

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 22nd April 2025

2.1 Residents in attendance had no comments or matters to raise relevant to 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 22nd April 2025 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 10/25

3.0 **Present:** Cllr Walton (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 and Cllr White.

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 18th March 2025:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 18th March 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:** Councillors noted that representatives from Harron Homes, who had previously indicated they would attend this meeting to discuss their offer of land, had sent apologies and postponed their attendance. Given that the May 2025 meeting includes both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting, councillors felt the agenda would be too full to accommodate a meaningful and comprehensive discussion.

It was agreed that it would be more appropriate for Harron Homes to attend the June 2025 Parish Council meeting, provided they have a specific and substantive proposal regarding the parcel of land.

Action: Clerk to communicate with Harron Homes to reschedule their attendance to the June 2025 meeting of the Parish Council.

7.2 **Oak Tree at Lee View Park:** Cllr Barber informed the Council that neither she nor Cllr White have had the opportunity to arrange a meeting with the residents living at the rear of Lee View to discuss the management of the cutting back of foliage and branches on the Oak Tree located in Lee View Park.

Action: Cllrs Barber and White to schedule and conduct a meeting with the affected residents to discuss the management plan of the Oak Tree.

7.3 Gale Common Ash Extraction Project: Councillors who attended the recent meeting with the Eggborough Power team provided an update on the Gale Common Ash Extraction project. Initial site work has commenced in line with the planning application and its conditions. It was confirmed that, under the planning approval, ash extraction can begin at any point over the next 25 years. However, due to current market conditions, particularly the international ash market, it is unlikely that extraction and transport activities will commence any time soon. Additionally, it was noted that DRAX Power is exploring the development of a green energy unit that would process the ash to extract rare minerals and manufacture building materials, potentially becoming a key local consumer of the ash from Gale Common.

The project is in its early stages, with no immediate impact expected. Further developments are likely to be several years away.

Action: The Council to continue monitoring the project for any significant developments and maintain engagement with Eggborough Power for future updates.

During the meeting with Eggborough Power, councillors requested an update on the Parish Council's grant application under the Community Fund. It was reported that applications for the Winter Quarter are still under evaluation and allocation. Additionally, preparations for the Spring funding programme are currently underway.

The outcome of the grant application remains pending, with decisions expected once the evaluation process is completed.

7.4 Fly-tipping in Whitley: Councillors discussed the ongoing problem of fly-tipping in the area, with investigations revealing that most of the dumping is occurring on private land owned by the Bayston family, who operate the Gale Common Motor X. As this is private property, it falls outside the jurisdiction of North Yorkshire Council for direct enforcement or clearance.

The Parish Council agreed that the issue should be addressed directly with the landowner.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Bayston on behalf of the Parish Council, requesting that action be taken to remove the fly-tipped waste from the site.

7.5 Council Vacancy: Councillors discussed the forthcoming vacancy on the Parish Council due to Cllr Thompson's planned relocation from the village. It was noted that, in accordance with statutory procedures, any vacancy must first be formally publicised by North Yorkshire Council before the Parish Council may proceed with co-option.

The Council agreed to **confirm Cllr Thompson's resignation and initiate the formal vacancy process.**

Action: The Clerk to confirm the position with Cllr Thompson regarding her resignation. Upon confirmation, Clerk to notify North Yorkshire Council Electoral Services to issue a formal notice of vacancy. Parish Council to post an informal notice on social media to encourage expressions of interest from members of the community.

7.6 George and Dragon: Councillors noted the recent closure of the George and Dragon pub in the village. It was reported that the landlord of the Horse and Jockey pub in Eggborough, which operates under the same public house chain, has publicly stated his intention to take over the tenancy of the George and Dragon following the departure of the current landlords

The Council acknowledged the potential continuity of service at the George and Dragon and viewed the development as a positive sign for the village.

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 April 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 the Local Government Electoral Commission outlining proposed changes to electoral divisions affecting the parishes of Whitley, Great Heck, and Balne. Under the proposals, these parishes would be moved from the Osgoldcross Division to the Camblesforth and Carlton Division, resulting in a change of North Yorkshire Council representation from Cllr J McCartney to Cllr M Jordan. Comments and observations about the proposed changes are invited with a deadline of 9th June 2025. While councillors had no direct and immediate objections or formal comments, they expressed interest in hearing the perspectives of both County Councillors regarding the proposed boundary changes.

