

# Whitley Parish Council

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

## **2. Open Public Forum (OPF), 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

2.1. A member of the public expressed their frustration at the history of the infrequent attendance at the Parish Council meetings of Cllr Debbie White the Selby Councillor for the Whitley Ward. Cllr Humphrey pointed out that her regular attendance would have been difficult given the schedule of the Selby Council meetings that were also held on a Tuesday evening. Notwithstanding, the member of the public suggested that given that the Gale Common Motor Cross and Gale Common Extraction agenda items were of significant concern for the village the presence of the duly elected Council representative would demonstrate support.

Cllr White's intention not to stand for re-election in May was noted and a member of the public questioned whether the successful successor Councillor may be persuaded to attend Parish meetings on a regular basis.

2.2. It was observed over the week end that a further Gale Common Motor Cross meet had taken place and Caravan's and Motor Homes had been observed leaving the site along Whitfield Lane.

2.3. A member of the public commented on the Gale Common Extraction Project and expressed grave concerns that despite the tabling of 3 options for consideration of the proposed route for the HGV transport vehicles, in their opinion the decision to route all traffic along Whitefield Lane has already been made.

2.4. At 7.15 pm the OPF was closed.

## **Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex Building Ref 13/19**

3. Present: Cllr S Humphrey, Cllr F Blackburn, Cllr S Cole, Cllr J White, Cllr Walton and Clerk to the Council J Hunter.

### **4. Apologies:**

4.1. Apologies for absence Cllr J Watson and Cllr A Coney.

### **5. Declaration of interests:**

5.1. There were no declaration of interests made.

### **6. Minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

6.1. The Council agreed the minutes presented were a true record of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and accordingly the minutes were signed by the Chair.

## 7. Ongoing matters for information and action as required:

- 7.1. **Whitley Community Group:** Cllr Humphrey referred to an email he had received from Christine Slater and circulated to Councillors that she wished it to be noted she was no longer the secretary to and had removed herself from the group. She also indicated that other group members had left although there had been no further confirmations from Mr David Broadbent the Chairman of the Group. The issue of the constitution of the Community Group was raised and the Clerk advised the meeting that Mr Broadbent had previously shared the constitutional documentation and bank account with him, and everything seemed to be in order. Cllr Humphrey suggested that given the fact that there were no further developments concerning the Church there is no requirement to make any decisions concerning the ongoing relationship of the Parish Council with the Whitley Community Group at this stage.

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had received due notice from Leeds Diocese that the Bishop of Leeds had reviewed the proposal and approved its submission to the Church Commissioners. If the Commissioners prepare a draft scheme to give effect to the proposals, an opportunity will be given for the interested parties and others to make representations for or against the draft.

**Action:** Cllr Humphrey will email Mr Broadbent requesting an update on the current status of the Whitley Community Group

- 7.2. **Gale Common Motor Cross:** The Clerk advised the Council that following the previous Parish Council meeting that he had emailed the several neighbouring parish councils seeking their position or objections in the matter of the Motor Cross planning application. Contact had been attempted with the Clerks of Kellington, Eggborough, Cridling Stubbs, Beal and Wormesley with responses from Eggborough, Cridling Stubbs and Wormesley who confirmed that the matter had been raised as an issue and undertook to provide further update as the issue was discussed within their respective Councils.

Cllr Humphrey updated the meeting on the follow up actions set in last months Council meeting. The original plan to correspond with Selby District Council expressing concerns regarding the present breaches by Gale Common Motor Cross of their current planning permissions has been overtaken by subsequent events and actions undertaken by Laura Watkinson prospective District Councillor for Whitley Ward. Laura had made contact with Cllr Richard Musgrave and Cllr M Crane and had been advised that enforcement action was evidenced based and unlikely to succeed until the current planning application has been considered.

Cllr Humphrey also shared with the Council details of his discussion with a professional planning consultant Katie Atkinson who provided some guidance on how to approach objections to such planning applications. She confirmed that she would be qualified to act in the matter and her fees would be £65.00 per hour or £450 per day. Having reviewed the planning application she advised that the principle of the running of the Motor Cross events has been established and in practice in her opinion the approval of the increase in the number of events will be passed. Whilst, a professional agent could speak at the proposed planning meeting on behalf of the Council, this would not carry the same weight as an actual member of the Council making direct representations to the planning committee. However, she could if required provide some guidance on the content of the representation to the committee meeting and in connection with the issue of breaches to planning she could act directly on the Councils behalf in progressing the objections with Selby District Council and if necessary, the Planning Inspectorate. This would take some 2 to 3 days of her time.

