

Whitley Parish Council

1. The meeting was opened at 7.00 pm by the Chair Cllr Humphrey.
2. **Open Public Forum(OPF) 20th April 2021**
 - 2.1. A member of the public joined the meeting to gain an update and listen to the comments concerning the Gale Common Campaign to be discussed in agenda item 7.1.
 - 2.2. The Chair closed the public forum.

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Virtual Online Meeting held on 20th April 2021 – 01/22

3. **Present:** Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Walton, Cllr Blackburn (via phone) Cllr Cole, Cllr White, Cllr Woodhead, and Clerk to the Council J Hunter.
4. **Apologies for absence:**
 - 4.1. Apologies were received from Cllr Broadbent.
5. **Disclosures of interest:**
 - 5.1. It was noted that Cllr T Woodhead, Cllr S Cole and Cllr D Broadbent are members of the Gale Common Action Group. A community group campaigning against the Gale Common Ash Extraction planning application. Cllr White advised that in connection with the planning application on Larth Close he has a relative who lives close to the proposed development. Cllr Humphrey advised that in connection with the planning application concerning 1 Firs Court Garden the development in question neighbours his own property.
 - 5.2. There were no other interests registered.
6. **Minutes of the virtual video conference meetings of Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd March 2021:**
 - 6.1. The Council reviewed the minutes of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 23rd March 2021. It was noted the reference to Mr Oates in item 9.00 regarding planning applications should be Mr Oades. Subject to correction of the name, it was agreed that the minutes are a true record and accordingly were approved for signature by the Chair Cllr Humphrey.

Action: Clerk to deliver a copy of minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd March 2021 for signature by Cllr Humphrey.
7. **Opening matters for information and action as required:**
 - 7.1. **Gale Common Extraction Proposal:** The Clerk reported that there had been little progress in the furtherance of the legal proceedings. The meeting of the participating group of Parish Councils had not been convened to agree next stages nor had there been any report from the Planning Committee of North Yorkshire County Council in the finalisation of the section 106 agreement. It had however, been confirmed by Eggborough Parish Council that whilst supporting the aims of the campaign for Judicial Review they would not be contributing the campaign fund. Cllr White observed that the decision of the Eggborough Parish was disappointing and noted that little progress had been made in agreeing the distribution of costs between the Parishes involved in the action group.

Cllr Humphrey reported that he had clarified with Cllr Broadbent that pursuant of the Councillors wish to reinforce their commitment to the campaign that as Chair to the Whitley Parish he should be actively engaged in all aspects of discussions of the campaign group including email correspondence and meetings. Cllr Humphrey for the benefit of the resident attending the meeting summarised the current situation; consideration is being given to how the costs associated with the legal action will be covered by the participating Parishes. Cllr Humphrey shared his own opinion that given the number of residents in each of the 4 Parishes involved it would be equitable that Whitley covers up to 50% of the costs. In which event the first phase costs, being the examination of the case by lawyers to assess the merits of the case and chances of success, would be in the magnitude of £3,000. It was also noted that should the balance of risk of be such that it was agreed to progress to the next stage of Judicial Review costs for the Parish could increase by over £15,000. A sum well above the financial resources of Whitey Parish.

Cllr White expressed his disappointed that the Parish had received no further communication from Selby District and North Yorkshire County (SD&NYC) Cllr McCartney in respect of the matter.

Action: Cllr Humphrey liaise with Cllr Broadbent to progress the meeting with the group of Parishes to further the proceedings and establish a clear understanding of how the campaign will be funded.

7.2. **Local Government Reorganisation:** Cllr White observed that North Yorkshire Council's proposal for devolution could have a potential impact upon Parish Councils that may add responsibilities including, all grass cutting, fly tipping, street cleaning, lighting etc. The timing is such that implementation will be actioned within the next couple of years. The meeting speculated on the how the changes will be enabled; increased funding, training, community networks and concluded that little can be done in advance until the National Government determines how such changes will be supported and dealt with as their plans for devolution is progressed.

7.3. **Christmas Tree:** Cllr White reported that it appears that the Christmas Tree has unfortunately died. It seems likely that the dry spell during last year had a detrimental effect on its survival.

Action: Cllr White to consult with Christmas Tree growers for advice in the selection and planting of trees for the future. Clerk to include an agenda item in July's meeting of the Parish Council covering all aspects of Christmas in the village, including provision of a Christmas Tree, season events, and lights.

7.4. **Fly tipping and litter pick:** Cllr White advised that 5 residents in the village have volunteered to participate in regular litter picking. Three litter pickers had been purchased and given to residents.

From the 17th May a community litter pick can now be organised. To that end Cllr White suggested the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd May as a convenient day for the event that would be promoted on the notice board and on social media.

Proposed: Cllr White that an additional 3 litter picker tools be purchased at a cost of £60 for distribution to volunteers. Seconded Cllr Humphrey. Carried unanimously.

