

At a Meeting of
WHORLTON AND WESTWICK
PARISH COUNCIL

On Thursday 18th September 2025 at 6:30pm

Present: Cllr George Stastny (Chair) Cllr H Haughton, Cllr I. Pollock, Cllr S. Dickinson, Cllr P Tallentire, Cllr J Peat,

Also Present: (Residents) C Simpson, A Long, A Woodward, D Harper, Cllr J. Campbell

Clerk: Alan Dixon

68/25 Representation by residents

After a complaint received by the Chairman following the Parish Council meeting held on the 17th July, the Chairman explained how Representation by residents works and that once this part of the meeting is concluded, then, unless clarification of a point is required, residents are not party to the rest of the meeting.

Amanda Long asked about the excess soil from a recent burial in the Cemetery. The Chairman made residents aware that the soil would be removed by the grave digger. Amanda also asked about the lane near Whorlton House, which is in a poor state. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council have contacted Durham County Council about the lane and their response was that they are not responsible for repairing it as it is a privately owned road.

69/25 Apologies & Interests

Apologies: Cllr J Peat,

Interests: None

70/25 Minutes of Meeting 17th July 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved.

71/25 Whorlton Parish Council Cemetery update / Cemetery bench

Councillors are waiting for a quote from Atkinson's Joiners to cut down the old timber from Whorlton Bridge to make a bench in memory of the old bridge. The Clerk has purchased some second-hand bench ends which could be used to build the bench once the timber is available. Three burial plots and one ashes plot were reserved in September.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to advertise the Cemetery sporadically in the Teesdale Mercury beginning in January 2026.

72/25 Repair of Whorlton Bridge

Councillor Campbell informed the meeting that Paul Anderson from Durham County Council's Highways Department hopes to give a presentation in November regarding the steps required to put the bridge back together and a possible completion date. A Representative from Volker Lazer may also be in attendance.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to put an article in The Flyer to inform residents of this meeting when a date is arranged.

73/25 Speeding traffic

Councillor Haughton informed Councillors that he hoped that the implementation of traffic calming measures could be discussed when the Whorlton bridge meeting is held in November. Councillor Campbell asked that if the meeting were to be expanded to discuss traffic calming, then Mr Anderson would need a list of the topics to be discussed. Councillor Campbell asked that the Parish Council request a costing from Durham County Council re white gates. The Clerk thought that this had already been done, but would speak to Annalisa Ward at the Teesdale Area Network so that this could go ahead. Councillor Campbell said that s.106 funding could be used as the white gates could be classed as an enhancement of a public area.

Councillor Haughton informed the meeting about an introductory inter village meeting to discuss speeding traffic problems. The meeting was chaired by Sarah Hannah of Gainford Parish Council and there were also Councillors from Staindrop, Ingelton and Winston. Despite the implementation of different types of traffic calming measures, it seems motorists tend to ignore them. Another inter village meeting is to be held on the 7th October. He suggested that a speed vizer could be funded by a number of villages and moved between them.

RESOLVED: Councillor Stastny agreed to write to the Head of Barnard Castle School as the main speeding traffic problems occur just before and after school time.

74/25 The Bridge Inn – planning application

A specialist property valuation has been done on the pub, which came back with a price of £230,000. A formal offer for this amount was rejected, as the owner is looking for an amount closer to £350,000. The planning application to turn the building into a residence was rejected, and the owner has 6 months from the date of the refusal to appeal to the Secretary of State.

There may be legislation to force the sale of an empty property.

RESOLVED: Councillor Campbell was asked to enquire into whether such legislation exists.

75/25 Redevelopment of Whorlton Hall

Councillors discussed the plans to alter the layout of the new builds. The new plans will allow a direct route to the cemetery and mean that machinery required to dig graves will no longer be required to go through the play area.

RESOLVED: Councillors felt that the new plans are a good compromise and are more fitting with their surroundings. Clerk to submit a comment stating that Councillors approve of the change to the planning application.

76/25 Councillor Code of Conduct

The Clerk made Councillors aware that the Parish Council has a Code of Conduct, which has been made available to them.

77/25 Road repairs in front of Bridge Inn

The Chairman has asked a contractor who was working on Bridge Cottage, which is attached to the Bridge Inn, to carry out repairs to the road, which is part of the village green. The Parish Council had received a quote for this work of £490. As the contractor was already carrying out work nearby and offered to do the repair for £150. The Clerk approved the repair using his designated powers.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that the repair should go ahead at a cost of £150.

78/25 Royal British Legion donation

The Clerk asked Councillors to consider making a donation to the Royal British Legion as the next Parish Council meeting will be after Remembrance Day.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to make the donation.

79/25 .gov website and email addresses

NALC are promoting the use of .gov email addresses, and as part of next years AGAR the Clerk will need to have a .gov email address.

RESOLVED: Councillors asked the Clerk to find out how much it will cost to implement the use of a .gov website and email addresses.

80/25 Planning applications arising at late notice.

Permanent retention of a temporary access to farm and installation of fencing and hedging.

West Whorley Hill Whorley Hill Winston Darlington DL2 3PT

Ref. No: DM/25/01726/FPA | Received: Mon 30 Jun 2025 | Validated: Fri 18 Jul 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

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

81/25 Financial Statement and Report

A Receipt and Payments Account dated 31st August 2025 was reviewed by Councillors. The Clerk informed Councillors that he had received a pay award of an extra 48p per hour.

Payment of the following invoices was agreed by Councillors:-

298 – Clerk Salary – August 2025	£ 347. 94
299 - Clerk Salary – September 2025	£ 410. 30
300 - Allen Sykes	£ 510. 00
301 - A R Toward	<u>£ 630. 00</u>
Total	<u>£1798. 24</u>

RESOLVED: All financial matters agreed as being correct. Councillors agreed to the Clerks pay rise.

82/25 Clerks correspondence

Nothing to report.

83/25 Members Reports

Nothing to report.

Date for the next Parish Council Meeting:

RESOLVED: The date of the next ordinary meeting is 20th November 2025.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 7:25 pm.

20th November 2025, Chairman