

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 March 2026

2.1 A resident raised ongoing concerns regarding traffic volumes along Gravel Hill Lane, particularly vehicle movements to and from the Mushroom Farm. Councillors noted that measures already implemented, including the installation of a Vehicle Activation Sign and collection of speed data, indicate that speeding is not an issue on this stretch. Residents were advised to report any instances of speeding or antisocial driving directly to the police.

It was also reported that North Yorkshire Council Highways Team has agreed to install additional speed signage further along Gravel Hill Lane, beyond the street lighting, to reinforce speed limits for vehicles leaving the residential area.

Existing data does not support concerns about excessive speeding; further signage to be installed as a precautionary measure.

2.2 A resident requested an update on concerns regarding water pressure and management by Yorkshire Water. The Clerk reported that enquiries with neighbouring parish councils identified no similar concerns raised by residents in those areas. The resident noted that feedback on social media suggested wider concern locally. The Clerk advised that the matter has been raised with Keir Mather MP's constituency office, which has offered to pursue the issue with Yorkshire Water.

Action: No wider corroborated issues identified through parish council channels; matter to be progressed via MP's office. Clerk to provide the resident with contact details for the constituency office to enable direct communication.

2.3 A resident enquired about the views of the Parish Council on a planning application relating to cutting back overhanging branches. Councillors confirmed that the application had been considered at a previous meeting and no objections were raised by the Parish Council.

2.4 The Chair closed the open public forum.

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 24th March 2026 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 09/26

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

4.0 Apologies for absence:

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Paley and Cllr Barber

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 24th February 2026:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 24th February 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. Councillors discussed their approach considering initial engagement from the developer, who has expressed a desire to enter direct discussions regarding potential Section 106 contributions. These overtures for discussion have been rejected.

Reference was made to ongoing communication with the planning officer overseeing the application. Councillors reiterated their objection to the development and their preference that planning permission is not granted.

However, it was agreed that, without prejudice to this position, the Parish Council should engage in discussions regarding Section 106 mitigation should the application be approved. Such discussions will only be channelled directly through the planning officer of North Yorkshire Council.

Conclusion: Parish Council maintains its objection to the development but will engage in Section 106 discussions if approval is granted.

Actions: Clerk to continue communication with the planning officer to support ongoing dialogue and potential engagement on Section 106 matters.

7.2 **Nature Reserve:** Cllr Cole provided an update on the condition of the nature reserve. The installation of two benches donated by Monaghan Mushroom Farm remains outstanding.

Concerns were raised regarding irresponsible dog walkers failing to clear dog waste, despite the availability of litter bins. Councillors also discussed the need to commence the vegetation cutting and management programme in preparation for the growing season.

Actions: Cllr Cole to follow up on the installation of the benches; waterproof signage to be purchased to address dog fouling in all open spaces within the village; engagement to take place with the subcontractor to initiate the vegetation management programme.

7.3 **Succession Planning:** Councillors considered approaches to improving communication with residents, including the potential introduction of a shorter, more focused newsletter format. Cllr Barber offered to draft content for a single A4 sheet. Cllr Humphrey noted that the existing newsletter already serves a similar purpose, combining key information such as councillor contacts, service details and meeting dates with news updates in a folded A5 format.

Councillors also discussed the possibility of increasing the frequency of distribution beyond the current annual issue.

Existing newsletter format acknowledged as suitable, with scope to review format and increase frequency of publication.

Actions: Cllr Barber to draft content for consideration as part of a revised or more frequent newsletter approach.

7.4 Waste Bins in Templar Close: Councillors discussed the removal of waste bins at Templar Close by North Yorkshire Council following resident complaints about litter in nearby ditches. It was reported that, after inspection, the Waste Department determined the bins had been incorrectly sited on private land and arranged for their removal, which has exacerbated the litter issue. Following further representations, it has been agreed that the Waste Department will return the bin for installation at the expense of the Parish Council.

Actions: Parish Council to take delivery of the bin and arrange for its installation in an appropriate location.

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 Damien Snape of FTS Digital Vision providing a quotation for the investigation and diagnosis of the Vehicle Activated Sign issue with the inability to download data from the sign. Councillors considered the merits of repair to the data retrieval software and considered that the information provided has limited value and repair was therefore not value for money. **Action:** Clerk to advise FTS that the offer of investigation and diagnosis is not required.

