

# Whitley Parish Council

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

## 2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025

2.1 Members of the public present at the meeting had no comments or questions to be addressed by the Parish Council.

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 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 08/25

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

### 4.0 Apologies for absence:

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thompson.

### 5.0 Disclosure of interest:

5.1 Cllr Patley declared an interest in the submission of a planning application for a property within Whitley Parish.

### 6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**Action:** The Clerk to present to the Chair for signature.

### 7.0 Matters for information and action as required:

7.1 **Offer of Land from Tunstall Family and Harron Homes:** Representatives from Harron Homes were unable to attend due to illness. Councillors discussed the offer and the plot of land with its location behind Whitley Lodge. Uncertainty remains regarding the full intentions of the offer beyond that which was discussed during the onsite meeting in November 2024 with Cllrs White and Thompson. The proposed development includes 80-100 houses, with an adjacent plot near the M62 offered to the Parish Council for community open space. Cllr White suggested submitting written questions to seek clarification on the motives and details of the proposition, ahead of Harron Homes future attendance.

**Action:** Clerk to draft and submit written questions to Harron Homes, before their rescheduled attendance at a Parish Council meeting.

7.2 **Improvements to Nature Reserve:** Cllr Cole reported that progress has been made in vegetation management, with future discussions planned to formalise the long-term maintenance commitments. Collaboration with members of Monaghan Mushrooms team has led to significant improvements, including vegetation clearance and bramble control. Outstanding tasks, include repairing the entrance fencing and managing the growth of the perimeter hedges. A future management programme will be discussed with Monaghan

Mushrooms to define their ongoing role, including the siting of two benches they have procured on behalf of the village.

**Action:** Cllr Cole to attend the meeting with Monaghan Mushrooms on 28<sup>th</sup> February, to discuss ongoing maintenance within the Nature Reserve, together with the placement of the two benches.

**7.3 Oak Tree at Lee View Park:** The Clerk presented two quotes for tree management; Renato Bio (£1,330) and Huw Forestry (£1,550). The work included the felling of two trees in Daffodil Park, the management of an Oak Tree in Lee View, and Oak Trees in the Play Area at Blackthorn Close. Councillors focused on the resident of Lee View's concern regarding pruning the higher branches of the Oak Tree near the Lee View Play Area (£280). This tree was assessed as structurally sound, with no defect or weakness apparent in its upper branches. Councillors agreed that, prior to proceeding with any work, the residents concerned should be consulted on the extent of the proposed pruning.

**Action:** Cllr White and Cllr Barber to meet with residents, to discuss the proposed pruning work.

**7.4 Christmas Lights and Tree:** Councillors discussed the opportunities and potential for the provision of a Christmas Light display in the village. Whitley has over 40 lamp posts along the A19, that would require structural inspection and electric supply installation before Christmas lights can be installed. The Estimated cost per post, based on historic prices is £300 for electrical installation, and £150 per annum for a three-year rental of light fittings. Minimum cover to provide a reasonable display (10 lamp posts) would require an initial cost of £3,000, with an annual cost of £1,500 for the Christmas display. The Parish financial reserves are insufficient to cover the capital outlay; the project would therefore require sponsorship and donations. There is also, limited evidence of strong community demand beyond a few comments on social media.

Following discussion, given the financial constraints and lack of a clear community demand, the Parish Council determined that the project is not feasible at this time.

**7.5 Grant application Gale Common Community Fund:** Cllr White reported that the application for Community Grant has been submitted for consideration by Eggborough Power.

**7.6 Community Newsletter:** Cllr Humphrey presented an A5 template for the newsletter leaflet. The front cover will feature a seasonal image, the back page will contain standing information (councillor details, meeting dates, North Yorkshire Council and police contacts etc). The two inner pages will be allocated for community content.

The proposed publication, and distribution date is early in the Council's management year, following the Annual General Meeting in May.

**Action:** Councillors to consider, suggest and present copy of relevant topics for inclusion in the newsletter ready for the next meeting of the Parish Council on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

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

**8.1** Emails and correspondence.

**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 North Yorkshire Council's Parish Liaison, regarding the forthcoming public release of 'call for sites' submissions as part of the new North Yorkshire Local Plan. The release includes sites proposed for various uses, predominantly residential. Parish councils are being informed in advance as residents may raise inquiries.
  
- 8.1.1.2 An email from North Yorkshire Council's Parish Liaison providing the January 2025 Parish Update
  
- 8.1.1.3 An update was received from National Highways regarding the A1 Wentbridge Viaduct and Wentedge Road Pier works. The project is currently in Phase 3 and remains on schedule for completion by the end of August 2025. To minimize disruption, Wentedge Road pier works have been brought forward. A safety camera van will be redeployed at a lower frequency due to cost considerations. A two-day HGV survey is being conducted to identify and address violations of weight restrictions.
  
