

Whitley Parish Council

1.0 The meeting was opened at 7.00 pm by the Vice Chair Cllr White.

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 16th January 2024

2.1 A resident raised concerns about the activities of the Gale Common Moto Cross operation. In 2009, planning permission was granted to extend the site, with attached conditions, including the construction of a bund earthworks around the racetrack to mitigate noise. However, there has been no progress in meeting these conditions. Despite the lack of significant sports events due to the pandemic, there has been activity in enlarging the circuit and adding a secondary track for the training of novice riders. The resident requested the Parish Council to enquire with North Yorkshire Planning and urge enforcement officers to ensure the fulfilment of the specified conditions.

Action: Clerk to approach planning enforcement of North Yorkshire Council requesting an update on the status of the planning approval, particularly the compliance by the operators in meeting the requirements of the planning conditions.

2.2 A resident expressed dissatisfaction with the previous council's response to her concerns, feeling that councillors were dismissive and lacked understanding. Councillors apologised for any misconceptions and assured her of their sympathy. The resident highlighted ongoing issues with HGV movements on Gravel Hill Lane, emphasising that vehicles were violating regulations due to inadequate signage on the A19. Despite complaints to the Mushroom Farm manager, the problem persisted, exacerbated by detours from the closed A1. North Yorkshire Councillor John McCartney suggested residents file complaints with North Yorkshire Council, but the low number of residents on Gravel Hill raised concerns about the effectiveness of such complaints. Additionally, the lack of pedestrian pathways forced walkers onto unmaintained grass verges, exposing them to verbal abuse from drivers. The resident urged the Parish Council to draw attention to the seriousness of the issue with North Yorkshire Council, expressing fears of potential serious injuries, and even fatalities if not addressed.

Action: Clerk to approach North Yorkshire Councillor J McCartney to seek his advice and support in addressing the issue of HGV movements in and around Gravel Hill Lane. The object being to arrange a site visit by members of North Yorkshire County Highways department to gain insight into the problem, and the serious concerns about the traffic movements.

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

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2024 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex Building – 08/24

3.0 **Present:** Cllr White (Vice Chair), Cllr Thompson, Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Cole, and Clerk to the Council J Hunter.

4.0 Apologies for absence:

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Walton. All other Councillors were present at the meeting.

5.0 Disclosure of interest:

5.1 There were no other interests registered.

6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 21st Nov 2023:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 21st Nov 2023.

Action: The Clerk to deliver a copy for signature by the Chair.

7.0 Matters for information and action as required:

7.1 New Parish Councillors: Two village residents, Mrs. Kerry Barber, and Mrs. Charlotte Paley, who had previously expressed interest in becoming Parish Councillors, presented themselves at the meeting. After confirming their qualifications and recognising the value they would bring to the management of the affairs and responsibilities of the Parish Council, the councillors resolved to co-opt Mrs. Kerry Barber and Mrs. Charlotte Paley as Parish Councillors for Whitley Parish Council, thereby filling the two outstanding vacancies.

Action: The Clerk to advise Democratic Services of North Yorkshire Council of the co-option and due appointment of Mrs Kerry Barber and Mrs Charlotte Paley to the position of Parish Councillor of Whitley Parish. Clerk to forward copies of the “Declaration of Acceptance of Office”, and “Register of Interests” forms to the newly elected councillors for completion.

7.2 Precept and Budgets 2024-25: Following agreement of the financial budget for 2024-25 and determining the precept requirement, councillors discussed how to inform residents about the resulting increase in Parish Council Tax. They decided that producing a newsletter to be delivered to every household in the village would be the most appropriate method. The newsletter will elucidate the rationale behind the budget determination for the upcoming year, and outline the nature of the expenditure planned by the Parish Council. Tunstall Health Care will be approached to provide a print run of 500 copies of the newsletter for subsequent distribution.

Action: Cllr White to draft the newsletter and share it with councillors for comment, and or amendment before approaching Tunstall Healthcare to produce a print run of 500 copies for delivery to all households in the village. The distribution will be timed to proceed the delivery of North Yorkshire Councils Council Tax Charges for 2024-25.

