

# Whitley Parish Council

1. The meeting was opened at 7.00 pm by the Chairman Cllr Humphrey.
2. **Open Public Forum(OPF) 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**
  - 2.1. The Clerk advised that there were no requests from members of the public to attend the online meeting.
  - 2.2. The Chair closed the public forum.

## **Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Virtual Online Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - 07/21**

3. **Present:** Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Walton, Cllr Cole, Cllr Blackburn (via telephone) Cllr White, Cllr Broadbent, Cllr Woodhead and Clerk to the Council J Hunter..
4. **Apologies for absence:**
  - 4.1. All Councillors were present via video link with Cllr Blackburn connecting via the phone.
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. It was also noted the Cllr D Broadbent is Chair of the Whitley Community Project a charitable organisation whose objective is the establishment of a community centre for Whitley village.
  - 5.2. There were no other interests registered.
6. **Minutes of the virtual video conference meetings of Whitley Parish Council; extraordinary meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and Parish Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020:**
  - 6.1. The Council reviewed the minutes of the Extraordinary Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Cllr White pointed out that subsequent to this meeting Eggborough Parish Council have expressed interest in an active involvement with the campaign for the Judicial Review of the Gale Common planning approval and requested that the minutes should be amended to reflect this position. The Council agreed to the amendment to the minutes. The Council agreed the minutes of the Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Subject to the appropriate amendments it was agreed that both sets of minutes are a true record and accordingly were approved for signature by the Chair Cllr Humphrey.  
  
**Action:** Clerk to deliver a copy of the duly amended minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and a copy of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 for signature by Cllr Humphrey.
7. **Opening matters for information and action as required:**
  - 7.1. **Gale Common Extraction Proposal:** Cllr Woodhead informed the Council that Cllr Ian Philips Chair of Cridling Stubbs Parish Council was awaiting receipt of a quotation from Irwin Mitchells regarding the case assessment of the potential for Judicial Review. The solicitors were in discussions with legal counsel regarding the initial review of the file. The estimate for

these costs were £3,000 contributions to which would be sought from the Parish Councils involved in the action. The basis of contribution has not yet been fully established pending clarification of the actual quotation.

Cllr White advised that he had received confirmation from the Clerk at Eggborough Parish Council that they are willing to make contribution to the legal fund and as a participant to the action they will need to be included in correspondence and future meetings as the matter proceedd. Cllr White suggested that in welcoming their involvement he shares with the Eggborough Clerk the details of estimated costs and the current proposal that contributions are made in proportion to the population size of each council.

Cllr Humphrey noted the updated position of Eggborough and observed that as an active participant an appropriate officer of Eggborough is formally invited into the campaign group and their interest is registered with the legal advisors.

**Action:** Cllr Woodhead to liaise with Eggborough to facilitate their formal engagement with the action group.

Cllr Humphrey advised that he had spoken with Whitley's own planning consultant who had no comments other than to confirm that any further appeal can only be progressed through Judicial Review.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Yorkshire Local Council Association were unable to offer any further support other than recommendation that the matter is pursued with legal advice and guidance.

It was noted that the issue was included as a News item in the Calendar TV programme.

**Action:** Cllr Humphrey to establish whether it is possible to set up a link from the Parish Facebook Page to the Calendar News item.

Cllr White questioned whether Selby District and North Yorkshire County (SD&NYC) Cllr McCartney had made any further contact in support of the appeal or whether it was possible for him to make contribution to the fund from his community budget.

**Action:** Following clarification of full quotation for legal action SD&NYC McCartney to be approached for a contribution to the action fund.

- 7.2. **Covid Lockdown:** Cllr White questioned whether given the initiation of the third national lockdown further action is required from the Parish Council in support of vulnerable residents within the community. Cllr Walton reported that she had been in communication with the over 80's all of whom had no immediate need for support; the only issue that being access to transport to vaccine appointments.