Cllr Humphrey observed that the village is looking smarter particularly along Booty and Whitefield Lane; "something positive has certainly happened thanks to community residents". Selby Council had removed the tyres from Whitefield Lane. It was noted following conversations with the enforcement officer from Selby District Councils that CCTV cameras have been deployed at other locations in the County to capture registration numbers of fly

tipping offenders. However, it was observed that the nature of Whitefield Lane is such that it is not ideally suited to the location of such camera equipment.

- 7.5. **Council Meetings:** The clerk reported that Whitley & Eggborough Primary School have agreed to make available their Annexe Building for Parish Council Meetings. With effect from 7th May, after which date open public meetings of all Councils must resume, Whitley Parish Council meetings will be conducted at the premises of Whitley & Eggborough Primary School. The sessions will be run in compliance with Government Guidelines including social distancing, wearing of face covering and hand sanitisation. To facilitate the requisite distancing of attendees seating will be spaced in the venue without desks; personal clip boards will be provided to Councillors for any note taking.

Action: Clerk to distribute list of dates of Parish Meetings for the forthcoming year 2021/22.

8. **Correspondence received:** The Clerk summarised details of correspondence received by email and post.

8.1.1. Email from PFK accountants setting out the required timetable for the preparation and filing of the Parish Councils Annual Governance and Accountability Report for 2020/21. Noted.

8.1.2. Correspondence that has been included for discussion in specific agenda items; traffic speeding, planning.

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. 2021/0317/HPA – Mr & Mrs Harrison, 9 Cathcart Close, Erection of new front porch and detached annex/studio. Noted without comments.

2021/035/HPA – Mr Hatton, 1 Firs Court Garden, proposed workshop/gym to the side of the property. Noted without comments.

2021/0426/HEN – 14 Blackthorn Close, house extension notification for a single storey rear extension. Noted without comments.

2021/0268/FUL – Mr and Mrs Philip Johnson, Land Off Larth Close, Erection of 8 dwellings and garages. The deadline for the submission of comments and objections to the application was 29th April 2021. The Clerk summarised the history of the various applications lodged in connection with the development. Outline planning permission for 10 dwelling houses was rejected in 2014, in 2016 an outline request for 4 bungalows was granted this application was refreshed in 2019 and again approved. This current application covers 8 fully detached houses with garages. The Council debated the merits of application and concluded the key grounds for objection are that the application breaches the restrictions on development in the Green Belt and, the village is more than adequately provisioned with suitable housing. There is no case to support the requirement for further housing and there are no preferred options for development in the new local plan. It is disappointing that the original approved application for 4 bungalows is not considered sufficient by the developers.

Action: Clerk on behalf of Whitley Parish Council to lodge a robust objection to the planning application 2021/0268/FUL.

- 9.2. There were no planning applications granted for approval.

10. Council Finance & Administration:

10.1. RFO Report as at 20/04/2021:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2021	Expenditure since 1 st April 2021	Of which is 106 expenditure	Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit			Nil	55,208.02	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	5,000	1,156.13		5,245.11	No interest
Total Bank Balances				60,453.13	
Less following funds:					
Protected 106 funds		3 x Play areas/ROS and the Tree Lines.		37,478.58	
Other protected funds		Crossing		5,000.00	
Total Protected funds				42,478.58	
Parish Council Unprotected 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.		17,974.55	
VAT due for reclaim				3,906.32	
Total Unprotected Funds				21,880.87	

The Clerk presented his report on the financial position of the Parish Council with reference to detailed income and expenditure statements providing details of receipts and payments for the period from 1st April 2021 to 20th April 2021. Total income to date is £5,000 which amounts to the funds received from the Road Safety Grant. The grant will be held within protected reserves to be applied to the installation of the pedestrian cross at the southern end of the village by Yew Tree Park. This compares with expenditure of £416.

It was noted that the grant for the Road Safety project is greater than the cost of the provision of the pedestrian crossing. Cllr White suggested that approaches be made to the funding sources to request that any surplus be retained by Whitely Parish to spend on other road safety projects such as a contribution to the investment into the purchase of a second Vehicle Activate Sign.

Cllr Humphrey raised the matter of questions from several residents who queried the anomaly that, notwithstanding that the Parish Council had elected to maintain its precept for 2021/22 at the same level as the previous year the individual council tax bills had increased. The reason was although the total precept remained the same the total number of taxable houses in the village had fallen. The same precept was therefore shared between a reduced number of homes with the consequent increase in each residents Parish Council tax charge. Cllr White observed that it would be useful to seek further details of the data underlying the computation of the tax charge that could be shared with residents.

Action: Clerk to make enquiries with Selby District Council and seek full information concerning the homes in the village and the allocation of the Council tax.

- 10.2. Accounts Payable:** The following payments were approved for settlement by bank transfer, subject to inspection of the invoice from A Gill by Cllr White.

