

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 18th March 2025

2.1 Residents shared observations regarding the extent and quality of verge cutting at the entrance to All Saints Grove, across from Learning Lane. While their comments highlighted aspects of the maintenance, no specific demands or negative remarks were made. Councillors explained, that the Parish Council took on the responsibility for verge cutting some years ago, after North Yorkshire Council Highways devolved this duty to the local level. They also noted that the Council operates on a very limited budget, which is allocated to cover maintenance for the entire village, aiming for a functional standard throughout the year, given these financial constraints.

Councillors' acknowledged the residents' feedback and reiterated their commitment to maintaining verge cutting to the best of their ability, within current budget limitations.

A resident expressed an interest, as director of the management company for the All Saints Grove development, in enhancing the play area within the development. To that end, the resident enquired about potential grant funding opportunities of which the Parish Council may be aware.

Councillors acknowledged the request and noted that the Council is already responsible for the management and maintenance of three existing play areas within the Parish.

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 18th March 2025 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 09/25

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

6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 25th February 2025:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 25th February 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 Harron Homes:** Cllr White noted that Harron Homes were unable to attend the meeting, due to lack of further progress in the land in question. However, they expressed their intention to advance the matter and potentially attend the April Parish

Council meeting. In anticipation of future discussions, several questions were raised regarding their proposal, including:

- A request for a map detailing the area of land to be offered, and access points to the site.
- Clarification on how the transfer of ownership will be managed.
- Determination of responsibility for the maintenance of the open space.
- Inquiries about any potential financial support that may be provided.

7.2 Community Newsletter: Councillors commended the efforts of Cllr Humphrey in producing the draft newsletter for distribution in the spring. Comments and observations were shared, and several amendments to the draft were agreed.

Councillors acknowledged the quality of the draft and approved the agreed amendments.

Action: The Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Walton (Chair), to draft an insertion, expressing thanks to all who have supported the Parish Council in managing the community affairs during the year.

7.3 Donations: The Council considered the request from Whitley & Eggborough Community Primary School (W&ECPS) for a contribution towards the cost of “Little Traffic People’ road safety cones.

It was resolved a contribution of £185 be made to Whitley & Eggborough Community Primary School covering the cost of one of the “Little Traffic People’ road safety cones. The amount to be drawn from the specific reserve allocated to A19 road safety.

Action: Clerk to notify Diane Steward, the Administration Officer of W&ECPS of the donation of £185.

Councillors debated the allocation of additional donations from the £250 set aside in the 2024/25 budget. It was agreed, that a donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau in Selby was appropriate, given its historical support for local residents. Councillors further noted that any subsequent donations would be made only in response to specific requests to the Parish Council.

It was resolved a contribution of £100 be made to the Citizens Advice Bureau Selby.

7.4 Daffodil Park: Councillors reviewed the potential application of the North Yorkshire Council grant for Daffodil Park. Cllr White confirmed that he would engage with play equipment suppliers to establish the maintenance costs for the existing play areas and to explore possible improvements. Additionally, a local resident suggested that the grant funds might be directed towards acquiring exercise equipment for the park. Councillors debated the advantages and disadvantages of investing in play facilities versus other improvements, considering both the ongoing financial pressures on the Parish Council for maintenance and the anticipated level of community use.

It was agreed that the Council should defer any decision until the completion of the annual playground inspections.

Action: The Council to review the annual playground inspection report and safety recommendations, before finalising any investment decisions regarding the grant funds.

7.5 Oak Tree at Lee View Park: Cllr White and Cllr Barber reported that they have not yet had the opportunity to consult with the residents of Lee View regarding the potential tree surgery on the Oak Tree adjacent to their property.

Action: Cllr White and Cllr Barber to arrange a meeting with residents of Lee View, and report back the outcomes and any recommendations to the Parish Council at their April meeting.

7.6 Fly-tipping in Whitley: Cllr Humphrey observed that much of the fly-tipping is occurring on private land, which appears to limit the Parish Council's ability to intervene. The discussion explored whether this observation was accurate, and if the Council could, or should take action. Suggestions included asking landowners, such as farmers, to adopt preventative measures (e.g., installing fencing) and ensuring that incidents are reported to North Yorkshire Council (NYC) by residents, or by the Parish Council on their behalf when residents are unable to report. Cllr White shared his positive experience of reporting fly-tipping to NYC, noting prompt action within a week.

The debate also considered additional avenues of action: if NYC is unable to act on private land, then directly approaching the landowner might be necessary, and involving North Yorkshire Councillor J McCartney could add further leverage.

Action: Cllr Humphrey to engage with North Yorkshire Councillor J McCartney regarding the issue, and discuss what actions can be taken. Cllr White to enquire with Posketts Farm to determine their stance on the fly-tipping occurring on their land.

