

Whitley Parish Council

1. The meeting was opened at 7.00 pm by the Chair Cllr Walton.

2. Open Public Forum(OPF) 17th January 2023

2.1. Local residents expressed concerns about the width of the pavement adjacent to the length of farmland on the A19 North of Silver Street beyond the bus stop. The soil from the bund constantly spreads onto the pathway severely limiting pedestrian access. All too often public using the path are obliged to step out into the road to pass one another. This presents a serious risk to adults and children using this section of the road.

In addition, the laurel hedges growing in the side of the road overhang onto the public pathway inhibiting passage along the pavement.

Councillors sympathised with the concerns and pointed out that pavement and verges were the direct responsibility of the Highways Department of North Yorkshire County Council to which department complaints and lobbying concerns can be directed. It was pointed out that following such a complaint to Selby District and North Yorkshire County (SD&NYC) Cllr McCartney a highways engineer attended and inspected the location and concluded that the pavement width although within current guidelines was becoming critical. A bid has therefore been made to North Yorkshire County Council finance to cover the cost of remedial cut back along the whole length. Success of the bid is regrettably questionable given restrictions of funding.

In the interim Parish Councillors suggested that a team from the area Community Payback initiative could be engaged to undertake some cutting back to improve access in the short term.

Councillors also reminded the meeting that North Yorkshire County Council have an online portal to which issues and complaints concerning overgrown hedges can be reported, on which complaints officers are obliged to take action. As a minimum this would be to inform the property owner requesting appropriate trimming of overgrowth.

A question was raised as to whether there were any other sections of the village at which safe crossing points could be installed. Councillors explained that Highways Department following detailed inspection of the length of the A19 concluded that the only suitable location for the crossing point was by the length alongside the Yew Tree housing development.

Residents from the property on Lee View adjacent to the playing field presented to the Parish Council the results of their enquiries made with local neighbours about any concerns over the planting of laurel hedging at a small section on the corner of the playing field. They shared copies of text messages from the neighbour's, confirming approval for the planting of the hedge screening.

Councillors discussed the proposal to permit the planting of a limited number of laurel shrubs at the resident's expense on the understanding that the same residents would cover the cost in full and continue to manage the growth and maintenance of the hedge.

It was resolved and carried unanimously that permission be granted for the residents to purchase, plant and maintain the laurel hedging.

2.2. The Chair closed the public forum and proceeded to the conduct of the Parish meeting.

**Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 17th
January 2023 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School
Annex Buidling – 08/23**

3. **Present:** Cllr Walton (Chair) Cllr White (Vice Chair), Cllr Woodhead, Cllr Humphrey and Cllr Blackburn and Clerk to the Council J Hunter.

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4. **Apologies for absence:**

4.1. All councillors were present at the meeting.

5. **Disclosure of interest:**

5.1. Cllr Cole and Cllr Blackburn are resident on Whitefield Lane and as such would be directly impacted by the HGV movements from the Gale Common site. Cllr White is treasurer of the Allotment Association and a plot holder.

5.2. There were no other interests registered.

6. **Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 15th Nov 2022:**

6.1. Amendments to the draft minutes were agreed, Approval had been granted by the Parish Council for the allocation of a budget of £75.00 to cover the cost of hedge cutting at the perimeter of the Daffodil Field Park. Subject to which addition, the minutes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting.

Action: The Clerk to amend the minutes as agreed above and deliver a copy for signature by the Chair.

7. **Matters for information and action as required:**

7.1. **Gale Common:** Councillors reflected on the current position of the case following the completion of the hearing of the High Court Appeal in London. We are still awaiting conclusion of the Judges review and the issue of their reasoned decision. Councillors who observed the meeting commented on the process of the appeal and commended the efforts of our barrister in the presentation of the merits of our case. It was however, impossible to speculate on the outcome.

Action: Clerk to make enquiries with Irwin Mitchell about the likely timescales in the completion of the judgement.

7.2. **Allotment Association:** Cllr White advised that he would progress the completion of the agreement between the Parish Council and the Allotment Association, for presentation at the next Parish Council meeting in February. The agreement will include, the annual rental to the Parish Council to be increased to £360, the Parish Council's public liability insurance will cover the risk of the Allotment Association, and the notice period in the event of sale of Allotment Land will remain at 12 months.

7.3. **Provision of hedges by Play Area in Lee View:** The item was considered and discussed during the open public forum, and reported above.

7.4. **£106 monies:** The Clerk reported on conversations with the officer in Selby District Council responsible for the allocation of £106 monies. The Parish Council's interest in the funds has been lodged, but in order to make a successful claim a fully costed project must be presented to support a bid for the allocation of the monies. This can cover multiple improvement schemes to Open Space land in the community. The key point is, that receipt

of financial resource is no longer automatic; applications must be lodged based on concrete proposals and fully costed initiatives.

