

# Whitley Parish Council

1. The meeting was opened at 7.00 pm by the Chairman Cllr Humphrey.

## **2. Open Public Forum(OPF) 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

2.1. There were no members of the public present during the virtual meeting.

2.2. The Chair closed the public forum.

## **Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Virtual Online Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - 05/20**

3. **Present:** Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Walton, Cllr Cole, Cllr White, Cllr Broadbent, Cllr Woodhead and Clerk to the Council J Hunter, Selby District and North Yorkshire County (SD&NYC) Cllr McCartney.

### **4. Apologies for absence:**

4.1. Apologies for absence were received by Cllr Blackburn.

### **5. Disclosures of interest:**

5.1. It was noted that Cllr T Woodhead, Cllr S Cole and Cllr D Broadbent are members of the Gale Common Action Group. A community group campaigning against the Gale Common Ash Extraction planning application that is due for consideration by the North Yorkshire County Council planning committee.

5.2. There were no other interests registered.

### **6. Minutes of the virtual video conference meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 of Whitley Parish Council:**

6.1. The Council agreed that the minutes of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 subject to correction of typing errors at item 7.2 which should read Safer Streets and at 7.5 the tree is 1 metre high, are a true record and accordingly were approved for signature by the Chair Cllr Humphrey.

**Action:** Clerk to deliver a copy duly amended of the minutes for signature by Cllr Humphrey.

### **7. Opening matters for information and action as required:**

7.1. **Gale Common Extraction Proposal:** The impending planning committee meeting to vote on the planning officer's recommendation for grant of approval was discussed by the Council. SD&NYC Cllr McCartney raised several points and concerns regarding the process that is likely to be adopted in the run up and during the meeting.

7.1.1.1. North Yorkshire County Council as a matter of policy do not upload details of objections onto their planning portal. This can give a false impression of the extent of public concern about any application and can undermine the strength of local objections.

7.1.1.2. It is recommended that the recent communication from our MP Nigel Adams expressing his own concerns should be shared with all members of the Planning Committee.

7.1.1.3. The key issues concerning the project involves the extent of its adverse impact on the Green Belt which is a matter of subjective judgement. But provides potential grounds for refusal. A constant line of lorries at Whitefield Lane can be an unwarranted impediment to the Green Belt. In addition, the environmental impact on lorries 9 metres from the bungalows on Whitefield Lane can bring into question to suitability of the transport proposal.

7.1.1.4. The proposed conditions to be attached to the approval requiring the review of alternative options has little impact on the applications ongoing decision to continue transportation by HGV.

7.1.1.5. It is worth noting that there is no company based in North Yorkshire that has been identified as requiring the pulverised ash from the site. Most interested parties are located abroad and can be adequately serviced from Hull shipment to which can be accommodate via canal or rail. The Aire Calder Canal is currently being actively used by commercial barges to ship goods to and from Leeds.

7.1.2. Cllr Humphrey questioned whether, given the planning officers recommendations, committee members can be persuaded to act upon objections and reject the application or should the strategy be to manage the application of conditions that temper the transportation plans. SD&NYC Cllr McCartney speculated that the decision would be tight with the opportunity to have voting on the application deferred until substantive alternative transport options are brought forward for due evaluation.

7.1.3. Cllr White questioned whether the issues of the hours of HGV operation had been adequately addressed in the report and whether the impact on residents along Whitefield Lane had been sympathetically assessed. SD& NYC Cllr McCartney warned of a potential problem given the specified operating hours of the site being set out as 7.00 am to 7 pm. Experience suggests that empty lorries will arrive at site prior to the opening time and park up in laybys in anticipation of access. This will cause traffic congestion and access issues along the length of Whitefield Lane.

7.1.4. SD & NYC Cllr McCartney offered the suggestion that should the application be approved the Council could support or initiate the set up of a Liaison Committee between the Parishes and the applicant and a North Yorkshire Officer. They would meet on a regular basis to build up a relationship with the site operators as a vehicle to achieve practical communication input into the operation of the site.