Cllr White confirmed that he was prepared to speak on behalf of the Council at the planning meeting bringing to its attention the following concerns and issues for consideration:

- The inappropriate noise levels presently experienced by residents of the village from the various Motor Cross events.
- The failure of the Gale Common Motor Cross to meet the undertakings required of their present planning permission, in particular the construction of bunds to provide some dampening of noise levels.
- The persistent breach by Gale Common Motor Cross in running events that exceed the number currently permitted within the current planning consent.
- The presently unapproved expansion of the Gale Common Motor Cross with further agricultural land adjacent to the site being acquired and construction of additional facilities commenced without the requisite planning permission.
- Concerns from the Council that given the current unconstrained breaches what further unauthorised expansion will follow if additional planning authority is granted.

The Council discussed the advantages of consulting with the planning agent in gaining some guidance and advice in the preparation of its representation to the planning committee meeting.

**Proposed:** Cllr Cole seconded by Cllr Blackthorn that the Council engage Katie Atkinson or other agent she may recommend in providing 2 to 3 hours of time in offering the necessary advice in preparation for Cllr White to speak at the Planning Committee meeting. **Carried:** Unanimously.

**Action:** Clerk to confirm date of planning committee meeting and register Cllr White as speaker on behalf of Council.

**Action:** Cllr Humphrey to approach Katie Atkinson and co-ordinate the provision of relevant advice and guidance with Cllr White.

7.3. **Gale Common Extraction Project:** The Councillors discussed their current understanding of the proposals being considered in the transport of extraction from Gale Common. Based upon information gathered at the community consultation presentations recently conducted;

- Three routes from Gale Common onto the M62 have been evaluated; 1) Kellington, 2) Eggborough 3) Whitefield Lane, Whitley.
- It is understood that the preferred route is via Whitley on the grounds that this is the shortest distance onto the M62.
- It is anticipated there will be between 120 to 170 HGV diesel vehicles of 44 tonne gross vehicle weight passing out of and returning into Gale Common per day an average of 3 per minute.
- The planning application is targeted to be requested sometime during May 2019.

The meeting considered the gravity of the proposal and the serious impact on the village from the extent of the proposed vehicle movement including:

- Suitability of the Whitefield Lane to accommodate and handle such a volume of HGV traffic.
- The noise levels to be expected throughout the day.

- The hazardous nature of the traffic movement accompanied by the danger from toxic fumes especially given the proximity of Whitefield Lane to the Whitefield Primary School.
- The necessity for road management systems to be provisioned to deal with the volume anticipated traffic at the junction of Whitefield Lane and Doncaster Road.

**Action:** Cllr Walton to raise the issue with North Yorkshire County Councillor John McCartney and arrange an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council with NYCC McCartney to gain advice, express concerns and consider practical action that can be taken in the matter.

7.4. **Donations:** In the absence of any suggestions for further charitable donations the matter will be carried forward until Councillors present nominations for consideration based on criteria to maximise benefit to residents of Whitley village.

#### 8. **Correspondence received:**

8.1. The Clerk advised the meeting that there was no general correspondence to be considered other than those received that were included in the specific agenda items of this meeting.

8.2. Cllr White asked whether there were any regular magazines produced by professional bodies to which the Parish Council are connected such as the Yorkshire Council Association. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish subscribed to a monthly news letter for Councils and Clerks that he can forward to Councillors.

**Action:** The Clerk to forward details of journals, updates or new letters to Councillors as received through online sources.

#### 9. **Planning Matters:**

9.1. The Clerk informed the meeting of three planning applications within the village that had been submitted in the month, regarding the following properties:

- 9.1.1. The Paddocks Templar Close – proposed formation of menage
- 9.1.2. Firs Court – certification for proposed erection of single storey extension
- 9.1.3. Toffee House – notification of erection of stepped single storey rear extension.

9.2. The Council discussed the process by which details of planning applications relevant to Whitley village can be notified to Councillors. It was agreed that the weekly list of planning applications emailed to the Clerk from Selby Planning support will be forwarded on to all Councillors for review. Any Whitley planning application included in the list can be inspected by Councillors via the Selby Planning web portal after which any comments / objections should be emailed to the Clerk for online submission.

9.3. Cllr White raised a planning issue in connection with Poplar Farm Close. He understood from posts on social media and on highway notices that there may be some planning variations required in connection with the nature of the building materials.

