

# Whitley Parish Council

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

## 2. Open Public Forum(OPF) 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

2.1. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

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 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex Buidling – 10/23

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

### 4. Apologies for absence:

4.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cole.

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023:

6.1. The minutes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting.

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

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

7.1. **Gale Common:** The Councillors considered the response to a request made to the Chief Executive of North Yorkshire County Council for the waiver of the payment of Protective Cost Orders (PCO) set following the final decision of the High Court. Although, disappointed by the result Councillors accepted the liability to settle the sums due.

**It was resolved:** The PCO's be settled by the payment of two cheques drawn for the benefit of North Yorkshire Council for £10,000 being the PCO due following the conclusion of the appeal heard in December 2021 and £5,000 due following the further appeal heard in November 2022. The balance of the PCO of £1,000 will be settled in five instalments of £200 per month.

The meeting reflected on the motives, decisions and processes conducted during the Gale Common campaign and concluded there is no further action that can be taken against the planning approval. The Parish Council must now work with EP UK on behalf of the community.

It was agreed that following the completion of the legal case that approaches be made to EP UK Ltd to enquire into the establishment of the Community Liaison Group required by North Yorkshire Planning as a condition for the grant of planning approval.

**Action:** Cllr Walton to communicate with EP UK Ltd to make appropriate enquiries into the formation of the Community Liaison Group.

It was agreed that for information a statement be prepared detailing the total costs of the legal case.

**Action:** Clerk to prepare an accounting of the cost of the Gale Common Campaign.

7.2. **Allotment Association:** Cllr White advised that the ratification of the allotment agreement with the Parish Council is in progress for presentation to Councillors at their meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

7.3. **Green Waste:** Councillors expressed views and opinions on the proposals circulated by North Yorkshire County Council on the harmonisation of charges for the collection of green waste bins throughout all districts within the County. They considered appropriate response to the consultation document and the invitation by NYCC made to all taxpayers to complete an online survey.

**Action:** Cllr White write on behalf of the Parish Council to register the Council's objection to the imposition of a charge for Waste Bin collection.

7.4. **Christmas Lights & Hanging Baskets:** The Clerk summarised preliminary information obtained from a potential supplier of Christmas Light Fittings to illustrate costings. Cost of lights attached to lamp columns are between £550 and £150. In addition, each light would require electrical supply fittings at prices ranging between £200 to £280 dependant upon the inclusion of a time clock. A local supplier would be happy to attend the next Parish Council meeting to provide details of options and indications of comparative prices.

It was emphasised that funding for the installations would be required if the project were to proceed.

7.5. **All Saints:** The Clerk updated Councillors on the scheme made by the Church Commissioners pursuant of the sale of the All-Saints Church building. It is proposed under the scheme the closed church of Whitley, All Saints, and the churchyard be sold for residential use. Comments and objections on the proposal are invited for submission by 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Councillors expressed their frustration on the position taken by the Leeds Diocese concerning the contribution made by Whitley Parish for the provision of fencing on the property. It was agreed further representation be made given the proposed sale of the building requesting consideration be given by the Leeds Diocese for some repayment of funds provided by the Whitley Parish Council.

**Action:** Cllr White to submit representation to the Leeds Diocese.

**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. An email from the North Yorkshire Police Neighbourhood Policing Team advising of a re-structure of officers serving the local area. It is confirmed that PC Sarah Ward and PC Annie Newbould would continue to oversee the Whitley Parish and base themselves in Eggborough Police Station. The email also promoted the use of the Community Messaging Service an online access site providing a message facility and information on local incidents.

**Action:** Clerk to communication with PC's welcoming them to attend Parish Council meetings in the future.

- b. an email advising of the creation of a North Yorkshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund that was launched in February inviting communities to bid for a share of the £22m fund.

**8.2. Social Media**

**8.2.1** Comments have been posted about the increase in Council Tax both County and Parish.

**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. 2023/0124/TPO** Holly Close, Whitley. Application for consent to reduce canopy height and spread of various trees on the north, south, west and east aspects of the new development. Trees protected by tree preservation orders include Oak, Beech & Sycamore. Councillors noted the application and have no comments.