**Action:** Clerk to email all committee planning members with clear expression of the magnitude and nature of local concerns throughout the region. The Clerk to remind committee members of the communication from MP Nigel Adams, the number of objections he has received and his support for the rejection of the application as well as the existence of the online petition and the 1,200 signatures appended thereto. The Clerk to provide details of the alternative transport solution via canal with images of the commercial canal boats using the Aire and Calder Canal.

- 7.2. **Learning Lane:** SD & NYC Cllr McCartney informed the Councillors that the yellow lining on Learning Lane has now been completed and all-day parking is now prohibited and will be enforced by local officers based in Selby.
- 7.3. **Safer Streets Scheme:** The Clerk provided an outline of the status and progress of the Safer Streets Initiative. 86 households in Whitley have registered with the scheme out of 300 registrations throughout the region. Home surveys have been scheduled to commence beginning with the Parishes of Kirk Smeaton and Womersley during early November 2020. Given the current count of households in Whitley at 432 the take up is 25%.

Efforts are being continued to be made by the project team of NY Police to promote the scheme; police officers have visited homes they consider are particularly vulnerable to burglary and further mailshots have been actioned.

- 7.4. **Local Plan:** The Clerk referred to the initial submissions received by Selby District Council of land to be included for potential development in the formulation of Selby District's new local plan. It was noted that there is a considerable proportion of farmland surrounding Whitley Village that has been presented for consideration of inclusion in the plan. SD & NYC Cllr McCartney explained that the current planning round is the 4<sup>th</sup> exercise of this nature in the past twenty years. It is the practice of the farmer's land agents to attempt speculative submissions during the first phase of the process. In most of the cases land will be disqualified using the established criteria following which serious evaluation will be commenced. At this stage detailed assessments will be carried out and the perspective and views of all interested parties will be sought as part of the qualification of land to be approved.
- 7.5. **Christmas Lights:** Cllr Broadbent presented alternative proposals into the provision of Christmas lights in the village for consideration by the Council. He explained the details of investigations he had made comparing the option of purchase or lease of light fittings. In doing so he outlined the results of conversations with a councillor in Burn Parish Council and the electrical management officer of North Yorkshire County Council. In summary he advised the meeting that although initial cost was lower the lease option was expensive over the life of the rental contract.

Purchase of 10 light fittings including the provision of appropriate isolation fixtures, affixing the fittings to the lamp and subsequent removal prior to storage would be at a cost of £5,000 of which £1,200 is the cost of putting up and taking down the lights. It was noted the £1,200 would be an annual cost. Storage would be extra that is a service offered by North Yorkshire County Council at additional cost.

Cllr Broadbent advised that he had obtained confirmation from the Electrical Manager that the specification of the lights was acceptable and would be approved.

Cllr Broadbent envisaged the purchase of 10 fittings for deployment in 2020 with the ambition of seeking sponsorship funding from local business in the community for the provision of additional lights in subsequent years. He expressed the view that the installation of Festive Lights would provide a welcome boost to the community over the holiday season given the experiences of this past year with Covid lockdown and job losses.

Councillors debated the merits of the proposal. Cllr Cole shared a disappointment in the Council's apparent appetite to discuss such a proposal given the response that had been generated when a similar project had been proffered by Cllr Cole in previous years only to be rejected. Cllr White expressed concerns in connection with the magnitude of the expenditure and questioned whether residents in the village had been consulted to establish if there was a mandate for the provision of Christmas Lights whose ongoing maintenance costs would be ultimately borne from the annual Precept. Cllr White also questioned whether given the time

that was available was it possible to achieve purchase, testing and installation of the kit before credible deadlines.

Questions were raised concerning the source of how the expenditure would be funded, whether borrowing, reserves or precept. Decision about expenditure of such an amount should be set in the context of other capital projects that would need funding such as the expansion to the playground.

A collective disquiet was expressed concerning the nature of the decision required coupled with the limited opportunity afforded the Councillors to review, read and understand the business plan. It was suggested and agreed that a decision be deferred until the forthcoming extraordinary meeting of the Council to consider and vote on the proposal.

