

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 24th February 2026

2.1 A resident attended the meeting. No specific questions were raised; however, the resident advised that they were present to obtain an update regarding the current position on the planning application submitted by Harron Homes and any developments relating to the future of the George & Dragon public house.

2.2 The chair closed the open public forum.

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 24th February 2026 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 08/26

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

4.0 Apologies for absence:

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Humphrey.

5.0 Disclosure of interest:

5.1 There were no declarations of interest for items to be discussed at the meeting.

6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 20th Jan 2026:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 20th Jan 2026.

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

7.0 Matters for information and action as required:

7.1 **Harron Homes:** The Clerk provided an update on the current position regarding the proposed development by Harron Homes. Councillors were informed that Jonathan Scott, a consultant representing the developer who had previously attended a Parish Council meeting, had contacted the Parish Council seeking to arrange a further meeting to provide an update and discuss potential solutions to the drainage issue associated with the development.

During a telephone conversation with the Clerk, Mr Scott indicated that the developer would prefer to address councillors in a closed session, with members of the public asked to leave for that part of the meeting. Following informal consultation with several councillors, the general view was that the Parish Council would not be comfortable holding such a discussion in private, as it would not align with the principles of openness and transparency in public meetings. The request for a closed session was therefore declined.

Mr Scott explained that North Yorkshire Council planning officers had encouraged the developer to engage with the Parish Council regarding potential Section 106 contributions, particularly in relation to improvements to public open spaces should planning permission be granted.

The Clerk also reported that the statutory determination date for the planning application is currently scheduled for 20 March 2026. However, based on the conversation with Mr Scott, it is considered more likely that a decision may not be reached until later, possibly around May. The developer indicated that they remain in ongoing dialogue with North Yorkshire Council planning officers and that it would not be their intention to pursue an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate should the decision extend beyond the statutory date.

Councillors were further advised that the developer believes it has identified a potential engineering solution to the drainage issues previously raised, noting that Yorkshire Water had earlier raised objections on the grounds that the existing system could not accommodate additional capacity. It was suggested that the developer may be considering funding infrastructure improvements to address this issue.

Discussion also noted the matter of affordable housing provision. The Clerk reported that national planning policy would normally require 40% affordable housing, with an expectation that this could increase to up to 50% where development is proposed on grey belt land. The developer had indicated that delivering 50% affordable housing would not be feasible, although no formal viability assessment has yet been presented. Councillors were advised that such an assessment would be required should the developer seek to justify a lower proportion.

Further research undertaken by the Clerk indicated that housing delivery targets within the former Selby District area are currently ahead of plan and therefore not in deficit. It was noted that, while the Parish Council has limited power to influence the final planning decision, it may continue to make representations and ensure that North Yorkshire Council adheres to the relevant planning policies and procedures. If necessary, concerns regarding any failure to follow proper process could be raised with the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, although such action would not alter the planning outcome.

Councillors considered the suggestion that the Parish Council engage with the developer in discussions regarding potential Section 106 contributions for the improvement or enhancement of public open spaces.

Several concerns were expressed during the discussion. Councillors noted that entering discussions regarding financial contributions from the developer could be perceived by residents as an attempt to influence or secure the Parish Council's support for the development. It was also highlighted that any improvements to public open spaces or the provision of additional facilities would likely create ongoing maintenance responsibilities, which could place an additional financial burden on the Parish Council.

Councillors further expressed strong reservations regarding the developer's request to hold discussions in a closed session. It was agreed that such an approach would not reflect the principles of openness and transparency expected in local government and could give rise to perceptions of inappropriate influence. Councillors reiterated that Parish Council meetings are publicly advertised and provide an appropriate and transparent forum for representations to be made, and that discussions of this nature should not take place in private.

It was agreed that North Yorkshire Council should be contacted to raise concerns regarding the developer's attempt to engage with the Parish Council in this manner and to clarify whether such an approach had been encouraged by the planning department. Councillors also requested that the Clerk identify the planning officer responsible for the application so that direct communication can be established. Councillors reaffirmed that the Parish Council's position in relation to the proposed development remains unchanged. The Council continues to object to the application on the grounds of development within the Green Belt, concerns regarding the drainage of

open spaces within the village, and the inadequacy of the existing sewerage infrastructure to accommodate additional capacity.