Action: Clerk to contact Cllrs McCartney and Jordan to request their comments on the proposed boundary changes and how it may affect community representation in the future.

8.1..3 An email from a local resident on Templar Close concerning the “Truck Stop” on the Maltings Industrial Estate. There appears to be considerable building activity at the site suggesting the park is being extended. In the absence of any planning submissions the resident approached planning enforcement in November 2024 for comment and has as yet received no response. The clerk advised that he has sought comment from North Yorkshire County Councillor J McCartney for advice and his observations.

8.1..4 It was noted the Parish Council Newsletter has been completed and distributed to all homes in Whitley.

- Social Media

8.1..1 Cllr Humphrey reported, there were comments on the social media pages of the potential 1,500 homes that are proposed to be built to the West of Eggborough. In addition, observations were expressed concerning the battery storage facility that is to be installed to the North of Eggborough. The community has also posted about the Electoral Commission boundary changes and the potential take over of the George and Dragon.

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

- The clerk reported there were no new planning applications.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 22/04/2025:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2024	Expenditure since 1 st April 2024	Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	13.21		15,566.76	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)		467.00	5,974.76	No interest
Total Bank Balances			21,541.52	
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.	11,224.07	
VAT due for reclaim			3,767.75	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds			14,991.82	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to April 2025. The total projected receipts for the new financial year, are £14,200 including the precept of £13,000. This compares with total anticipated expenditure based on budget expectations of £14,370.60. The net resulting balance of unrestricted reserves at the end of the year will be £15,687.64

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: £
	Yorkshire Local Councils Association - subscriptions	467.00
	Citizens Advice Bureau Selby - Donation	100.00
	Whitley and Eggborough Community Primary School - donation	185.00

- 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.

- **Parks & Playground Maintenance:** The Clerk advised that the Parish is still awaiting completion of the playground inspection following which a health and safety reported will be produced and presented to the Councillors for review.
- **Nature Reserve:** Cllr Cole provided an update on the current state of the Nature Reserve. It was reported that the outstanding repairs to the external fencing has now been completed. Councillors raised queries regarding the ongoing management of vegetation within the reserve and discussed the need to consider appropriate budget allocation for future maintenance. In addition, the Council formally acknowledged and expressed sincere gratitude to Monaghan Mushrooms for their significant contribution to the transformation of the reserve, which is now a valuable community asset.

The Council welcomed the completed repairs and agreed on the importance of planning for sustainable management of the reserve.

Concern was also raised about an apparent fire having been lit within the Nature Reserve, prompting a discussion on fire risk and possible anti-social behaviour. Councillors considered potential steps to manage and mitigate such risks.

Action: Clerk to write a letter of thanks to be sent to Monaghan Mushrooms acknowledging their support and work on the Nature Reserve. Cllr Walton to contact the local community police officer for advice on addressing and deterring potential anti-social behaviour and managing fire risk in the reserve.

- **Community Payback Team:** Cllr Walton advised that there is nothing further to report concerning future engagement with the Community Payback Team.
- **Verge cutting:** The verge cutting has been commenced for completion every fortnight.

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

12.0 A19 Safety:

There were no new updates regarding speeding in the village. However, it was noted positively that police speed camera vans have been deployed more frequently.

Councillors also raised concerns about the safety of the central island reservation near Lee View, specifically the issue of southbound vehicles clipping the curb. It was suggested that painting the curb white might help to highlight the obstacle and improve visibility for approaching drivers.

Action: Clerk to contact North Yorkshire Highways to enquire about the feasibility of painting the curb on the central island reservation to improve visibility and reduce incidents.

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 Councillors and residents expressed concern over the noticeable increase in dog waste being left uncollected in public areas, particularly in Daffodil Park, the Nature Reserve, and along Lee Lane. This was considered both an environmental and public health issue. Requests were made for clearer signage to remind dog walkers of their responsibility to clean up after their pets. The Council agreed that action should be taken to encourage responsible dog ownership and reduce fouling in community spaces.

Action: The pricing of notices reminding dog walkers to collect and dispose of dog waste to be sought for presentation to the council at the next meeting.

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

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 8:05 pm