- 8.1.1.4 An email from PC Sarah Ward of North Yorkshire Police, providing the February 2025 newsletter for the Osgoldcross Ward. The newsletter contains updates on local policing matters, including crime reports and community safety initiatives.
  
- 8.1.1.5 An email from North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison, providing a copy of the presentation from the Selby and Ainsty Parish Liaison meeting held on 30th January at Selby Town Hall.
  

Cllr White observed. that the objective of these regular meetings by North Yorkshire Council is to meet their commitment, with the loss of a District Council, to get closer to Parish and Town Councils. Contact points are now provided to support engagement.

  
- 8.1.1.6 North Yorkshire Council has announced that residents can now purchase garden waste licences for the 2025 season. The licence costs £49 and covers fortnightly collections from March to early December for one 240-litre wheelie bin.
  
- 8.1.1.7 An email from Sandra Morgan, a resident of Silver Street reporting an issue of parking opposite their driveway and thus restricting access for over 11 hours. Sandra had been advised by North Yorkshire Council to refer the issue to Whitley Parish Councillors.
  
- 8.1.1.8 An email from North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison, informs the council about the **Communities Innovating Yorkshire Fund**.
  
- 8.1.1.9 National Highways provided an update on the ongoing **A1 Wentbridge Viaduct and Wentedge Road Bridge** works. Due to unforeseen ground issues, the timeline for planned overnight closures has been adjusted. From 21 February until late June 2025, **Wentedge Road** will be closed to vehicles, though pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders can still use it. Overnight closures will continue, with specific dates for northbound and southbound lanes from 17 February to 8 March 2025. Diversion routes will be clearly signed. Updates will be shared on the National Highways project

page and social media, with further details available by contacting the customer support team.

- 8.1.1.10** Kathryn Allison, a resident of **Whitley**, expressed concerns about the lack of transport options in the village, particularly for her son who is attending Selby College and has secured a job in Selby.

Cllr White reported on recent changes to the Arriva bus timetable. North Yorkshire Council's grant funding has enabled an additional hourly service for Kellington and Eggborough. However, this extended service does not include Whitley, which remains on a two-hour service. Arriva executives responded to requests for additional services by stating that demand from Whitley residents is too low to justify increased provision. The bus service for Whitley therefore remains unchanged.

- 8.1.1.11** PC Sarah Ward, from **North Yorkshire Police** informed the Parish Council about a **Coffee Morning** being organized by the Methodist Church in **Eggborough**, to raise funds for Parkinson's disease. She requested that, the event be advertised across local villages, including Whitley.

- 8.1.1.12** Sarah Betts, a resident of the village, inquired about the availability of allotment space in Whitley. She expressed interest in either applying for a full allotment, a half-plot, or sharing a plot with another resident.

- 8.1.1.13** Diane Steward, School Business Manager at **Whitley & Eggborough Community Primary School**, requested funding for **'Little Traffic People' road safety parking buddies**. These units have been on loan but are being collected next week, and the school will be without them. Diane mentioned that some parish councils in the Selby area have funded these units and asked if Whitley Parish Council could consider contributing to the purchase. The cost per unit is £185, and she suggested splitting the cost with **Eggborough Parish Council** if both councils agree to fund them.

**Action:** Request for a donation to be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

- 8.1.1.14** A text message from Albert Evans, the operator of travelling amusements, seeking to liaise with Whitley Parish concerning his interest in acquiring land adjacent to Templar Close for the winter storage and repair of amusement rides. The Council noted the enquiry but recognised that Mr Evans is in further discussions with North Yorkshire Council to establish the feasibility of site access.

**Action:** Await further updates from Albert Evans following his engagement with North Yorkshire Council.

## **8.1.2** Social Media

- 8.1.2.1** Cllr Humphrey observed that many of the matters referenced in the email correspondence have been posted by North Yorkshire Councillor McCartney on his personal Facebook pages. Cllr White

commented on an item posted by a resident on Templar Close, complaining about the extent of dog mess

**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** ZG2025/0158/HPA, Garage conversion to create a playroom. 16, Hollybush Close, Whitley. Noted without comment.

**9.1.2** ZG2025/0104/S73, Section 73 application to vary condition 02 (plans) of approval 2021/0268/FUL Erection of 6 dwellings and garages (amended proposal) Land Off, Larth Close, Whitley. Details to be shared with Parish Councillors.

**9.1.3** ZG2024/0606/FUL, Demolition of existing cottage and the erection of 2 semi-detached houses and 1 detached house, Blenheim House, Doncaster Road. Notes without comment.