Actions:

- The Clerk to contact North Yorkshire Council to seek clarification regarding the developer's approach and whether engagement of this nature has been encouraged by the planning authority.
- The Clerk to identify the planning officer responsible for the application and establish direct communication.
- The Parish Council's continuing objection to the development to be reiterated in any correspondence with the planning authority.

7.2 Road Safety Issues: Cllr White provided a summary of a virtual meeting held with the Deputy Mayor of North Yorkshire Council regarding road safety concerns within Whitley Parish. The meeting had been prompted by correspondence from a resident who had contacted the mayor to raise concerns about traffic management on the A19.

During the meeting, the Deputy Mayor explained that North Yorkshire Council has undertaken extensive surveys and studies to assess road safety issues across the county. As a result, the Council intends to adopt an approach like that used in West Yorkshire, involving the installation of both fixed and variable speed cameras. Funding for this initiative has been identified for the forthcoming financial year.

It was noted that a panel of specialists will determine the locations for the cameras, with priority being given to areas demonstrating the greatest road safety risk. Decisions will be informed primarily by data relating to road deaths and serious accidents. While the implementation of the scheme will take time, it was acknowledged that progress is being made.

For Whitley, the section of the A19 between Silver Street and the motorway was identified as the area of local interest. Cllr White also reported that existing speed camera data indicates that most vehicles are travelling within the speed limit, with approximately 80% recorded at speeds below 40 mph. It was noted that police enforcement activity generally focuses on more significant breaches of the speed limit, and that speeds of around 35 mph would not typically prompt police intervention.

Cllr White further observed that the reopening of the A1 has significantly reduced the volume of traffic travelling through the village. It was also suggested that the impact of the police mobile speed camera van is limited, as drivers often warn others of its presence.

Action: Cllr White to communicate with the resident who raised the original concerns to provide an update on the content of the meeting and outline North Yorkshire Council's planned approach to road safety

7.3 Gravel Hill Lane: The Clerk reported on the response received from Gary Lumb of North Yorkshire Council Highways regarding the provision of 30 mph road signs on Gravel Hill Lane. It was confirmed that, under statute, "repeater signs" are not required on highways and, as such, additional 30 mph signs will not be installed along the length of Gravel Hill Lane. However, repeater signposts will be added where the street lighting ends and the road enters an unlit section, extending up to the entrance of the Mushroom Farm.

Cllr White highlighted the previous discussion on the potential installation of speed bumps along Gravel Hill Lane. It was noted that feedback from residents regarding the desirability of speed bumps should be sought. Residents will also be encouraged to make direct representations to North Yorkshire Police to request monitoring of traffic speeds and movements on this section of the road.

It was further reported that the movable speed monitoring sign has recently been installed on Gravel Hill Lane to collect data on vehicle speeds and traffic volumes, which will provide information on traffic movements.

7.4 Water Pressure: The Clerk reported on enquiries made with neighbouring Parish Councils regarding water pressure concerns. Feedback was received from Kellington, Eggborough, Pollington, and Womersley Parish Councils, all confirming that no issues had been reported by their residents.

The Clerk also advised that contact had been made with the constituency office of Keith Mather MP to seek support in engaging with Yorkshire Water regarding the water pressure problems in Whitley. The MP's office responded positively, requesting specific examples of the issues to ensure that any engagement is substantive. It was noted that members of the MP's team are willing to communicate directly with residents who have complaints.

Action: Cllr White to post a notice on the Parish Council's social media platforms inviting residents to provide specific examples of water pressure issues for submission to the MP's office.

7.5 Succession planning for Parish Council: Cllr Councillors discussed strategies to increase resident engagement in the affairs of the Parish and to encourage active participation in village matters. The absence of a community centre was noted as a factor limiting opportunities for social and civic interaction, and it was observed that the village's main attraction is its location providing convenient access to major urban centres in North, East, and South Yorkshire, rather than serving as a community hub.