## 10. Council Finance & Administration.

10.1. **RFO Report as at 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019:** The Clerk presented the following financial summary of income and expenditure to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

Bank/Account	Income since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018	Expenditure since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018	Of which is 106 expenditure	Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	341.02	3,000.00	Nil	73,403.24	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	15,576.35	14,997.28	4,683.95	976.58	No interest
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>				<b><u>74,379.82</u></b>	
<b>Less following funds:</b>					
Protected 106 funds		3 x Play areas/ROS and the Tree Lines.		52,804.45	
Other protected funds		A19, WHS Defibrillator fund		3,144.65 355.00 <u>69.60</u> 3,569.25	
Total Protected funds				56,373.70	
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>				68,775.10	
<b>Balance:</b>					
<b>Unprotected funds available to the Council</b>		Current account balance + 106 Funds available to transfer		<b><u>5,604.72</u></b>	Excludes cheques payable in 10.5

10.2. **Accounts Payable:** The following cheque payments were approved, and the cheques prepared and signed.

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22350	Whitley & Eggborough CP School	117.00
22351	J R Hunter	572.78
22352	HMRC – PAYE	153.20
22353	Hambleton & Richmond CAB	300.00
22354	Selby District Council – Chairman's Appeal	150.00
22355	Selby District Vision	100.00
22356	Kellington & Whitley Church	100.00

- 10.3. The meeting noted the further anticipated expenditure for the remainder of the financial year to March 2019 which included cost of waste bin for the Nature Reserve, replacement fencing for the Blackthorn Close Play Area, the Clerks salary to end of March and any other items of expenditure that may be approved during the remainder of the financial year.

## 11. Recreational Open Space in Whitley:

### 11.1. ROS and Play Areas:

- 11.1.1. The damage to the fencing on the Blackthorn Close Play Area was discussed; the Clerk advised the Council that the road contractors had confirmed that they had not attended the site following completion of the road surfacing to remove the surplus tarmac. Cllr White informed the meeting that he had spoken with the farmer on whose land the surfacing material had been left and that the farmer was unaware of the damage and could not provide any insight. A local resident had indicated that they had observed a vehicle on the site collecting the tarmac late one afternoon but could not add anything further concerning the incident. The Clerk informed the Council that he had obtained a quote for the replacement of the fencing amounting to £260.00 plus VAT and was awaiting receipt of an alternative quote for comparison.

**Action:** The replacement fence to be actioned as quickly as possible at a budget of £300.00.

- 11.1.2. There was nothing much to report in connection with the other public spaces. Dog fouling continues to present as a problem in certain areas and proves to cause for some justifiable frustration from residents. It was remarked that drainage of Daffodil Field was much improved. It was speculated that this may be due in part to the recent installation of the pumping station together with the mild favourable weather conditions experienced over the winter. Mole infestation may be a problem that at some point will need to be addressed.

- 11.1.3. Cllr White reported that he had been in touch with the Community Pay Back team with a view to booking their service in the coppicing of the trees and scrubs.

### 11.2. Parks and Verges:

- 11.2.1. Cllr White advised that he had procured 12 "Dog Fouling" signs from a local printer Signetext Ltd who had provided these free of charge. The signs have been located at various points throughout the village.

**Proposed:** Cllr White seconded by Cllr Humphrey, by way of thanks to the printer a £25.00 donation to the cancer charity nominated by the printer be made to Myeloma Trust. **Carried** Unanimously.

- 11.2.2. The absence of the litter bin by the bus shelter near the George and Dragon was noted. Given the potential development of the property located by the bus shelter and therefore its likely relocation the Council do not consider it appropriate at this point to replace the bin.

- 11.3. **Repair / Maintenance of Underpass:** This item is to be carried forward for review at a future meeting.

- 11.4. **Community Litter Pick:** Cllr White updated the meeting on his communication with Selby District Council "Keep Britain Tidy" Campaign. He confirmed that SDC would provide all the necessary equipment for the event; litter picker tools, high vis jackets, gloves and plastics bags. He outlined his thoughts on the logistics for such an event; to be arranged for a Saturday morning in April before the Easter Break; the village to be split into zones with volunteers collecting at the George and Dragon to be grouped into teams to cover the

various locations meeting back at the George and Dragon for a coffee sponsored by the Council; likely dates will be 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> April or 16<sup>th</sup> April. The Parish will be required to complete a risk assessment form included within which will be confirmation of public liability insurance.

The merit of a grass cut in anticipation of the event was considered and will be assessed as the time approaches.

**Action:** Clerk to confirm relevant public liability insurance with insurers.

- 11.5. **Replacement of bench on Whitfield Lane:** Cllr Humphrey advised the meeting that following an inspection of the bench by he and Cllr White both had agreed the bench is beyond repair and needs replacing.

**Proposed:** Cllr Blackburn seconded Cllr Cole, a budget of £800 be allocated for the purchase and installation of a replacement bench at the corner of Whitfield Lane and Doncaster Road.