Action: Councillors to consider improvement projects for inclusion on a list of potential schemes to be included in a costed application.

- 7.5. **Halloween Events:** Cllr Blackburn commented on his experience of a Scarecrow Festival that had been organised in Gowdall in past years. A community event that was hosted in the Gowdall village at the end of October each year. It was co-ordinated by a committee of residents encouraging villages to make Scarecrows for display with a prize for the best Scarecrow. Cllr Blackburn suggested such an event may be of interest to Whitley residents.

Councillors discussed the idea concluding that while not a Parish Council responsibility it may be of interest to certain members of our community who would be keen to take on the organisation of a Festival of this nature. Councillors agreed that the idea could be presented at an appropriate point in the year with inclusion in future Parish Newsletters.

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

8.1. Emails and postage.

- 8.1.1 Clerk presented the following details of emails or correspondence by mail relevant to the affairs of Whitley Parish Council:

- a. A communication from North Yorkshire Police concerning the accident damage to the planter adjacent to the Daffodil Park. The collision was by a stolen vehicle the driver of which has subsequently been apprehended.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotation for the repair of the planter for a Parish claim against its insurance cover. Reference to be made to SD&NYC Cllr McCartney. Notice to be placed on Parish Social Media inviting suitably qualified local residents to quote for the repair.

Highways to be notified of the damage with a request for the stone to be cleared from the site.

- b. an email to Cllr Walton from a local resident notifying of an interest in the development of a community hub on a 10 acre plot of land in Whitley village. The resident advised of communication with Nigel Adams MP seeking support. Development proposals include the provision of multiple facilities including, doctors surgery and pharmacy, a dentist, coffee shop and post office.

Action: Clerk to email seeking further information and elaboration of the plans inviting resident to a future Parish Council meeting.

8.2. Social Media

- 8.2.1 Comments referring to the damage to the planters. Several comments and support concerning the provision of Christmas Lights and Hanging Baskets. The Councillors recognised the degree of interest expressed within the social media platform and agreed, although considered on many occasions in the past, it was appropriate to re examine the idea, to come up with costed proposals, and sponsorship options to present to the community.

Comments were lodged concerning confusion about the location of the public footpath from Whitley to Heck, complaints about speeding in the village, and demands for the installation of average speed cameras in the village.

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. 2022/1350/DEM Butcher Lane Farm, Butcher Lane, prior notification of demolition of timber barn and attached potting shed. Noted without comment.

9.2. 2022/1227/TPO 1 All Saints Grove, Whitley, Fell 1 No Beech remove to ground level using rigging techniques due to Pholiota. Fell 1 No Ash remove to ground level using rigging techniques due to Ash Die Back and remove deadwood on 1 No Beech. Councillors discussed the merits of the proposed felling of the trees and were concerned that such action, given the report of the arborists expert report, was inappropriate.

Action: Clerk to review the content of the expert reports and comment to planning officers with Parish Council's reservations.

9.3. 2022/1203/HPA 11 All Saints Court, Whitley. Demolition of existing 2m high garden wall and replacement with 2m fence 3m east (to boundary), move 1.2 m railings west 1m. and construction of 3.5m x 6m single garage to northern boundary within garden and access drive. Noted with no comments.

9.4. Build of a bungalow at the rear of 2 Whitefield Lane. The Clerk presented plans and proposals for the build of a bungalow on the plot of land to the rear of 2 Whitefield Lane. It was noted that the development does not encroach on the right of way held by Whitley Parish Council on land adjacent to the plot that provides access to Whitley Allotments.

Councillors considered the development plan and the preservation of appropriate rights of access, and, based on the information currently available there were no comments.

10. Council Finance & Administration:

10.1. RFO Report as at 15/11/2022:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2022	Expenditure since 1 st April 2022		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	6.80			15,219.29	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	20,067.00	9,935.29		23,961.28	No interest
Total Bank Balances				39,180.57	
Less following funds:					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field		1,798.71 8,000.00	
Total Allocated funds				9,798.71	
		Legal Action and Complaints against the Council. Future Development and Facility Provision –Buildings.		29,381.86	

Parish Council Bank Funds		Future Development and Facility Provision – ROS. Future Development and Facility Provision -Nature Reserve. Unexpected/unforeseeable expenditure.		
VAT due for reclaim			634.05	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds			30,015.91	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary analysing month by month the actual receipts and payments up to January 2023, with a forecast of income and expenditure for the remainder of the year to March 2023. The forecast cash flows included the cost of the installation of the drainage in Daffodil field, incorporating a contingency for cost escalation of £1,100. The amount of this expenditure is mitigated by the receipt of a grant of £8,000 from Selby District Council, as a contribution to the project.