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

8.1..1 Cllr Humphrey reported that the Parish Council website had recently experienced a period of downtime. It was noted that the current software version supported by Vision ICT is approaching end of life and is due for an upgrade, as previously agreed by the Council, at an estimated cost of £650.

Actions: Clerk to liaise with Vision ICT to expedite the website upgrade.

8.1..2 Cllr White reported that members of the community have expressed interest in establishing a litter picking group. Councillors noted the positive community interest and discussed the availability of existing equipment and facilities to support any organised activity.

8.1..3 Cllr White advised that enquiries with the Stonegate Group as owners of the George & Dragon Public House have confirmed that a new landlord has been appointed as the licensee.

9.0 Planning matters: The Clerk provided a summary of the planning applications made in the month for review and consideration by the Council. There were no planning applications to consider.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 24/03/2026:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2025	Expenditure since 1 st April 2025		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	156.23			15,709.80	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account	22,904.46	16,109.70		12,789.13	No interest
Total Bank Balances				28,498.93	
Less following funds:					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field Notice Board for Templar Close CIL – Larth Close Eggborough Power Fund		1,798.71 8,000.00 518.74 7,067.46 878.00	
Total Allocated funds				18,262.91	
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.		10,236.02	
VAT due for reclaim				5,268.54	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds				15,504.56	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to March 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.

The Clerk presented the quote received from G H Fillingham Contractors Ltd covering the grass cutting of verges and parks in the village at a cost of £550 per cut excluding VAT with a total of 12 cuts during the growing season from April 2026 to October 2026 amounting to £6,600 plus VAT.

The cost of Mole clearance is quoted at £300 per site per each removal event. Councillors expressed concerns and reservations about a price of £300.00. It was agreed alternative comparative quotes would be obtained prior to any decision to proceed.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
transfer	J R Hunter – clerk salary quarter to March 2026	494.30
transfer	HMRC – PAYE quarter to March 2026	123.60
transfer	Roberts Contractors – tarmac plaining for Allotment	1,056.00
transfer	John White – Hedge cutting on Daffodil Field	50.00

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: Councillors discussed the current condition of parks and verges, noting that Daffodil Park remains in a relatively stable condition despite recent weather conditions. Repairs to the public footpath sign at the entrance to Daffodil Park were noted, along with a continuing gap in the fencing at the access gate. Cllr White reported feedback from the weed control contractor, who advised that the original quotation for the allotments was significantly higher than expected; as a result, they have agreed to spray the pathways in Daffodil Park at no additional cost. It was also reported that following communication with Calor and Northern Energy, arrangements have been confirmed for the hedge surrounding the gas tank installation to be cut and maintained.

Action: Cllr Humphrey to inspect the site and consider options for reinstating a barrier at the Daffodil Park access gate.

11.1..2 Community Payback Team: Cllr White reported continued engagement with the Community Payback Team in Wakefield, who have confirmed that they have capacity and resources available to provide support to Whitley.

Actions: Further liaison as appropriate to facilitate deployment of Community Payback support within the parish.

11.1..3 Verge cutting: The verge cutting programme begins in April.

12.0 A19 Safety:

Cllr White reminded councillors of the recent online meeting with the Deputy Major of North Yorkshire Council who provided an update on the proposal to install both fixed and variable speed cameras within the County, with locations to be determined by a panel of specialists.

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 Cllr White referred to chase up letter from Irwin Mitchell following a letter from the Parish Council in May 2024 disputing and rejecting the liability. Councillors discussed that their position which remains consistent that set out in the pervious correspondence.

13.2 Cllr White mentioned the brambles adjacent to the Bridge crossing the canal at Templar Close and raised questioned about the request for cut and management logged with North Yorkshire Council.

13.3 Cllr White suggested that an enquiry be posted on social media to establish the extent of interest in the community for access to the facilities of the mobile library that visits the area on a regular basis.

13.4 Cllr White reported on the response received from North Yorkshire Councillor John McCartney to a request that he from time to time attends the Whitley Parish meeting to provide updates on County wide issues and initiatives. It was disappointing to receive such a negative reply that presence at a Parish Council meeting would be "not a good use of his time".

14.0 Confirm the date, time and place of next meeting: Next Parish Council Meeting:

Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 09:00 pm