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
Transfer	A Gill	60.00
Transfer	Yorkshire Local Council Association	416.00

- 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. Recreational Open Space in Whitley:

11.1. Parks and Verges:

- 11.1.1. Parks & Playground Maintenance:** Councillors considered the various items in connection with maintenance within the park and playground as follows:

- Cllr White shared comparative quotes for the painting of the playground on Blackthorn Close and Lee View, one for £1,240 the other £3,000. Cllr White proposed that the playgrounds be painted at a cost of £1,240. Seconded Cllr Humphrey. Carried unanimously.
- The Clerk advised that the playgrounds were inspected on the 19th April 2021 and the report is awaited.
- Cllr White shared details of a quote from a mole catcher of £75.00 to cover the cost of as many visits to Daffodil Field as necessary until eradication of the problem. Traps are deployed on the sites in support of a process that is managed with discretion sensitive to the proximity of children's play areas. **Proposed** Cllr White the mole catcher be commissioned to carry out the eradication. **Seconded:** Cllr Walton. **Carried** unanimously.
- Cllr White advised that a local resident has volunteered to undertake repairs to the notice board on Templar Close with material costs of approximately £50.00. **Proposed:** Cllr White resident be approved to carry out repairs. **Seconded:** Cllr Humphrey. **Carried** Unanimously.

- Cllr White advised that he was awaiting quotes from the Danvm Drainage Board in connection with recommendations for the improvement of drainage in the Daffodil Park. Noted.

11.1.2. **Management of Tress on Daffodil Park and Lee View:** Cllr White advised that the tree management in Lee View has been completed and the hedge in Daffodil Park, whose growth was the subject to some concern by a resident, has been cut down to the level of the fencing. This would be maintained in future by the subcontract gardener.

11.1.3. **Litter bins:** The Clerk advised that we are awaiting completion of the installation of the litter bins by Selby District Council.

11.1.4. **Verge cutting:** The verge cutting for the new season has now commenced. Cllr White noted the growth of the verge along the farmers field on Whitefield Lane and observed that some residents have commented that this section should be left as a wild area.

11.1.5. **Other item or matters to report:** Cllr Humphrey reported on a suggestion from a resident that the Parish Council could consider undertaking some landscaping on Cathcart Green. A reply to the resident advised that the land is not the property of the Parish and any such ideas should be shared with SD&NYC Cllr McCartney.

12. A19 Safety:

12.1. **Vehicle Activated Signs Reports:** Cllr White referred to updated data that he had gathered from the VAS indicating that a significant number of vehicles exceed the 35 mph limit; arguable over 40% are travelling more than 35. Cllr White proposed that the Parish publish some of the reports onto social media. The process available to the public to report on incidences of speeding is the Speed Concern Form hosted by North Yorkshire Police.

Action: Cllr White to provide speed data in jpeg form with accompanying explanatory text for upload onto Facebook and in pdf form for upload onto the Parish Council website.

Cllr White suggested that given the information now being collected it would be appropriate to approach the local police and invite them to meet with the Council to query their views and establish how they could be of assistance. For instance, could suggestions for the initiation of a community speed watch be considered to supplement the activities of the camera van.

It is worth noting that the VAS sign is not able to distinguish between different vehicles.

There is no longer a road crossing person to guide children across the road which is an issue that perhaps should be addressed to North Yorkshire County Council requesting replacement.

13. A.O.B.

13.1. Cllr Cole referenced a notice on Facebook concerning the deployment of a wide angle security mirror on Gravel Hill Lane an issue that has been taken up by SD&NYC Cllr McCartney.

- 13.2.** Cllr Cole questioned the level of covid infections in the village as a resident has expressed some concerns. Cllr White advised there is a link published by North Yorkshire Council providing data of the rates for each ward that would be of value in allaying any fears.
- 13.3.** Cllr Cole informed that she understands the Eggborough Power Station Towers are to be demolished in June.
- 13.4.** Cllr Humphrey advised that it his intention to step down as Chair during the Annual General Meeting and requested Councillors to consider filling the vacancy.
- 13.5.** Cllr Humphrey questioned whether the Parish Council wished to publish a hard copy Newsletter as in previous years.

Action: Cllr Humphrey to draft a Newsletter for approval and printing.

- 13.6.** Cllr Humphrey commented on the growth of social media in the village with the community Facebook page receiving an ever-increasing number of comments, and complaints concerning the Parish. It is a platform that cannot, notwithstanding, the nature of its structure, be ignored. He suggested the way forward is that he prepare a monthly social media report for the Councillors to inform them of what the community is saying about the Parish. For instance, this month, a mirror on Gravel Hill Lane, Fly Tipping, the provision of a litter bin in the Nature Reserve, the use of barges on the Canal, the publishing of planning applications, and a suggestion that verge cutting should be limited to encourage wildflowers.

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

- 14.1. Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

15. Closure of meeting: 8:25 pm