**Action:** Councillors / Clerk source alternative suppliers for review of the options at the next Parish Meeting in March.

- 11.6. **Other issues or matters to report:**

- 11.6.1. Litter bin on Learning Lane is leaning over; it seems that has been pulled over and needs levelling up.

**Action:** Clerk to request Jim Taylor to level up and reposition the litter bin on Learning Lane.

- 11.6.2. Cllr White commented on the tree line walk between Blackthorn Close and Lee Lane and suggested that some cutting back of the bushes be carried out in Spring to ease passage along the path. Cllr Humphrey questioned whether some cutting back of the brambles in the open area by Lee Lane Play Area would be also be required. Cllr White reminded the Council that the Community Payback team had in the past undertaken some maintenance of the brambles the only issue being the appropriate provision of portable toilet facilities.

**Action:** Clerk to refer matter of tree cutting to Huw Forestry and obtain quotation for this work. Cllr White to investigate the deployment of the Community Payback team to manage the brambles.

- 11.6.3. Cllr White mentioned the conversation he had with Garmsway regarding the overgrown conifers and suggested he would contact them again to follow up.

## 12. A19 Safety Matters:

- 12.1. **Speed Camera Data:** Cllr White updated the Council on his meeting with Darren Griffith of North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department in connection with the current VAS sign located at the North End of the village. It was confirmed that the sign is beyond repair and would need replacing, the capital cost of which would be met by the Highways Department, but they would request that the Parish Council cover the cost of its relocation. Possible sites for the replacement sign were discussed one being on the Northbound side at Copper Beech Drive the other being on land on which the village planter is located. The Council would need to consult with nearby residents to gain their support to the location of the VAS sign. The Councillors debated the merits of the siting at the alternative locations and agreed that it would need to be positioned to achieve maximum effect and as such alongside the Planter would be favoured. A member of the public whose residence is opposite this favoured site and would be affected by the sign recognised the need for the deployment as a contribution to traffic control.

**Proposed:** Cllr White seconded Cllr Humphrey, the Parish Council agree to the procurement of the VAS sign for siting at an approved and appropriate location and agree to make a contribution of £500 towards the fixing of the sign.

**Action:** Cllr White and the Clerk liaise with North Yorkshire County Council in the provisioning of the VAS sign.

12.2. **Double Yellow Lines Whitley Farm Close:** Confirmation of the planned yellow lining of Whitley Farm Close has been posted by North Yorkshire County Councillor John McCartney.

12.3. **Road markings in village:** The Clerk shared with the Council the contents of an email he had received from Selby District Council Area 7 which advised that the Highways Officer has been out to inspect and raise an order to include refreshing road markings at the junctions in the village where the fading meets the criteria set out in the Highways Safety Inspection Manual. It also confirmed that the A19 through the village was to be surface dressed in April at which time all lining will be undertaken.

### 13. AOB

13.1. **Christmas Tree and Lighting Event 2019:** Cllr Cole advised the Council that she has been approached by a resident of the village who is happy to assist in the planning of the Christmas Lighting event for 2019. Cllr Cole shared her ambition to extend Christmas Lighting throughout the village and to that end through recommendation from Sherburn Council has identified a specialist supplier of lighting to explore costs and logistics. The Council recognised that the cost of such facility could be substantial and appropriate sponsorship would be necessary to support the financing of the provision.

13.2. **Parish Council Elections 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019:** The Clerk presented details of the timetable for the forthcoming Council Elections set for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. Key dates are:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> March - first date for the completion of Nomination Forms for Parish post of Parish Councillor together with Candidates Consent to Nomination
- 18<sup>th</sup> March – date for the publication of notice of election issued by Selby District Council to be posted onto the Parish Council notice boards
- 18<sup>th</sup> March – first date for the hand delivery of nomination papers to Selby District Council with a deadline date of Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April.
- 4<sup>th</sup> April – Selby District Council to publish statement of persons nominated for Parish Council. If more than 7 nominations received a Parish Election will be called to be organised and managed under the direction of Selby District Council Democratic Services Department.
- 6<sup>th</sup> June – last date for the delivery of details of election expenses with nil return required if no expenses are incurred.

The Clerk distributed copies of the Nomination and Candidate Consent Forms and provided guidance of the completion of the two documents.

**Action:** Councillors to complete Nomination Form and Candidate Consent Forms, Clerk to collect Councillors forms and hand deliver to Selby District Council Democratic Services.

### 14. Confirm date and time of next meeting:

14.1. **Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.00pm, Whitley & Eggborough School.

15. **Meeting Closed:** 9:15 pm.