

# Whitley Parish Council

1. The meeting was opened at 7.18 pm by the Chair Cllr Walton.

## 2. Open Public Forum(OPF) 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

2.1. Members 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 Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex Building Ref – 02/22

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

### 4. Apologies for absence:

4.1. Apologies were received from Cllr Cole. The resignation from Cllr Broadbent from his position as Councillor was noted.

### 5. Disclosures of interest:

5.1. It was noted that Cllr T Woodhead, and Cllr S Cole are members of the Gale Common Action Group. A community group campaigning against the Gale Common Ash Extraction planning application.

5.2. There were no other interests registered.

### 6. Minutes of the virtual video conference meetings of Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021:

6.1. The Council reviewed the minutes of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Cllr White questioned whether the comment In AOB regarding the demolition of Eggborough Power Station Towers in June has been corroborated or was it more appropriate to point out that such observations were speculative. Cllr White pointed out that it is important to note the proposed pedestrian crossing would be sited on the A19 between Lee View and Yew Tree Park. Subject to these comments the minutes were approved as a true record.

**Action:** Clerk to deliver a copy of the suitably amended minutes of the Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 for signature by Cllr Humphrey.

### 7. Opening matters for information and action as required:

7.1. **Gale Common Extraction Proposal:** Cllr Humphrey summarised the status of the campaign progressing towards the application for Judicial Review of the decision by North Yorkshire County Council in connection with the Gale Common Ash Extraction planning approval. Cllr Woodhead reminded the meeting that the Judicial Review will be limited to the consideration of the legal basis of the approval process and pointed out that it is possible the outcome of such a review may not lead to the reversal of the planning decision. The QC has initially identified two specific grounds that would form the basis for the application for the

Judicial Review; the issue of the impact on the Green belt and the lack of appropriate assessment of the Selby Local Development Plan in consideration of the planning application. A more detailed examination of the case may give rise to further issues that will be forthcoming when the barrister completes his review. This will include an assessment of the prospects that the Judicial Review will conclude in a positive result for the campaign. There are prescribed deadline dates and processes to which claims to the High Court must comply.

An estimate of the total cost incurred to date including the barristers review brings legal charges to £8,000 plus VAT of which amount Whitley Parish is committed to cover 50% a figure of £4,000. A resident from the Parish of Heck has undertaken to contribute £2,000 with Cridling Stubbs and Womersley Parishes covering the balance.

It was agreed the Cllr Humphrey and Cllr Woodhead would continue to liaise with the campaigning group of Councils on behalf of Whitley Parish and attend ongoing meetings and discussions with the legal team. Following the delivery of the barrister's full report further meetings of the group will no doubt raise additional questions and require decisions and commitments to be made as the campaign moves to the next stage. Eggborough Parish Council continue in their position to remain distant from the campaign group.

Cllr Woodhead noted that the next stage of the process would add a further £4,000 to the cost. The Councillors recognised that as the case moves forward legal costs will rapidly become substantial, however, the consequent impact of the Ash Extraction programme will have such a marked effect on all communities in the area for such a long period that the Whitley Parish Council consider they have an obligation to pursue all options available in the protection of its residents. The campaign should and must continue on behalf of all communities.

If the case progresses into the latter stage's costs will be significant with estimates of £50,000 to £60,000, in which event the campaign will move to seek crowd funding. Cllr White suggested that advice should be sought from appropriate bodies including the Yorkshire Local Councils Association to investigate funding sources.

Cllr Humphrey observed that the issue of cost is not limited to the campaign group as plaintiffs in the case. North Yorkshire County Council will also have to consider their own position and how confident they are in their planning decision. The outcome may be that the planning department may choose to review their recommendations concerning the planning application obviating the need for the Judicial Review.

**Action:** Cllr Humphrey and Cllr Woodhead to continue liaison with the legal team and the campaign group to ensure submission of the notice of application for Judicial Review is delivered within the deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> June.

- 7.2. **Co-option of Parish Councillor:** The Clerk explained that following the resignation of Cllr Broadbent from his position as Councillor the Parish are obliged to advertise the vacancy. The notice will be posted onto the Parish notice boards advising residents of the Parish that within the next 14 days should 10 electors require a formal process in the filling of the vacancy an election will be organised by Democratic Services of Selby District Council. If no such application is received Whitley Parish Council are then permitted to fill the vacancy by co-option. Noted.

**Action:** Notice of vacancy to be posted onto the village notice boards.

7.3. **Litter Pick:** Cllr White advised that a village litter pick has been organised for the week end of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Volunteers will meet at 10:30 am in the car park of the George and Dragon.

7.4. **Allotment Shed:** Cllr White requested that the Parish Council consider the purchase of a storage shed for the allotment on the condition that the Allotment Association would make adonation to the Parish to cover the cost of acquisition. The Clerk advised that the shed would remain as an asset of Whitley Parish Council.

**Action:** Cllr White to obtain quotations for the price of the shed and present the details to the Council for approval.

Cllr White reported that the waiting list for allotments has now been closed given the numbers on the waiting list.

7.5. **Council Meetings:** The Clerk presented dates of the Council Meetings for the year 2021/22. Noted.

**Action:** Cllr Humphrey to publish meeting dates of Whitley Parish Council website.

7.6. **Christmas Tree:** Cllr White reported that the Christmas Tree located at the George and Dragon had died and has been removed. Councillors agreed that consideration will be given later in the year to the purchase of a replacement.

7.7. **State of Underpass:** The meeting discussed the state of the underpass and previous investigations undertaken by Cllr White in the repainting of the path. It was recognised that responsibility for the management of the location is the Highways department of North Yorkshire County Council. Questions were raised about the necessary repairs and costs involved and whether Selby District and North Yorkshire County Councillor McCartney may wish to contribute towards the project.