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

8.1 Emails and correspondence.

- Clerk presented the following details of emails or correspondence by mail relevant to the affairs of Whitley Parish Council:
 - 8.1..1 An email from PC Sarah Ward of North Yorkshire Police, providing the March 2025 newsletter for the Osgoldcross Ward. The newsletter contains updates on local policing matters, including crime reports and community safety initiatives.
 - 8.1..2 An email from John Stebbing, the project manager – Operations Yorkshire and North East, of National Highways, providing reports from the speed camera van deployed to monitor traffic movements around the locality of Wentbridge, arising as a result of the A1 major road works, and closures.
 - 8.1..3 An email from Greenbarnes Ltd ,confirming that the timber noticeboard has been collected by their courier for delivery. They have requested a photograph of the installed noticeboard to showcase product usage and inspire future customers. Additionally, they provided a feedback form and invited comments on their products and services to be used in case studies.
 - 8.1..4 An email from Anna Root of EPUK seeking to clarify arrangements for an onsite meeting at their Gale Common site, for Tuesday 1st April 13:30.

- Social Media

8.1..1 Cllr Humphrey reported, there were no significant updates or matters of particular interest concerning the Parish Council that had been shared or posted on its social media pages.

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

- ZG2025/0244/COU, Change of use from a snug to use as a hair salon room for the homeowners us. 4 College Farm Close. Noted without comment.
- ZG2025/0158/HPA, Garage conversion to create a playroom. 16, Hollybush Close. Noted without comment.
- 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. The Clerk informed the council that the application serves as formal notification of the completion of conditions set in the original planning approval. It was noted that, development work on the site has commenced. Noted without comment.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 18/03/2025:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2024	Expenditure since 1 st April 2024		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	148.80			15,541.28	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	16,981.67	12,873.08		5,993.76	No interest
Total Bank Balances				21,535.04	
Less following funds:					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field Notice Board for Templar Close		1,798.71 8,000.00 518.74	
Total Allocated funds				10,317.45	
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.		11,217.59	
VAT due for reclaim				3,767.75	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds				14,985.34	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to March 2025. The total anticipated receipts for the financial year, amounted to £20,749.42, while total payments stood at £13,051.08. This resulted in a balance of £25,137.06. Of this amount, £10,317.45 is earmarked for specific reserves, leaving £14,819.61 available for general parish council expenditure.

The council reviewed and noted the financial position, acknowledging the value of funds available for future expenditure.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
	Greenbarnes Ltd	1,741.51
	J R Hunter – clerk salary quarter to March 2025	494.30
	HMRC – PAYE quarter to March 2025	123.60

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.

- **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 in due course.

Councillors debated the ongoing issue of mole infestation in Daffodil Park, and the need for an effective, albeit temporary, extermination process. It was acknowledged that while mole eradication is necessary, it would likely require recurring annual treatments rather than serving as a permanent solution.

The Council discussed engaging a professional service to address the matter.

It was resolved that G Fillingham Ltd be contracted to undertake the mole eradication in Daffodil Park, at a cost of £300

Action: The Clerk to confirm the extermination method proposed by G Fillingham Ltd, ensuring that it poses no health and safety risks to community members, including both children and adults.

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.

- **Nature Reserve:** Cllr Cole reported on her meeting with the management team of Monaghan Mushrooms regarding the ongoing maintenance of the nature reserve. As a gesture of ongoing goodwill, the team committed to conducting a monthly cut to maintain the network of paths in the reserve. Additionally, they proposed to designate 5% of the area as a wildlife meadow, install two public benches at yet-to-be-determined locations, remove existing debris and overgrown vegetation, and lay a gravelled parking area at the entrance.

The Council acknowledged and appreciated the comprehensive maintenance support offered by Monaghan Mushrooms, recognising its positive impact on the community and the nature reserve.

Thanks, and appreciation were extended to Cllr Cole and Cllr Walton, and community residents for their work and effort in bringing about the significant improvements to the nature reserve.

Action: The Council to continue coordination with Monaghan Mushrooms to finalise the locations for the public benches and the design of details for the gravelled parking area.

- **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.
- **Verge cutting:** It is anticipated that verge cutting is expected to commence in April.

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

12.0 A19 Safety:

Councillors noted increasing traffic activity on the A19, with expectations that heavy goods vehicle (HGV) volumes may decrease following the completion of major roadworks at Wentbridge, A1 in late summer/autumn.

Cllr White highlighted the deterioration of the road surface at the exit of the roundabout at Junction 34. North Yorkshire Highways has been informed and confirmed that repairs are scheduled in an upcoming work programme.

Additionally, concerns were raised about the accumulation of litter and rubbish on the roundabout. North Yorkshire Council acknowledged responsibility for its clearance but indicated that such work would require a roundabout closure.

Kirk Smeaton Parish Council has reached out for advice regarding the Parish Council's experience with Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 Cllr White confirmed that Eggborough Power has committed to a meeting on **1st April** to discuss the status of the Gale Common Ash Extraction project. Several councillors volunteered to accompany him.

13.2 Cllr White informed the meeting that a funding application for an information notice board in the nature reserve has been submitted for consideration in the December quarter of the Eggborough Power Community Fund. It was noted the Parish has the opportunity to apply for the March quarter, with a proposal to request funding for an additional public bench in the nature reserve. Additionally, an application for a picnic table could be submitted in the June quarter.

13.3 Cllr White encouraged new councillors to attend training courses, available from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association, to support their development in their roles.

13.4 Cllr White suggested that following the departure of Cllr Thompson, a vacancy will arise on the Parish Council. Councillors should discuss how to best publicise and seek to fill the position.

13.5 Cllr White suggested that further requests be made to Whitley & Eggborough Community Primary School to extend the heating during Parish Council meetings.

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

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 8:51 pm