

FINAL

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

On Thursday 15th May 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,

Clerk: Alan Dixon

36/25 Representation by residents

C Simpson made Councillors aware of her concerns relating to upcoming road maintenance works which in the past have caused damage to hedgerows. There are no footpaths in Westwick.

RESOLVED: Clerk agreed to get the contact information for the two new County Councillors and give it to C Simpson.

37/25 Apologies & Interests

Apologies: None

Interests: None

38/25 Minutes of Meeting 20th March 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved.

39/25 Whorlton Parish Council Cemetery update/sign

The spare timber from Whorlton Bridge has now been collected and will need to be sliced up to make a bench. The spare timber could also be used to make bollards for the village green. Another cremation plot has been reserved by a resident.

RESOLVED: Chairman to ask Neale Fox to investigate making a seat from the spare timber. Amanda Long agreed to sand the bench in the cemetery and apply a preservative. The Parish Council will pay for any materials that are required. Councillors agreed to stop advertising the cemetery in the Teesdale Mercury. A notice should be put up in the church notice board.

40/25 Repair of Whorlton bridge

The repair of the bridge is well underway.

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

41/25 Speeding traffic

Councillor Haughton made Councillors aware that Whorlton Village Hall Association may have funds available that could be used to help pay for traffic calming measures.

The Parish Council has been informed by Durham County Council that it would not be possible to install a STOP sign at the T Junction opposite Grange Terrace. Councillor Stastny stated that he felt that moving the 30mph sign on the west side, on the road from Barnard

FINAL

Castle around the corner, further away from the village, would help a lot. There would be no maintenance costs if this option was implemented. The grass verge on this road has been tidied up by the contractor who cuts the grass on the village green.

The Clerk has contacted the two new County Councillors and informed them of the lack of response from the Highways Department. After some pressure from the County Councillors the Clerk received an email from the Highways Department stating there should be a reply to all points by the 20th May.

RESOLVED: Councillor Haughton agreed to liaise with the traffic calming group.

42/25 The Bridge Inn – planning application

The planning application is still pending consideration. The owners need to sell it as a public house and there is a possibility of a community buyout scheme.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council supports the bid to purchase the public house by the community.

43/25 Village green bollards / Streetlighting

Councillors felt the cost of replacing 52 bollards is prohibitive. Certain bollards on the corners may need to be replaced but not all of the bollards.

One of the old cast iron street lights has been replaced. Councillor Stastny felt that as Whorlton is a conservation area the old lamp posts should be retained especially the one near the cemetery.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Durham County Council to ask if the cast iron furniture could be retained the next time a light is updated.

44/25 Parish Council Insurance Policy

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to stay with Zurich Municipal Insurance.

45/25 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.

46/25 Defibrillator training

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

47/25 New Parish Groupings for Local Networks

Councillors felt that having a Councillor sitting on a Local Network board would not be helpful to the Parish Council.

48/25 Footpath / dangerous tree

The tree was removed by the landowner.

49/25 Play area inspection

For insurance purposes the play area has to be inspected annually.

50/25 Planning applications arising at late notice.

Discharge of condition 3 (samples and details of materials) and condition 4 (windows, doors and rooflights) pursuant to planning approval DM/22/00878/FPA

Land South Of Black Bull Farm Winston DL2 3PU

Ref. No: DM/25/00753/DRC | Received: Mon 17 Mar 2025 | Validated: Mon 24 Mar 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

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

51/25 Financial Statement and Report

A Receipt and Payments Account dated 30th April 2025 was reviewed by Councillors.

Payment of the following invoices was agreed by Councillors:-

282 – Clerk Salary – April 2025	£ 289. 90
283 - Clerk Salary – May 2025	£ 304. 98
284 - Teesdale Mercury	£ 84. 48
285 - A R Toward	£ 660. 00
286 - Wordpress	£ 19. 20
287 - Zurich Municipal	£ 377. 35
288 - SLCC	£ 110. 00
289 - Whorlton VHA	£ 108. 00
290 - CDALC	£ 49. 25
291 - ICCM	<u>£ 105. 00</u>
Total	<u>£2108. 16</u>

RESOLVED: All financial matters agreed as being correct. Councillors approved the 2024/25 Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements, and they were signed by the Clerk and Chairman. Councillors agreed to continue using Allen Sykes Accountants to carry out the annual internal audit of the Parish Council Accounting records. Councillors H. Haughton and I. Pollock agreed to act as cheque signatories.

52/25 Clerks correspondence

Nothing to report.

53/25 Members Reports

Nothing to report.

Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:

RESOLVED: The date of the next ordinary meeting is 17th July 2025.

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

17th July 2025, Chairman