**Action:** Cllr Broadbent to share an updated version of the proposal to all Councillors who will review in preparation for the extraordinary meeting.

- 7.6. **Christmas Lighting Ceremony:** Cllr Cole advised the meeting that the George and Dragon would switch on the lights of the Christmas Tree but given the current level of Covid restrictions and future uncertainties there would be no formal ceremony in 2020.
- 7.7. **Remembrance Sunday:** Cllr Cole agreed to purchase a wreath on behalf of the Council and undertook to attend the Memorial on 8<sup>th</sup> November to lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday. The event is to be advertised on social media and notice boards and people invited to attend adopting appropriate social distancing measures.
- 7.8. **Footpath:** The Clerk informed the meeting the amendments to the public right of way diversion has been certified with the County Seal and due notice advertised in the press for receipt of legal objections. Following the required time for responses the route will be signposted and opened for public access.

**Due to the length of the meeting given the time spent on discussion of matters in agenda item 7 the meeting was adjourned at 9.00pm to be reconvened as an Extraordinary Meeting at 7.00pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at which time the remaining items of the agenda will be considered.**

## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Whitley Parish Council Virtual Online Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - 05/20**

Cllr Humphrey reconvened the meeting following adjournment of the previous session on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and noted that there were no apologies for absence all Councillors being present, namely, Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Walton, Cllr Blackburn, Cllr Cole, Cllr White, Cllr Broadbent and Cllr Woodhead.

8. Cllr Humphrey after confirming that there were no members of the public present picked up the agenda from the item 7 inviting the Clerk to provide details of correspondence received.
  - 8.1.1. An email from the Leader of North Yorkshire County Council attaching a summary document in relation to their proposal pursuant of the Local Government Re-organisation. Noted
  - 8.1.2. A leaflet promoting the Selby and District Food Bank that will be posted onto the notice boards. Noted.

9. **Planning matters:** The Clerk provided a summary of the planning applications made in the month for review and consideration by the Council.

9.1. There have been no planning applications made within the Whitley Parish since the last meeting.

9.2. There were no planning applications granted approval for sites or properties within the Whitley Parish during the month.

**10. Council Finance & Administration:**

**10.1. RFO Report as at 08/09/2020:**

<b>Bank/Account</b>	<b>Income since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020</b>	<b>Expenditure since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020</b>	<b>Of which is 106 expenditure</b>	<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>Notes/Comment</b>
Santander Deposit	138.32	15,000.00	Nil	58,054.41	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	24,330.00	26,461.72	12,081.92	669.80	No interest
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>				<b><u>58,724.21</u></b>	
<b>Less following funds:</b>					
Protected 106 funds		3 x Play areas/ROS and the Tree Lines.		38,143.58	
Other protected funds		A19, Defibrillator fund		2,644.65 <u>69.60</u> 2,714.25	
Total Protected funds					
PC Reserve Funds		Legal Action and Complaints against the Council. Future Development and Facility Provision –Buildings. Future Development and Facility Provision – ROS. Future Development and Facility Provision -Nature Reserve. Unexpected/unforeseeable expenditure.		12,401.40	
<b>Total protected/reserve funds</b>				53,259.23	
<b>Balance:</b>					
<b>Unprotected funds available to the Council</b>		Current account balance + 106 Funds available to transfer		<b><u>5,464.98</u></b>	Includes cheques payable in 10.2

The Clerk presented his report on the financial position of the Parish Council with reference to detailed income and expenditure statements providing details of receipts and payments for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020. In addition, the clerk presented details of the Parish Balance Sheet showing the value off capital assets held in the Parish and its total financial resources.

Cllr White sought clarification of the balance of 106 funds available for future expenditure. Cllr White observed the drawdown of costs to cover repairs to Play Equipment together with expenditure on grass cutting has had a marked affect on the sums remaining in the fund.