Various methods to promote engagement were considered, including direct conversations with neighbours, social media, and newsletters. Councillors acknowledged the challenge of encouraging new volunteers to stand for election as councillors, noting that perceptions of the workload may deter potential candidates despite there being only ten meetings per year of approximately two hours each.

Two specific initiatives were proposed: the next newsletter could adopt a "hard-hitting" approach emphasising the theme "your village needs you" and highlighting the need for residents with new ideas, with a clear message that without volunteers, no progress can be made. Additionally, subject to the reopening of the George & Dragon public house, a coffee morning could be organised to allow residents to meet councillors informally. It was also suggested that newsletters or single-sheet leaflets could be produced regularly on various topics, including recruitment and engagement opportunities.

Action: Cllr Barber to draft ideas to produce a promotional leaflet to support community engagement and encourage resident participation

7.6 Council Meeting Dates: Councillors agreed to change the date of the October 2026 Parish Council meeting. The meeting will now take place on 13 October 2026, instead of the previously scheduled date of 20 October 2026.

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

8.1 Emails and correspondence.

8.1.1 Email from a local resident expressing concerns about the drainage on Leaning Lane. The flooding on the public highway is impeding access to children attending the Whitley & Eggborough Community Primary School. The Clerk advised that the issue has been logged on the North Yorkshire Council Parish Portal.

8.1..2 Email from Sarah Ward PC providing an update on Local crime & ASB figures for January 2026.

- Social media: Cllr White provided an update on activity on the Parish Council's social media pages.

8.1..1 A resident had enquired whether a local litter-picking group exists; the response advised that the Parish Council has litter-picking equipment available for use on request. Cllr White also invited comments from residents regarding any open spaces in the village that may require clearing.

8.1..2 In addition, notices from the Allotment Association regarding the availability of plots for rental were posted, as well as information about services at Kellington Church during Lent and Easter.

8.1..3 Cllr White noted that comments had been received concerning the proposed closure of the A19, following posts by North Yorkshire Councillor John McCartney, relating to the installation of power cabling to service the proposed Microsoft Data Centre.

Action: The Clerk to contact North Yorkshire Highways to request detailed information regarding planned closures and traffic management arrangements on the A19 during the programme of works

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 ZG2026/0104/TPO 21 Yew Tree Park, Whitley; Application for consent agreement to cut back the overhanging branches of 1 No Oak tree by 20%. Noted without comments.

9.2 ZG2025/1261/FUL Doncaster Road, Whitley; Erection of three-bedroom detached dormer bungalows constructed in random stone with anthracite concrete roof tiles and associate works. Noted without comment.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 24/02/2026:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2025	Expenditure since 1 st April 2025		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	144.21			15,697.76	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account	22,903.79	14,238.81		14,659.35	No interest
Total Bank Balances				30,357.11	

Less following funds:				
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing	1,798.71	
		Drainage Daffodil Field	8,000.00	
		Notice Board for Templar Close	518.74	
		CIL – Larth Close	7,067.46	
		Eggborough Power Fund	878.00	
		Whitley Allotment	1,040.00	
Total Allocated funds			19,302.91	
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.		
			11,054.20	
VAT due for reclaim			5,146.54	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds			16,200.74	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to February 2026. Based on budget expectations and planned expenditure, the estimated year-end balance was noted to be £15,970.50 subject to the accuracy of ongoing budget assumptions.

Cllr Walton raised concerns regarding the presence of a significant number of moles in Daffodil Park and around the planters just north of College Farm Close.

Action: The Clerk to obtain a quotation from George Fillingham Contractor Ltd for the clearance of moles in the affected area

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22624	John White – reimbursement for repairs to Silver Street notice board	20.00
22624	Cancel cheque	-20.00
DD	Santander Bank – bank charges	4.99
22625	Whitley & Eggborough Primary School	214.50
22626	Keith Watson – Father & Son Handyman	270.00
22627	John White – reimbursement for repairs to Silver Street notice board	17.43
22628	Selby Garden Machinery	339.99
22629	Complete Weed Control	192.00

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: £

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: Cllr Barber provided an update on the condition of playground equipment within the village. Overall, the equipment appears to be in reasonable condition, and the ground surfaces are largely clear of vegetation and green moss, indicating minimal immediate work required from the Community Payback team. Wooden benches in the play areas were noted to require attention in the spring.