**Action:** Notice of availability of support for vulnerable adults to be included in the community Facebook pages.

- 7.3. **All Saints Church:** Cllr Humphrey referred to an email from a local resident questioning the future of All Saints Church and the use of the Church Notice Board. Cllr Broadband detailed the status of the Church. All Saints Church ceased to be a place of worship on 31<sup>st</sup> December. All Church services for the Whitley community are being conducted at St Edmunds in Kellington by a part time curate. The property is now under the management of a specialist department whose sole responsibility is Church closure. In his capacity as chair of the Whitley Community Project Cllr Broadbent had been in communication with this department that responded in recognition of the groups interest advising that they would be in touch as matters progress.

It was noted that the Church building is deteriorating although responsibility for upkeep of the fabric of the building is no longer with the Parochial Church Council; their remit is simply the management of the Church grounds. The Diocese is now in control of the building.

Cllr White mentioned that given the Parish Council had paid for the Church notice board consideration at an appropriate point needs to be made to its relocation within the village. In addition, Cllr White reminded the meeting that a local resident had observed that Whitley Parish had made contribution to Church running costs covering removal of trees, and provision of fencing. The nature and purpose of the funding was discussed, the Parish contribution to the Church were two specific donations one for the gates and the other for fencing.

**Action:** Clerk to advise Diocese of their ownership of the notice board and request that the Parish be kept informed as the closure of the Church progresses so that arrangements can be made for the retrieval of the notice board at an appropriate time.

- 7.4. Road Safety Grant:** Cllr White update the council on the possible installation of a pedestrian crossing in the village. Having met with the North Yorkshire County Highways Officer it was concluded that the only suitable location that can be approved was at and about the Lee View junction at the southern end of the village. This was the only section of the A19 that was wide enough to incorporate a refuge point provisioned with bollards.

Councillors discussed the merits of the installation with some concerns being raised about the safety of such a facility especially for pedestrians using the crossing accompanied by children and buggies. Notwithstanding such concerns it was concluded that the project was worthy of further investigation and the council looked forward to the receipt of a site plan with costings to be provided by North Yorkshire Highways.

**Action:** Cllr White to continue liaison with North Yorkshire Highways in the drafting of site plan and proposals.

- 7.5. Litter in village:** Cllr White commented on the extent of litter on Gravel Hill was increasing and whilst recognising that many vehicles use the road as a shortcut from the industrial sites it would be appropriate to communicate with the Mushroom Farm and request them to remind transport operators to avoid littering the highway.

**Action:** Clerk to communicate with the transport department of Monaghan Mushrooms with a polite reminder of the extent of litter on Gravel Hill Lane and seek their support in persuading their transport operators to avoid litter

- 7.6. Winter Gritting:** Cllr Humphrey shared an issue raised by Whitley and Eggborough Community Primary School concerning the ice gritting of Learning Lane particularly at the junction of the A19. North Yorkshire County Council will not as a matter of policy undertake to grit any side roads. They recommend and suggest that such gritting be carried out by voluntary community groups and have provided guidance and protocols in the establishment of such operations. The School were looking for support from the Parish Council in the championing of the idea in the village.

The Council considered that the Parent Teachers Association would be a better collaborative through which such a group could be promoted.

- 7.7. Safer Streets Scheme:** The Clerk updated the council on the progress of the implementation of the scheme. Residents who had signed up had been scheduled for survey's in January, but this has been now pushed back to February.

**8. Correspondence received:** The Clerk summarised details of correspondence received by email and post.

**8.1.1.** The Clerk shared quotes from suppliers covering the replacement of battery and pads for the defibrillator the most competitive being £155 plus VAT for battery and £30 for the pads. **Resolved:** a budget of £185 plus VAT be set aside for the purchase of battery and pad's. Carried unanimously.

**8.1.2.** White Rose training have provided details of the January and February 2021 training schedule a copy of which email to all Councillors. Noted

**8.1.3.** Request from Housing Pathway Co-ordinator for the completion of Rough Sleeper return as at Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Noted

**8.1.4.** Yorkshire Local Councils Association provided a briefing on Coronavirus restrictions and measures affecting Councils. It is worth noting that Parks and open spaces are to remain open and accessible to the public. Noted

**8.1.5.** Notice of a webinar provided by Yorkshire Local Council Association on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January focus on "What to do about bad or unlawful decisions made by the council" cost of £22.50 per delegate. 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 04/01/2021:**