7.3 Trees in Daffodil Park & Lee View: The Clerk provided an update on the completion of tree pollarding in Daffodil Park, with Cllr Thompson confirming the work's satisfactory completion. Councillors acknowledged that the cutback of the Hazel Thicket on Lee View is still outstanding, and anticipated it to be addressed in early spring. Cllr White alluded to the possibility of engaging the Community Payback Team for this task.

7.4 Drainage in Daffodil Park: Cllr White updated councillors on his email sent to the farm owner of the fields adjacent to Daffodil Park, seeking consent for drainage work. Despite the farmer's previous reluctance, expressed in meetings with the drainage contractor, there was no response to the email. Cllr White proposed direct contact with the farmer to ascertain his current stance.

Considering the possibility of an uncooperative stance from the farmer, councillors discussed alternatives. These included accepting the long-term drainage issue, and becoming reconciled to the inevitability that Daffodil Field will experience annual flooding and waterlogging during winter. Another option involved raising the pathway through the

field, creating bunds and flood banks to constrain the water to ensure that public access can be maintained.

Action: Cllr White to follow up on his email with the farmer to clarify his position.

7.5 North Yorkshire Annual Consultation: Councillors noted that following the launch of the Unitary Authority the executive of North Yorkshire Council is increasingly seeking to engage with local communities in setting strategic objectives and operational policies. Such outreach programmes will be to the long-term advantage of residents. Councillors recognise that it will be important for the Parish to contribute and express their views in these exchanges.

7.6 Sale of Parish Council Equipment: Councillors, pleased with the success of the jet wash sale, reaffirmed their commitment to selling other surplus Parish Council equipment. The items earmarked for sale include the projector, PA system, and speed gun. The Council decided to utilise online platforms and social media channels to advertise and facilitate the sale of these items.

7.7 Gas Tank Enclosure: The Clerk provided an update, confirming the acquisition of a copy of the land registration title. This document substantiates that the Gas Enclosure in Daffodil Park is owned by Calor Gas.

Councillors considered the position taken by Northern Energy who currently deny all responsibility for the management and upkeep of the enclosure. Given the information clarifying ownership there is a clear liability on the part of Northern Energy who took over the facility some years ago.

Action: Cllr Thompson to take up this matter with Northern Energy, the new owners, requesting them to acknowledge their responsibilities.

7.8 HGV movement on Gravel Hill Lane: The item was discussed during the open public forum.

8.0 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:

8.1.1.1 An email from PC Sarah Ward of the North Yorkshire Police Neighbourhood Policing Team, attaching a copy of her January 2024 newsletter for circulation among the community. Noted.

8.1.1.2 An email from the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner's engagement team reporting on the appointment of Tim Forber as the next Chief Constable. Noted

8.1.1.3 An email the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner's engagement team reminding councillors of the survey gathering community views on how much should be invested in local policing, and fire and rescue services. Noted

8.1.1.4 An email forwarded to Cllr White from a local resident expressing safety concerns about the play equipment in the George and Dragon. Concern noted. It was considered by Councillors that this is a matter that must be dealt with by the tenants and owners of the pub.

8.1.2 Social Media

8.1.2.1 Cllr Humphrey advised that there was nothing posted onto social media, directly concerning matters relating to the Parish Council. General comments were posted concerning a wild pony that was caught in Daffodil Park and securely restrained before being taken by owners of the Donkey Sanctuary, reports on the fire in the Rosslyn derelict property, and concerns about the proposed housing development in Eggborough.

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

9.1.1 ZG2023/1098/HPA, Heathcotes Ltd, Whitley Farm Close. Demolish and rebuild conservatory and entrance porch. Noted with no comments.