In Blackthorn Play Area, a bent metal fence railing was identified as a potential safety concern. Cllr White will send a photograph of the damaged railing to the Clerk, who will contact Keith Watson, Handyman, to assess whether it can be repaired.

Cllr White also commented on the agreed playground improvement project, noting limited availability to manage the project personally. Councillors discussed the need for a volunteer to take on project management responsibilities. Cllr Barber and Cllr Walton agreed to undertake management of the project, provided they receive appropriate support and guidance in progressing the work.

Action:

- Cllr White to send photograph of bent railing to the Clerk.
- Clerk to arrange for Keith Watson to inspect the damaged railing.
- Cllr Barber and Cllr Walton to manage the playground improvement project with support as needed.

11.1..2 Nature Reserve: Cllr Cole reported on her meeting with the managers of the Mushroom Farm to determine suitable locations for the benches donated to the Nature Reserve. It was noted that the exact maintenance activities the Mushroom Farm team will undertake during the growing season are not fully defined, though it is anticipated that public pathways through the reserve will be maintained throughout the year.

Additional maintenance tasks were identified that could be carried out by the Community Payback team, including cutting back hedges, clearing rocky areas to create a wild garden patch, litter picking, and pruning excessive brambles that are restricting the growth of dog roses.

Cllr White will liaise with the Community Payback team to confirm availability for a couple of Sundays to undertake these tasks.

It was also noted that further funding from the Eggborough Power Community Fund is available to cover the cost of an additional bench for the Nature Reserve.

Action:

- Cllr White to coordinate with Community Payback to schedule maintenance work.
- An additional bench to be ordered from Glasdon for placement in the Nature Reserve.

11.1..3 Community Payback Team: Various pieces of work that can be undertaken by the Community Payback Team have been suggested in the Nature Reserve agenda item 11.1.2

11.1..4 Verge cutting: The verge cutting programme begins in April.

12.0 A19 Safety:

A19 safety has been considered in previous items on the agenda.

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 A councillor Cllr White provided an update regarding the potential reopening of the George and Dragon public house. Following discussions with the group that owns the premises, it was reported that several potential tenants are currently in discussions about taking on the operation of the business. It was also noted that the premises remain registered as an Asset of Community Interest.

13.2 Councillors noted the presence of advertising signs attached to telegraph poles and lamp posts within the village. It was observed that such signage is not permitted and may be removed.

13.3 Concern was also raised regarding the extent of dog waste throughout the village. Councillors discussed whether the provision of additional dog waste bins may be beneficial.

13.4 Cllr White also provided an update regarding the sale of the Church. Planning documents have been displayed on the church gate relating to an application to fell trees within the church grounds that are subject to a Tree Preservation Order. It was noted that the church building remains the property of the Diocese of Leeds.

13.5 Cllr White expressed frustration that North Yorkshire Councillor John McCartney has not attended a meeting of Whitley Parish Council since May 2025, noting that he has also indicated his intention to serve as a member of Eggborough Parish Council.

Action: The Clerk to write to Cllr McCartney requesting that he consider attending a future meeting of Whitley Parish Council.

13.6 Cllr White suggested that he will make further communication with the owners of the gas enclosure in Daffodil Park concerning the state railings at the perimeter of the property.

13.7 Cllr White questioned whether residents should be canvassed to determine whether there is an interest in the mobile library visiting the village.

13.8 Cllr White reminded Councillors of the imminent closure of the March 2026 quarter of applications for the Eggborough Community Fund.

13.9 Cllr White indicated that he would write to North Yorkshire Council concerning the broken crash barrier at Templar Close.

13.10 It was noted that the Bin by the notice board on Templar Close had been removed.

14.0 Confirm the date, time and place of next meeting: Next Parish Council Meeting:
Tuesday 24th Mar 2026 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 09:00 pm