**10.0 Council Finance & Administration:**

**10.1 RFO Report as at 25/02/2025:**

<b>Bank/Account</b>	<b>Income since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024</b>	<b>Expenditure since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024</b>	<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>Notes/Comment</b>
Santander Deposit	148.80		15,541.28	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	16,981.67	10,513.47	8,990.77	No interest
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>			<b>24,532.05</b>	
<b>Less following funds:</b>				
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field Notice Board for Templar Close	1,798.71 8,000.00 1,970.00	
Total Allocated funds			11,768.71	
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.	12,763.34	
VAT due for reclaim			3,396.65	
<b>Total Unallocated Parish Funds</b>			<b>16,159.99</b>	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary analysing, month by month, the actual receipts and payments up to March 2025. Total anticipated income for the year, including a sum of £1,070 allocated by North Yorkshire Council from the locality budget of North Yorkshire Councillor J McCartney, was £20,633.17. This compares with total costs of £11,668.07. This generates a balance at the end of the year of £26,402.04 out of which were grants from North Yorkshire Council and community funds contractually specified for specific projects amounting to £11,768.71. The balance of unrestricted reserves available to the Parish Council were £14,633.33.

It was noted that expenditure during March will include the potential for donations to be agreed at a budget of £250 and the cost of playground inspection estimated at £300.

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

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Amount: £</b>
	G H Fillingham Ltd	522.00
	HMRC – PAYE on salary quarter to Dec 2024	123.60
	Cancel cheque to HMRC	(123.60)

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

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Amount: £</b>

**11.0 Recreational Open Space in Whitley:**

- 11.1 Parks and Verges:** The following observations concerning various matters appertaining to the Open Spaces in the Village.

- 11.1.1 Parks & Playground Maintenance:** The Clerk confirmed, that a full health and safety inspection of the playground equipment and facilities has been requested, and will be completed shortly.

Councillors discussed alternative projects for the £8,000 grant from North Yorkshire Council. It was agreed that, funds would not be used for flood prevention measures in Daffodil Field, nor on resources to counter the impact of flooding in the park, such as boardwalk installation. However, the sum would be invested in the provision of facilities for Daffodil Park.

It was noted that, whilst there is no immediate pressure from North Yorkshire Council to use the funds, efforts will be devoted to identification of suitable projects. To that end, Cllr White is obtaining quotes for equipment purchases within the £8,000 budget.

Councillors also considered the priority for maintenance of the three play areas in the village. It was debated whether Daffodil Park and Blackthorn Close should hold precedence, with the possibility of the decommissioning of Lee View Play Area, should financial resources be limited.

The presence of mole hills in Daffodil Park was noted, and it was recognised that action needs to be taken to address the issue. The Clerk advised that George Fillingham, the grass contractor, has quoted £300 for the

extermination process. Councillors debated the effectiveness of mole eradication and acknowledged that it would not provide a permanent solution. Ongoing control measures would be required to manage mole activity in the park the long-term success of which was questioned.

Councillors agreed that mole management would require continuous effort, with uncertainty over long term effectiveness.

**Action:** Clerk to engage with George Fillingham to explore the costs of operating a rolling programme for the management of moles in Daffodil Park.

Cllr Thompson reported on maintenance work required in Daffodil Park, including the cut back of hedges, the management of the compost area at the rear of the park, cut back of the dogwoods, and remove dead edging to the park. While these tasks are necessary, their completion is dependent on available resources, and without support from the Community Payback team, they will remain outstanding.

**11.1.2 Nature Reserve:** Cllr White observed that, Northern Power have yet to carry out the pruning of trees in the Nature Reserve. The Clerk advised that Northern Power have confirmed their responsibility for the pruning that will be completed in due course.

**11.1.3 Planter:** Cllr Walton and Cllr Cole anticipated the successful growth bulbs planted for display in the spring.

**11.1.4 Community Payback Team:** Cllr White advised, there are no more dates scheduled for attendance. Further dates will be notified as agreed with the Probation Service Team.

**11.1.5 Verge cutting:** Pending the commencement of the cutting season there was nothing to report.

**11.2 Other issues or matters to report:** There were no further issues or matters to discuss.

## **12.0 A19 Safety:**

**12.1** Cllr White suggested that the detailed report produced by Highways England, be published on the Parish Council website, with a post on the Whitley social media pages, directing interested residents to the document.

## **13.0 A.O.B.**

**13.1** Cllr White suggested that an update meeting be arranged with members of the Eggborough Power team of Gale Common Ash Disposal following the last session in March 2024.

**13.2** Cllr Humphrey observed that a North Yorkshire Council litter pick had been organised along the A19.

**13.3** Cllr Humphrey lamented the extent of Fly-tipping on Whitefield Lane and questioned whether the Parish Council can take any action in the interest of the community. Notwithstanding, it is on private land the fly-tipping should be notified to North Yorkshire Council.

**Action:** Clerk to communicate the issue to the North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison to consider the options available to counter the fly-tipping epidemic.

**13.4** Cllr White observed that, Kellington Parish Council had not applied for an increase in their precept. He had requested information on how they managed to maintain this despite rising grass-cutting costs but had not yet received a response.

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

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

**Closure of meeting:** 8:58 pm