9.1.2 ZG2023/1167/FUL, All Saints Church, conversion of church to residential dwelling and erection of granny annex and double garage. Noted no comments.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 16/01/2024:

Bank/Account	Income since 1st April 2023	Expenditure since 1st April 2023		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	139.42			15,352.54	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	12,252.00	15,034.11		2,289.07	No interest
Total Bank Balances				17,641.61	
Less following funds:					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field		1,798.71 12,230.00	
Total Allocated funds				14,028.71	
Parish Council Bank Funds		-Future Development and facility provision –Buildings, ROS & Nature Reserve -Public Liability Insurance -Clerk Remuneration -Donations -Management costs -Repairs -Unexpected/unforeseeable expenditure.		3,612.90	
VAT due for reclaim				2,553.56	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds				6,166.46	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary analysing, month by month, the actual receipts and payments up to January 2024, with a forecast of income and expenditure for the remainder of the year to March 2024. Income to date is £12,181 including the second tranche of precept received in October 2023 and the proceeds of sale of the jet wash for £90.

Total expenditure up to 31st March 2024 is anticipated to amount to £29,863. This amount is predicated on the planned drainage work in Daffodil Park being completed during early spring. The balance of reserves carried forward at the end of the year is forecast to be £6,216.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22561	PKF – External Audit	252.00
22562	P Harrison – internal audit	123.75
22563	J R Hunter Clerk Salary	494.30
22564	HMRC – PAYE	123.60
22564	Wicksteed – playground inspection	356.40
22567	Glasdon – memorial bench	879.79

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: £
BACS	Renato Boi	780.00
22559	Marshalls Hotbin	575.00
22560	Whitley Allotment Association	70.84
22555	Cancellation of cheque to K Walton re Over 80's	-400.00
22557	K Walton – Over 80's hampers replaced cheque 22555	367.11

11.0 Recreational Open Space in Whitley:

11.1 Parks and Verges:

11.1.1 Parks & Playground Maintenance: Councillors reviewed the content of the playground inspection report conducted by Wicksteed. Reference was made to the risk assessment attached to all items of play equipment. It was noted that while there are areas of maintenance required there is nothing that is critical to the health and safety of children using the facilities.

Action: Cllr Thompson will attend the play area in Daffodil Park and inspect the equipment specified in the report. Cllr Barber to attend the play area's in Blackthorn Close and Lee View, and inspect the equipment specified in the relevant reports.

11.1.2 Community Payback Scheme: Cllr White provided a further update on the Parish Council's access to support from the Community Payback Scheme (CPS). The outstanding issue remains the access by members of the team to toilet facilities within the village. Given the prohibition by the Whitley & Eggborough Community Primary School in granting access to the school facilities it remained likely that the Parish Council would not be able to

engage with the CPS. However, team leaders of the Scheme have indicated that portable welfare vehicles may be acquired for use by the team members. If such an arrangement is enabled, then the Parish Council will be able to re-engage with the initiative. This would mean that maintenance work could recommence, including path clearance in the park, cut back of the hazel thicket, and management of vegetation in the play areas.

11.1.3 Verge Cutting: Councillors anticipated the launch of the grass and verge cutting season would commence in the spring. Prior to this it was considered desirable that discussions with the contractor, George Fillingham be initiated to specify requirements and negotiate costs. Such discussions would include the suitable management of the Nature Reserve.

12.0 A19 Safety:

12.1 Speeding on A19: There was nothing to report on this item.

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 Cllr Cole made observations on the work being conducted by Quickline utilities who are installing underground broadband and telecoms facilities. The work has been carried out without any prior notification to residents.

13.2 Cllr White suggested that the Parish Council may choose to organise a community litter pick, scheduled for late spring.

13.3 Cllr White commented on the village planters, and that he had carried out some clearing of the bulbs and vegetation.

13.4 Cllr White reminded Councillors of his attempts to engage with the Eggborough Power in seeking update on the status of the Gale Common Ash Extraction Project. He advised that there have been no responses to his emails. However, he will continue to chase the management to arrange a meeting.

14.0 Confirm the date, time and place of next meeting:

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 9:10 pm