Bank/Account	Income since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	Expenditure since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	Of which is 106 expenditure	Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	140.57	17,850.00	Nil	55,206.66	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	25,095.00	24,589.72	10,701.92	2,637.00	No interest
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>				<b><u>57,843.66</u></b>	
<b>Less following funds:</b>					
Protected 106 funds		3 x Play areas/ROS and the Tree Lines.		37,553.58	
Other protected funds		Defibrillator fund		<u>69.60</u>	

Total Protected funds			37,623.18	
Parish Council Unprotected Bank 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.	20,220.48	
VAT due for reclaim			3,869.32	
<b>Total Unprotected Funds</b>			<b>24,089.80</b>	

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 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Total income to date is £9,471 which compares with expenditure of £10,669 leaving a shortfall of £1,198. The forecast expenditure for the year to March 2021 that includes the data collection module for the Vehicle Activate Sign and Clerks salary for the remainder of the year is £12,343 which will generate a deficit for the year 2020/21 of £2,907.

Cllr Broadbent expressed objection to the cost of the website hosting citing competitive prices of comparable services of £45.00. The council recognised that the current host has provided a consistent and stable service for several years. The development of a new site would take a little time and needs some research to ensure that the functionality available from the present facility can be achieved.

**Action:** The Council continue with the present hosting service and during 2021 investigate alternative options in anticipation of renewal in January 2022.

**10.2. Accounts Payable:** The following payments were approved for settlement by bank transfer

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
Transfer	Vision ICT	247.80

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
Transfer	Andrew Gill – Daffodil Park Maintenance	150.00
Transfer	D Warner – Fence n Daffodil Park	290.00

10.3.1. **2021/22 Budget Precept:** Following consideration of the budgets presented by the Clerk during the previous meeting the Council debated further the financial requirements of the forthcoming year. Given the value of reserves currently available it was decided that the Precept should remain at the level set during 2020/21 at £9,000.

**Proposed:** Cllr Humphrey the precept be set for 2021/22 at £9,000 **Seconded:** Cllr Walton. Carried unanimously.

## 11. Recreational Open Space in Whitley:

### 11.1. Parks and Verges:

11.1.1. **Parks & Playground Maintenance:** Cllr White remarked on the extent of the flooding in the Park and advised that he had approached the drainage experts to arrange a site visit to establish what remedial action can be taken to mitigate or resolve the problem.

The Clerk shared with the Council alternative quotes for the inspection, of the Play Equipment as an alternative to HAGS.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange inspection of all play areas with alternative suppliers.

11.1.2. **Park improvement additional play equipment:** The progress on the park improvement project play equipment and gym to be suspended until spring 2021.

11.1.3. **Management of Tress on Daffodil Park and Lee View:** Cllr White suggested that he approach the Daffodil Park garden maintenance contractor to undertake the tree line pruning in the Park and by Lee View.

11.1.4. **Litter bins:** The Clerk advised the meeting that the order for the Litter Bin has been place with Selby District Council.

11.1.5. **Verge cutting:** There was nothing to report on verge cutting.

11.1.6. **Other issues or matters to report:** Cllr White commented on the condition of the Christmas Tree that was report by some residents to be in a poor state.

**Action:** Cllr White to monitor the state of the Christmas tree and seek advice as appropriate.

## 12. A19 Safety:

12.1. **Purchase of additional Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS):** Cllr White reported that the additional data module has been ordered.

Cllr White reported that the attendance by the police speed camera van has been much reduced; this may be as a result of increased demand or other pressures on police resources.

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

- 13.1.** Cllr Humphrey shared the contents of an email from a resident responding to the Calendar News Report on the Gale Common campaign. It outlines alternative solutions to the transportation of the Ash. **Action:** Cllr Humphrey to copy the email to Councillors.
- 13.2.** Cllr White indicated that he has made some enquiries into Crowd Funding options available to Parish Councils and will investigate for presentation at future Council meetings.
- 13.3.** Cllr Humphrey thanked Cllr Walton for her efforts in the management of the Over 80's Christmas Hampers.

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

- 14.1. Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 7pm via "Zoom" video conference.

**15. Closure of meeting:** 8:59 pm