The Clerk presented details of the value of outstanding VAT to claim amounting to £3,828. Now that the invoice for the VAS has been received following installation the Clerk advised that Council that it was his intention to submit a VAT refund claim.

The Clerk presented details of forecast expenditure for the remainder of the year and summarised the projected financial position of the Council funds at the end of the financial year 2020/21. He made reference to the anticipated balance of funds that is likely to be available to the Parish going forward into 2021/22 to support the Council budgetary plans that will inform their decision concerning the value of the Precept for which the Council must make application in January 2021. To that end the Clerk suggested that Councillors consider their ambitions for projects they may wish to support for the benefit of the community that may be included in formulating the budget plan for the year to March 2022.

Cllr White shared his perspective and understanding of funding arrangements of the council budgets suggesting there appeared to be an underspend during the year on Precept and that at the point of debate he would urge the council to consider reduction in the precept amount. The Clerk reiterated the point that based on current projections there would indeed be a deficit which amount would inevitably be covered from Council reserves. It is unquestionably the prerogative of the council to set the precept below historic levels and make the conscious decision to fund any shortfall in expenditure from reserves, however it is important that in reaching that conclusion the Council have due regard to all its future budgetary commitment's both revenue and capital to demonstrate sound financial management.

- 10.2. Accounts Payable:** Except for the payment to HAGS for £7,178.30 the following items were approved for payment by bank transfer. The proposed payment to HAGs was to be deferred until full inspection of their work had been undertaken to ensure that the required repairs were carried out satisfactorily. Given a satisfactory inspection the amount is approved for payment. The Council agreed to the advance payment to Cllr Walton to cover the cost of Christmas Hampers for the Over 80's in anticipation of a full accounting when the parcel of gifts have been completed and actual costs determined.

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Amount: £</b>
Bank transfer	George Fillingham – cutting verges and Park areas	3,192.00
Bank transfer	J R Hunter – Clerk Salary Aug to Oct	494.30
Bank transfer	HMRC – PAYE on Clerk Salary	123.60
Bank transfer	Cllr S Humphrey – memorial plaque for J Watson	48.90
Bank transfer	K Walton – over 80s Christmas Hampers	475.00
Bank transfer	Cllr S Cole – war memorial wreath	25.00
Bank transfer	Cllr J White – plants for war memorial	9.00
Bank transfer	T W M Traffic Control – VAS	4,665.70
Bank transfer	HAGS – repair to	7,178.30

- 10.3. Accounts Payable retrospectively:** The following retrospective payments made by cheque since the last council meeting were approved.

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Amount: £</b>
Bank transfer	Brian Slater – Painting of Play Areas	765.00
Bank transfer	George Fillingham – Tree removal from Daffodil Park	660.00

- 10.4.** Transfer between bank accounts: The Transfer of £13,000.00 from the Parish deposit account to the current account was approved.

## **11. Recreational Open Space in Whitley:**

### **11.1. Parks and Verges:**

- 11.1.1. Parks & Playground Maintenance:** Cllr White advised that the garden contractor who has been engaged to undertake general gardening work in Daffodil Park has commenced. Cllr White shared results of his enquiries into the acquisition of additional playground and gym equipment for Daffodil Park. An indicative quote costs the provision of such kit in the magnitude of £15k for gym and £21k for playground. Should the council ultimately choose to proceed with an investment of this nature grant aid would be sought but some contribution from Council funds may be necessary.

Cllr Humphrey observed that in the past investigations made by the Council for the provision of gym equipment had been well received by the community. Given the size of the level of expenditure involved it would be appropriate to seek community feedback once the proposition is able to be clearly specified. Social media, artists impressions of the equipment could be displayed in the park, and the parish newsletter could be used to engage with residents in the village to survey the collective opinion to inform the Parish Council decision process. It would be important to invite a variety of companies to provide quotes for the work to ensure competitive tendering.

Sources of funding was considered including application to the lotter fund and to Selby Council through the community engagement forum.

**Action:** Cllr White to continue invitation of quotes from alternative suppliers.

Cllr White suggested that the wooden fence panels close to the Play Area in Daffodil Park need repair / replacement.

