

At a Meeting of  
**WHORLTON AND WESTWICK**  
**PARISH COUNCIL**  
On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 6:30pm

**Present:** Cllr George Stastny (Chair), Cllr T. Honeyman, Cllr M Saville, Cllr H Haughton, Cllr I. Pollock, Cllr S. Dickinson

**Also Present:** (Residents) M Lockyear, C Simpson, A Woodward, A Boddy, I Wilkinson,

**Clerk:** Alan Dixon

**17/25 Representation by residents**  
See 22/25

**18/25 Apologies & Interests**  
Apologies: Cllr N Fox

Interests: Councillor Stastny declared an Interest relating to the Whorlton Croft planning application.

**19/25 Minutes of Meeting 16th January 2025**

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved.

**20/25 Whorlton Parish Council Cemetery update/sign**  
The Clerk informed Councillors that the cemetery sign has been made and needs to be attached to the Church wall. Amanda Long has planted snowdrop and primrose bulbs underneath the holly bush. The first grass cut will be carried out in the next few weeks. She has asked if the bench in the Cemetery can be varnished. The Parish Council is awaiting confirmation from Volker Laser that the timber from the bridge is safe to use to make a bench for the Cemetery.

**21/25 Repair of Whorlton bridge – missing road closed sign**  
The repair of the bridge is well underway. There are now road closed signs within Whorlton village.

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

**22/25 Speeding traffic**  
Councillor Honeyman informed the meeting that he had met with the traffic calming group recently, and the general feeling is that nothing seems to be happening. Several traffic calming options were discussed.

The Clerk has been in contact with the grass contractor the Parish Council uses to cut the village green to ask if he will clean up the verge.

The Clerk informed Councillors he is still awaiting a reply from Durham County Council Highways Department after writing to them in January. He told members he had telephoned

Durham County Council to ask for an update and was told a request for a reply would be sent to highways department.

Residents are stating that Durham County Council should be consulting with residents regarding what measures are going to be put in place to control traffic once the bridge is reopened.

The Parish Council has written to the Teesdale Mercury asking them to report traffic calming problems within the village.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Durham County Council again to ask for an update and also to ask whether there will be a public consultation on traffic restrictions in relation to the Whorlton Bridge reopening. Clerk to get further quotes for the supply and installation of a speed vizer.

**23/25 The Bridge Inn – planning application**

The planning application is still pending consideration.

**24/25 Redevelopment of Whorlton Hall**

Planning permission has been granted.

**25/25 The Teesdale Way**

The Clerk has been in contact with the Public Rights of Way officer dealing with this matter and was told that he feels that the path is currently safe to use, but may need to be redirected in the future.

**26/25 HGV Vehicles using the bridge over Whorlton Beck**

The Clerk informed members that he had written to Durham County Council regarding this matter but had not received a reply.

**27/25 Defibrillator training**

Resolved: Chairman is trying to arrange a date with a training provider so that defibrillator training can happen soon.

**28/25 Street lighting/branches overhanging public footpaths**

A new street light has recently been installed.

**29/25 Council elections / nomination forms**

Clerk to provide Councillors with a nomination form so that they can be re-elected, which needs to be completed, and hand delivered to County Hall, Durham.

**30/25 New Parish Groupings for Local Networks**

Clerk informed Councillors that Area Action Partnerships are being disbanded and are being renamed as Local Networks. Each Local Network will have a seat for a town/parish councillor who will represent the Local Councils in their area. In Weardale and Teesdale, due to the sparsity of county councillors they will have five and two parish/town seats respectively. There will be 6 Local Network meetings per year.

**31/25 Castle Players – Play on the green 1st July 2025 / Folksy theatre 13<sup>th</sup> July**

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to allow these performances to go ahead.

**32/25 Footpath / dangerous tree**

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Durham County Council to ask that the tree be removed by the landowner.

**33/25 Planning applications arising at late notice.**

**Replace 3No. Doors and 6No. Windows with timber to the rear**



Whorlton Croft Whorlton Barnard Castle DL12 8XD

Ref. No: DM/25/00705/LB | Received: Wed 12 Mar 2025 | Validated: Thu 13 Mar 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

**Yew (Y1): Cut back branches (approx 2m) to boundary line to height of approx 5m. Yew (Y2) and (Y3): Located on neighbours property, prune back to provide a minimum 2m clearance between branches and property to a height of approx 7m.**

Garden House Whorlton Barnard Castle DL12 8XQ

Ref. No: DM/25/00623/TCA | Received: Mon 03 Mar 2025 | Validated: Mon 03 Mar 2025 | Status: Decided

RESOLVED: Councillors neither agreed with or objected to the above planning applications.

**34/25 Financial Statement and Report**

A Receipt and Payments Account dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 was reviewed by Councillors.

Payment of the following invoices was agreed by Councillors:-

277 – Clerk Salary – February 2025	£ 289. 90
278 - Clerk Salary – March 2025	£ 289. 90
279 - Teesdale Mercury	£ 84. 48
280 - Peter Pentland Signs	£ 33. 60
281 - The Flyer	£ 30. 00
Total	<u>£ 727. 88</u>

RESOLVED: All financial matters agreed as being correct. Clerk to contact Allen Sykes Accountants to ask if they would be willing to carry out the annual audit.

**34/25 Clerks correspondence**

**A66 Northern Trans-Pennine scheme update**

The Court of Appeal has dismissed the request to appeal the decision of the High Court on the legal challenge brought about by Transport Action Network. This decision enables plans to upgrade the route connecting the M6 at Penrith to the A1(M) at Scotch Corner.

**Quote to replace bollards around the village green**

The Clerk informed Councillors that he had received a quote from S & P Landscapes to replace the bollards around the village green. The total cost would be £3440.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that a decision should be made by the new Parish Council whether to go ahead with this project.

**35/25 Members Reports**

Nothing to report.

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

RESOLVED: The date of the next ordinary meeting is 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 7:45 pm.

15th May 2025, Chairman .....