

At a Meeting of  
**WHORLTON AND WESTWICK  
PARISH COUNCIL**  
On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 6:30pm

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

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

**Clerk:** Alan Dixon

**54/25 Co-opted Councillors**

Joshua Peat and Philip Tallentire were co-opted as Councillors.

RESOLVED: Clerk to enter new Councillor contact details onto the Parish Council website.

**55/25 Representation by residents**

A resident asked whether the brown sign at the junction with the A67 could be removed as it advertises there is a B & B in the village.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Durham County Council to ask that the sign be removed.

**56/25 Apologies & Interests**

Apologies: None

Interests: None

**57/25 Minutes of Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved.

**58/25 Whorlton Parish Council Cemetery update**

Councillors are still waiting for an estimate to make a bench from the spare timber. The Clerk has contacted Durham County Council to ask when it will be possible to register the cemetery and play area for a public space protection order. The next registration is not until 2028.

**59/25 Repair of Whorlton bridge / missing signs**

The Chairman informed Councillors that although the Durham County Council website states that Whorlton bridge will be completed by the end of 2025, but an article in the Teesdale Mercury reports that the completion date will be mid-2026. This may be due to Heritage England. Councillors are concerned that there will not be any traffic restrictions once the bridge is opened, other than those that were in place before the bridge closed.

The Clerk informed Councillors that he has received an email from the Neighbourhoods Department of Durham County Council stating that they are aware of the missing signs and that someone is removing them. The Council is arranging for the signs to be re-erected but if they are removed again in the future, the Clerk should notify Durham County Council.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Durham County Council to ask for clarification on when the bridge will open and express concerns about the traffic restrictions.

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

#### **60/25 Speeding traffic**

Unfortunately neither of the Councillor Councillors for lower Teesdale were able to attend the Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Haughton informed the meeting that the MP for Bishop Auckland has asked for the creation of primary legislation to allow Parish Councils to set speed limits within Parish Council boundaries. Local knowledge is key and the lack of reported accidents and deaths should not be a reason for not implementing traffic calming measures.

A group of four village Parish Councils including Staindrop, Winston and Ingelton is being set up to lobby the County Council to implement traffic calming measures. Councillor Haughton said he would like to think Whorlton and Westwick Parish Council could join this group.

Councillor Haughton shared recommendations after his meeting with the traffic calming group which included the creation of a 40mph zone before the 30mph limit sign, on the road from Westwick, this would lead to a degradation of the speed limit.

Councillors voted in favour of the installation of white gates. The gates could be made from plastic or the spare wood from Whorlton bridge.. The verge along from Westwick road has been cut down from the Steadings which has helped tidy the village. Residents have offered to keep the verge tidy.

Since the last meeting Councillor Haughton has been informed of several near misses at the T Junction on the road from Westwick. This information could be reported to the Police.

Councillors agreed to purchase 2 metal signs saying “Please drive slowly” although the Clerk is still waiting to hear from Durham County Council whether the signs could be attached to current traffic signs.

RESOLVED: Clerk to request a quote from DCC to install white gates.

#### **61/25 The Bridge Inn – planning application**

Councillor Peat informed Councillors that the planning application decision is still pending. The Community Association have made representations to the County Council stating that the Bridge Inn is not being marketed at the appropriate price as they have been advised in the inspectors report. The Bridge Inn is registered as a community asset but an application to extend the registration needs to be submitted next year.

**62/25 Streetlighting**

Councillors agreed to request a street light opposite the Steadings. A street light makes motorists aware that a 30mph limit is in place on that road. Durham County Council has informed the Clerk that the cast iron light that was taken away was removed due to it being defective. There is no thoughts to remove the 2 remaining street lights.

RESOLVED: Clerk to request a street light via DCC's online portal.

**63/25 Play area inspection**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the play area had been inspected by RoSPA Playsafety Limited. Remedial work to the gate has been suggested. Also, it has been suggested that the grass around the equipment should not be strimmed as it is damaging the wooden posts.

RESOLVED: Clerk to ask the contractor to spray around the wooden posts and remove foliage next to the wall. Clerk to investigate remedial work required to the make the gates to the play area safe.

**64/25 Planning applications arising at late notice.**


Councillors discussed the proposed change to the Whorlton Hall planning application carried out under Section 73. There are no changes proposed to Whorlton Hall (the conversion) element of the planning application and this S.73 Application solely relates to the enabling 2no. new build properties on Land at Hallgarth.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to back the S. 73 changes to the planning application.

[Genus Arborvitae \(T1\) - remove as causing damage to the adjacent wall](#)


Garden House Whorlton Barnard Castle DL12 8XQ

Ref. No: DM/25/01474/TCA | Received: Mon 02 Jun 2025 | Validated:  
Tue 03 Jun 2025 | Status: Decided

**Prior Notification under Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for the change of use of an existing agricultural building to form 2 no. dwelling houses (Class C3) and associated works** 

Westwick Farm Westwick Road Westwick Barnard Castle DL12  
8UP

Ref. No: DM/25/01384/PN56 | Received: Thu 22 May 2025 | Validated:  
Thu 22 May 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

**Prior Notification under Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for the change of use of an existing agricultural building to form 5 no. dwelling houses (Class C3) and associated works** 

Westwick Farm Westwick Road Westwick Barnard Castle DL12  
8UP

Ref. No: DM/25/01385/PN56 | Received: Thu 22 May 2025 | Validated:  
Thu 22 May 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to further investigate the prior notification relating to Westwick Farm and let the Clerk know whether a comment should be submitted to the County Council by close of business on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

#### **65/25 Financial Statement and Report**

A Receipt and Payments Account dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 was reviewed by Councillors.

Payment of the following invoices was agreed by Councillors:-

292 – Clerk Salary – June 2025	£ 289. 90
293 - Clerk Salary – July 2025	£ 289. 90
294 - Teesdale Mercury	£ 42. 24
295 - Teesdale Mercury	£ 42. 24
296 - A R Toward	£ 610. 00
297 - RoSPA Playsafety Limited	<u>£ 96. 00</u>
Total	<u>£1370. 28</u>

RESOLVED: All financial matters agreed as being correct. The Clerk is waiting for the new cheque signatories to be put in place by Natwest and suggested using Bankline so that payments can be made electronically. Bankline has the same security as a cheque, as each payment needs to be authorised by 2 signatories.

#### **66/25 Clerks correspondence**

Nothing to report.

**67/25 Members Reports**

Nothing to report.

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

RESOLVED: The date of the next ordinary meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

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

18<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Chairman .....