**Action:** Cllr White to obtain a quote from Burn Fencing for the replacement of the fencing and present to the Council meeting next month.

**Action:** Clerk to make enquiries with Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents RoSPA requesting safety inspection of the play equipment.

- 11.1.2. Management of Trees on Daffodil Park and Lee View:** The Clerk advised that George Fillingham indicated that he would seek to action the work in the next few weeks.

- 11.1.3. Nature Reserve:** The Clerk informed the meeting that the bin for location at the Nature Reserve had been ordered from Selby Council.

**Action:** Clerk to chase up completion of the order

11.1.4. **Verge cutting:** Cllr Humphrey pointed out the patch of verge across from the bus stop by the George and Dragon is now becoming overgrown and should be included in the route verge cut.

**Action:** Clerk to liaise the George Fillingham to ensure the section of verge is added to the routine verge cut.

**Action:** Clerk to chase up Poskitts undertaking to complete the cut of the verge alongside their field by the bungalows on Whitefield Lane.

## 12. A19 Safety:

12.1. **Purchase of additional Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS):** The Clerk advised the meeting that the installation of the VAS sign has been completed. Cllr White informed the Councillors that it was worth noting that the VAS sign could be furnished with an additional module that is capable of counting numbers and speed of passing vehicles. At a cost of approximately £300 it is an addition that the Council may wish to consider in future.

**Action:** Purchase of additional module be discussed at the next Council meeting.

12.2. **Speeding on the A19:** Cllr Humphrey noted the recent accident on the A19 just South of the village by the Friendship Estates. It was conjectured that the incident was due to an ill-timed attempt to overtake. Cllr White questioned whether Councillors had noticed if there had been an increase in the amount of HGV's passing through the village overnight. Cllr Blackburn commented that there has been a general increase in the volume of HGV's on Whitefield Lane.

## 7.0 Opening Matters for information and action:

**7.5 Christmas Lights:** Cllr Humphrey reopened the discussion of the proposal from Cllr Broadbent into the purchase of Christmas Light for deployment in time for December 2020 and invited Councillors to share further comments. Cllr Broadbent updated the meeting informing Councillors that suppliers have advised that Parish Councils are generally offered a 20% discount.

Cllr Humphrey polled the opinion of Councillors; Cllr Blackburn expressed the view that he considered the lights did not present value for money, Cllr Woodhead was in favour; Cllr Walton was in favour; Cllr Cole with reservations was in favour, Cllr White sought clarification of costs that would be £4,600 in year one, and £1,200 every year thereafter going forward for putting up and taking down plus power for lighting. Storage would be an extra cost although Cllr Broadbent offered to store the lights free of charge. Cllr White suggested that formal quotes should be provided, and references obtained from other Councils. Cllr White concluded whilst appreciating the thoroughness of the work undertaken by Cllr Broadbent, he was not in favour of purchase of lights for the 2020 Christmas season but felt that such a proposal would merit review in 2021.

Cllr Humphrey summed up the position of the Council's collective assessment and declared that given the Council's split in opinion he would decline from using his casting vote.

Cllr Broadbent declined to make a proposal.

**7.1 Gale Common Extraction Application:** SD & NYC Cllr McCartney summed up the status of the planning application. The planning committee meeting was cancelled at short notice due to illness of key staff. It is worth noting Nigel Adam MP has resent his previous correspondence in support of rejection of the application. The critical issues are the impact



on the Green Belt and the fact that the ash was originally delivered to Gale Common by environmentally means.

**13. A.O.B.**

**13.1.** Cllr Blackburn advised that number one lamp standard is not working.

**Action:** Clerk to notify Highways

**13.2.** Cllr White advised that there is a significant infestation of moles in the park and questioned the wishes of the Council in their management.

**Action:** Quotes to be sought for removal of moles.

**14. Confirm the date, time and place of next meeting:**

**14.1. Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7pm via "Zoom" video conference.

**15. Closure of meeting:** 8:44 pm