington DL2
3PT

Ref. No: DM/24/00172/FPA | Received: Tue 23 Jan 2024 | Validated: Mon 17 Jun 2024 | Status: Pending Consideration

Conversion of stone barns to form a single residential dwelling to include demolition of existing open sided barns and rebuilding to form extension. Creation of new vehicle access and driveway (blocking up of existing access). 

Barns To The West Of East Whorley Hill Winston Darlington DL2
3PT

Ref. No: DM/24/00108/LB | Received: Mon 15 Jan 2024 | Validated: Mon 17 Jun 2024 | Status: Pending Consideration

RESOLVED: Councillors neither agreed with nor objected to the above planning application.

61/24 Financial Statement and report

A Receipt and Payments Account dated 30th June, 2024 was reviewed by Councillors

Payment of the following invoices was agreed by Councillors:-

259 – Clerk Salary – June 2024	£ 278.88
260 - Clerk Salary – July 2024	£ 278. 88
261 - Whorlton VHA	£ 108. 00
262 - Allen Sykes	£ 510. 00
263 - RoSPA	£ 93. 60

264 - A R Toward
Total

£ 650.00
£1919.36

RESOLVED: All financial matters agreed as being correct. In line with the new financial regulations the bank statements have been checked against the accounting statements by a Councillor other than one of the cheque signatories.

62/24 Clerks correspondence

Nothing to report

63/24 Members Reports

Nothing to report

Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:

RESOLVED: The date of the next ordinary meeting is 19th September 2024.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 7:40 pm.

19th September 2024, Chairman