The cash flow projection also included settlement of any Protective Cost Order that may arise following the conclusion of the Gale Common Appeal Hearing. In addition, provision needs to be made for the cost of the relocation of the parish notice board from All Saints to the George and Dragon, at a budget of £250. The consequent balance of funds forecast to be carried over into the new year was £7,602.49. Councillors examined details of the comparison of actual expenditure against the original budget for 2022/23, noting in particular the savings arising because of reduction in number of grass cuts during the year, following the hot summer.

10.2. Accounts Payable: The following payments were approved for settlement by cheque.

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22525	Sarah Cole – Wreath for War Memorial	25.00
22526	John White – plants for War Memorial	6.79

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: £

10.4. Bank Transfer:

Transfer	Payable to:	Amount: £

10.5. Precept for 2023/24:

The Clerk presented forecasted cash flows based on current levels of anticipated expenditure for the forthcoming year, as a guide for the determination of the precept requirement for 2023/24. The total forecast expenditure was £12,247, the substantive

proportion of which was cost of verge and park grass cutting at £5,800. Councillors engaged in discussions about the options and alternatives in the proactive management of the financial requirements for the next year, and agreed the following measures in mitigation of costs:

1. The customary charitable donations would be suspended for 2023/24.
2. The schedule of grass and verge cutting would be reviewed, with the objective of constraining expenditure within a budget of £4,750.

The impact of inflationary pressure on budgets was considered, with the conclusion, such increase would be accommodated within the agreed budgets.

In setting budget levels, it was recognised that the planned expenditure does not provide for any financial resource for projects Councillors may identify, in future, for the benefit of the community, such as, Christmas Lights, Hanging Baskets, Traffic Management, and Play Area Maintenance, etc. Such would require the sourcing of donations, or grant funding.

It was proposed, following discussion, that a precept of £10.500 be set, that would result in a 17.77% increase in the Whitley Parish Council Tax charge for 2023/24. Although a large percentage increment, the actual increase is less than £3.00 for the whole year on the band D charge.

Following discussion of the budget requirement, it was **resolved** that the precept be set at £10,500 for 2023/24. Carried with one abstention.

It was agreed, the annual Newsletter include details of the increase in Parish Council Tax, with an explanation of underlying reasons.

Action: The Clerk to advise North Yorkshire County Council that Whitley Parish Precept for 2023/24 be set at £10.500.

11. Recreational Open Space in Whitley:

11.1. Parks and Verges:

11.1.1 **Parks & Playground Maintenance:** Councillors considered various items in connection with maintenance within the park and playgrounds.

- Councillors discussed the details of the email from young residents within the community, requesting consideration be given to improvement to the provision of goal posts in Daffodil Field. It was agreed, that consideration of replacement of playing field facilities need to be held over until the drainage work in the park was completed. However, prior to this, prices for full size goal posts with nets could be established, to inform discussions in the future.

Action: Cllr White to investigate prices and suppliers.

- Cllr White advised, that the remnants of the police memorial bench has been removed, and the police federation notified of the criminal damage. Councillors considered, that, subject to the sourcing of funds, the memorial bench should be replaced with suitable and comparable furniture. The Clerk provided details of the history of the acquisition of the original bench, that was purchased in January 2013 at a cost of £522. Similar benches are available at prices in the order of £590 to £650. It was agreed, sources of funding from the Police Federation, for the replacement, be explored, together with a potential insurance claim against the Parish Council's policy.

- Cllr White provided an update on the status of the project for the installation of Drainage in Daffodil Field. He has sought to make contact with the primary contractors, Sweeting Bros, to establish an estimated time for commencement of the work. It is hoped, and anticipated, the project will be progressed to completion during the Spring of 2023.
- Cllr White confirmed that the hedges on Daffodil Field have now been cut back, as agreed, at a cost of £50.

11.1.2 **Pavement near Silver Street:** This agenda item was covered during the Open Forum, as summarised in that section of the minutes.

11.1.3 **Community Payback:** Cllr White reported on the activities of the Community Payback Team, and the planned maintenance work in the Parks.

11.1.4 **Verge Cutting:** It was agreed, the verge and park cutting programme for 2023/24 be revised, reflecting the amended budget set for grass cutting. The Clerk, in conjunction with Cllr Humphrey, will establish a schedule for agreement with George Fillingham, and his team.

12. A19 Safety:

12.1. **Speeding on A19:** Cllr White advised, that the issue with the collection of data from the VAS sign, has been resolved, and information on traffic movement through the village, has been downloaded, and shared with Councillors.

13. A.O.B.

13.1. Cllr Blackburn informed the meeting of the forthcoming funeral of former Parish Councillor B Brown.

13.2. Cllr Humphrey presented, as an option for consideration, that, rather than replace the damaged planter, the area be flagged or tarmacadam applied, to facilitate public access to the park entrance, at this point.

13.3. Cllr White reminded the meeting, that the 2021/22 financial returns should be posted onto the website.

13.4. Cllr White suggested, that the latest Playground Inspection Report be posted onto the website.

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

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 9:45 pm