Cllr Humphrey observed that the Head Mistress of Whitley and Eggborough Community Primary School had expressed an interest in participating in the refurbishment project.

Cllr Humphrey agreed to take on the lead for the project and Cllr White undertook to forward on details of his own enquiries including prices for repainting.

**Action:** Cllr Humphrey to consider options for the refurbishment of the Underpass and report back to the Council.

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

8.1.1. An email from a resident of the village requesting a supply of wheelie bin stickers.  
Action: Cllr White to deliver stickers to resident. Noted.

8.1.2. An email from Selby AVS requesting that the Parish promote a survey to be managed by Selby District to capture details of how people have been affected by Covid. Action: a link to the survey to be published on the Parish website. Noted.

8.1.3. A phone call from an individual seeking information about the ownership of the Rosslyn property. Noted.

8.1.4.

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. 2021/0268/FUL – Mr and Mrs Philip Johnson, Land Off Larth Close, Erection of 8 dwellings and garages. The Clerk advised the meeting that the Council's objections have been submitted. No further action and decisions have been made in connection with the application. The Council have, however, received notice from the Senior Planning Officer that should approval be granted, and the development proceed the developer will be required to pay a commuted sum towards public open spaces of £7,928.00. Noted.

9.2. There were no planning applications granted for approval.

**10. Council Finance & Administration:**

**10.1. RFO Report as at 18/05/2021:**

Bank/Account	Income since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	Expenditure since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	Of which is 106 expenditure	Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	0.47		Nil	55,208.49	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	9,803.33	1,549.57	300.00	9,613.90	No interest
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>				<b>64,822.39</b>	
<b>Less following funds:</b>					
Protected 106 funds		3 x Play areas/ROS and the Tree Lines.		37,178.58	
Other protected funds		Crossing		5,000.00	
Total Protected funds				42,178.58	
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.		22,643.79	
VAT due for reclaim				3,942.32	
<b>Total Unprotected Funds</b>				<b>26,586.11</b>	

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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021. During the current month the Parish has received the first tranche of the 2021/22 precept of £4,500 and rental from the Allotment Association of £303. Total income including the Road Safety Grant is £9,803.

Cllr White sought clarification of the bills received from A Gill in connection with the work undertaken on his maintenance within Daffodil Park. It was noted that the two most recent invoices covered activity in March at £60.00 and during April at £90.00.

Cllr White summarised his understanding of the overall financial reserves available to the Council. Based on the figures presented Council cash reserves stand at £22,643.79 which includes £4,500 of precept monies received on account of the Parish anticipated expenditure for the year to March 2022. The balance remaining of £18,143.79 represents cleared funds brought forward from the previous years that can be allocated to meet capital cost of projects or any exceptional legal costs such as the Gale Common campaign or be allocated to the ringfenced funds held to manage the Parish open spaces.

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

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Amount: £</b>
Transfer	BHIB	680.00
Transfer	Danvm Drainage	17.44
Transfer	Wicksteed	216.00
Transfer	A Gill	90.00

**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>

## 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 advised that it is anticipated the painting of the playgrounds will be carried out during September 2021.
- The Clerk shared the details of the playground inspection all of which were low risk. In summary the findings were that in Blackthorn Close the bench could be painted; a lock provided for the gate; trees are inspected and signage of the site expanded with name and address be provided. In Lee View identification labels, be fitted to play equipment and signage of the site with name and address. In Daffodil Park, the step treads to be tightened. All findings were noted

- Management of moles in Daffodil Park, action pending.
- The repairs to the notice board will be actioned in due course.
- Cllr White reported on his meeting at Daffodil Field with engineers from Sweetings a specialist drainage company and a local farmer to review options in the management of the flooding. A large pipe would be sunk into the ground running along the hedge at the back that would be brought into the field around the goal posts. A central pipe would be located along the whole length of the playing field right up to the bird's nest swing. Feeder pipes would be laid off this central pipe leading to all the main flooded areas. This work could be finished within a week and delivered well within a five-figure sum. Subject to approval the project could be completed in August or September. It was observed that if the project were to be viable it may be necessary to consult with local farmers and the drainage board.

11.1.2. **Management of Tress on Daffodil Park and Lee View:** Cllr White advised that the tree management at the rear of Lee View has been completed. The garden contractor agreed to carry out tree management work in the Daffodil Park, but this work remains outstanding for completion.

11.1.3. **Litter bins:** The Clerk advised that we are still awaiting completion of the installation of the litter bins by Selby District Council. A recent email from the Waste Management Department in Selby Council explained that their suppliers are experiencing long lead times due to restrictions and lockdowns. We have been promised that once the bins are received, they will be fit as soon as possible.

Cllr White observed that the bin by the bus stop near Templar Close has been removed.

11.1.4. **Verge cutting:** The state of the verge cutting was reviewed, and it was noted that some sections that had been previously included have not been subject to a recent cut. The availability of a definite map of the village specifying location and cutting schedule was queried with some remembrance that such a plan had been drafted and used in the past.

**Action:** Clerk to continue monitoring of verge cutting and liaise with grass contractor as appropriate.

## 12. A19 Safety:

12.1. **Vehicle Activated Signs Reports:** Cllr White advised that it was his intention to relocate the VAS sign to the North End of the village at some point when time permitted.

Cllr White reported that he has recently delivered a further supply of wheelie bin speed stickers to residents on the A19.

**13. A.O.B.**

**13.1.** Cllr Humphrey referred to a communication to him from a resident in the village who expressed concern regarding HGV's travelling along Gravel Hill Lane in contravention of regulations.

**Action:** Clerk to correspond with the general manager of Monaghan Mushrooms requesting that drivers been warned of the vehicle restrictions.

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

**14.1. Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

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