**10. Council Finance & Administration:**

**10.1. RFO Report as at 21/03/2023:**

Bank/Account	Income since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	Expenditure since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	6.80			15,248.50	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	20,067.00	28,901.33		4,995.24	No interest
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>				<b>20,243.74</b>	
<b>Less following funds:</b>					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing		1,798.71	
		Drainage Daffodil Field		12,230.00	
		Gale Common balance of PCO		1,000.00	
Total Allocated funds				15,028.71	

Parish Council Bank 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.	5,215.03	
VAT due for reclaim			1,112.05	
<b>Total Unallocated Parish Funds</b>			<b>6,327.08</b>	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary analysing month by month the actual receipts and payments up to March 2023. Total expenditure up to 31<sup>st</sup> March is anticipated to amount to £28,901.33 that includes the payment of the PCO's amounting to £15,000. This compares with total income flowing into the bank for the year of £20,067. The balance of reserves carried forward into the new year would be £20,243.62.

The cash flow projections for the year 2023/24 were reviewed that included settlement of the final balance of the Protective Cost Order of £1,000 together with the payment of cost of the installation of drainage in the Daffodil Field. The projections show total receipts of precept and allotment rental of £10,860 compared with expenditure of £26,379. The anticipated balance of reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was £5,848.

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

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Amount: £</b>
22530	PKF Littlejohn	360.00
BACS	J R Hunter – Clerk Salary Quarter to Dec 2022	494.30
BACS	HMRC – PAYE quarter to Dec 2022	123.60
22528	NYCC – Protective Cost Order	10,000.00
22529	NYCC – Protective Cost Order	5,000.00
BACS	George Fillingham – Grass cutting	2,508.00

**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>

**10.4. Bank Transfer:**

<b>Transfer</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Amount: £</b>

## 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 made observations on the state of the water level in the park. Given the minimum level of rainfall in recent weeks the standing water in the Daffodil Field is less than it has been in previous years over the winter. Drainage does however remain a problem. Cllr White advised that a meeting has been arranged between Sweeting engineers and the local farmer into whose dyke the surface water from the park will be diverted to discuss the practicalities of the drainage system to be installed.
- Cllr White informed the meeting that he is awaiting response to an application that has been made to the Police Benevolent Fund to cover the cost of the replacement memorial bench. In the absence of a positive response to the request for funding a claim against Whitley Parish insurance policy will be considered.
- Councillors considered again the comments received from young residents in the community regarding the provision of goal posts in the Daffodil Park. Although, it was agreed that any further provision in the park will be put on hold until after completion of the drainage work, it was recognised that it is important that engagement with residents is maintained, and the Council is responsive to requests but also the Parish should recognise the extent of the facilities already available within playing field.

**Action:** Clerk to respond to email request with explanation of the impending drainage work and the Parish Council appreciate and recognise the level of interest expressed.

- The Clerk advised that an insurance claim had been approved to cover the cost of repair and replacement of the damaged planters by the Daffodil Park.

**Action:** The subcontractor be approached to authorise the repair work.

- Councillors discussed the plan to relocate the notice board within the grounds of All-Saints Church to The George and Dragon and reaffirmed their decision to relocate.
- Councillors considered that a litter pick in recognition of the King Charles III Big Help Out initiative be organised. This will be scheduled for the weekend before or after the Kings Coronation.
- Cllr White questioned whether the defibrillator has been included in the national register and what is the nature of the regular service that is required to ensure the kit is fully functioning when needed.
- Cllr White commented on the state repair of the notice board on Templar Close. It was agreed invitations be extend on social media for volunteers to undertake the necessary maintenance work to the notice board.

11.1.2 **Community Payback:** Cllr White reported on future work that can be undertaken that included litter picking on Gravel Hill Lane and Blackthorn Close ground clearance. The big borders in the Park will also need cutting back at an appropriate time.

**Action:** Cllr White to liaise with the Community Payback team to organise a date for the work.

11.1.3 **Verge Cutting:** The Clerk and Cllr Humphrey advised that the meeting with George Fillingham will be arranged to finalise and agree the cutting schedule for the forthcoming growing season that will be set to ensure expenditure is within the budget.

## 12. A19 Safety:

12.1. **Speeding on A19:** There was nothing to report.

## 13. A.O.B.

- Cllr White commented that the notice of the Whitley Parish Council meeting is specified as 7:30 pm on the Selby Website.
- Cllr White enquired into whether Councillors were aware of the Extra Energy Payment. The Alternative Winter Payment amounting to £200 is due to communities that are not on the main grid for gas. It was noted that not all residents within Whitley have received this entitlement. Cllr White suggested that a link to the appropriate Government website promoting and explaining the allowance could be added to the Whitley Community social media pages.
- Cllr White suggested that given the financial constraints to which Whitley Parish is now subject consideration could be given to realisation of some of the Parish Assets such as the Jet Wash, the PA System, the projector, the speed gun and even some land.

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

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April; 2023 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

**Closure of meeting:** 9:05 pm