

# Whitley Parish Council

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

## 2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023

2.1 Members of the public were in attendance at the meeting who were joined by PC Sarah Ward who is a officer based in Eggborough Police Station as part of the Selby District Neighbourhood Policing Team for the Whitley Parish. Reference was made to a recent traffic incident involving an injury to a scooter driver. A car illegally parked at the junction of Whitley Farm Close and Doncaster Road (A19) inhibited the view of a vehicle exiting Whitley Farm Close onto the Southbound carriage way of the A19. Consequently, the vehicle collided with a scooter travelling on the A19 causing injury to the driver who had to wait over an hour by the Daffodil Park gate awaiting arrival of an ambulance. The police officer in attendance made representations to the owner of the parked vehicle who moved it from the junction. It is unclear whether any further action was taken as the police officer had concluded that the vehicle was not parked illegally.

Observations were made that illegal parking of vehicles at the junction is a regular occurrence and presents a significant obstacle to road users exiting onto the A19. Comments were raised about the previous applications to North Yorkshire Highways for the provision of double yellow lines, which have to date been rejected so far.

In addition, comments were made about the location of an industrial waste unit on the public footpath and on the highway by the Care Home opposite the junction of Whitley Farm Close and Doncaster Road. The waste bin is often full and due to its location obstructs a clear view of the A19.

PC Sarah Ward sought further clarification concerning the traffic incident and agreed to make inquiries about the outcome of any police investigation. She also provided information about the relevant legal position regarding vehicle parking at junctions:

- The Highway Code specifies that vehicles must not park within 10 metres of a junction. However, the code is for guidance only and is not legally enforceable.
- In normal circumstances prosecution will follow in the event of a road traffic accident if fault is evident and can be proven.
- Parking on public footpaths is permitted provided free access by wheelchairs and pushchairs is not obstructed.
- Police officers are obliged to use their discretion in taking action against the owners of vehicles parked inappropriately.

**Action:** A polite note pointing out the location of the waste bin and problems that the siting on the public footpath may cause be presented to the management of the care home.

Members of the public expressed their gratitude to Cllr White following his prompt action in successfully addressing all the issues of the Arriva Bus Service.

PC Sarah Ward shared some observations concerning criminal activity within the village. The crime statistics from the 1<sup>st</sup> February to date reveal only a limited number of incidents; scrap metal taken from a farm, tool boxes stolen from a vehicle, a report of quad bikes on the outskirts of the village and one report of graffiti. A total of 4 crimes in four months.

A Police drop in session scheduled for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at the George and Dragon will be held inviting the public to attend to raise any concerns and ask questions about neighbourhood policing.

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 16<sup>th</sup>  
May 2023 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex  
Building – 02/24**

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

**4.0 Apologies for absence:**

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Woodhead.

**5.0 Disclosure of interest:**

5.1 Cllr White is treasurer of the Allotment Association and a plot holder.

5.2 There were no other interests registered.

**6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023:**

6.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting.

**Action:** The Clerk to deliver a copy for signature by the Chair.

**7.0 Matters for information and action as required:**

**7.1 Chairs Report:** The publication of the Chairs Report was discussed and agreed under agenda item 6 of the Whitley Annual Parish Council Meeting for 2023.

**7.2 Gale Common:** Cllr White summarised his meeting, along with, Cllr Walton and Cllr Woodhead with a representative from Eggborough Power at the Gale Common site. Councillors were informed that it is **not anticipated** any ash recovery activity will commence during 2023. Due to world events the price of ash has collapsed. Given the issues of gas and oil supplies coal powered fire stations are being retained which is generating a surfeit of ash thereby reducing commodity prices. This renders the extraction of ash from Gale Common uneconomic. However, it is likely the capital works will commence to widen the entrance of the Gale Common site in anticipation of the extraction of ash at some point in the future.

The commitment from Eggborough Power to the initiation of a Liaison Group and support for local activities was confirmed based on their obligations under their Section 106 agreement with North Yorkshire County Council.

It was agreed a further update meeting will be arranged in the future possibly during the Autumn.

Whitley residents will be brought up to date with the current position via the Whitley Parish Council Newsletter.

**7.3 Christmas Lights:** Cllr Cole updated Councillors on the status of enquiries regarding potential source of funding to cover the infrastructure modifications to lampposts to provision electrical fittings for the Christmas Lights. North Yorkshire County Councillor McCartney is unable to offer financial assistance in 2023 as his discretionary sponsorship funds are now fully allocated. Other potential sources have been identified including Three Ridings who will be approached to offer support to the project.

Given the extent of the costs involved it is recognised that Christmas Lights cannot be provisioned during 2023. However, it was agreed that active community engagement should be encouraged to enlist the practical support of residents in the management and delivery of the project. To that end it was agreed the Parish Council's ambitions for the deployment of Christmas Lights should be promoted and reported in the forthcoming Parish Newsletter.

It is important that it is clearly understood by the community the Parish Council do not have the funds to meet the cost of the project and this can only be achieved through an orchestrated campaign from sponsorship, donations, and grants.

Councillors agreed that as the project moves forward it will be important to investigate competitive and alternative solutions for the provision of Christmas Light fittings. It is also critical a to manage community expectations.

**7.4 Christmas Tree:** The state of the Christmas Tree planted outside the George and Dragon was noted with the suggestion that enquiries be made for the provision of an additional tree.

**7.5 Allotment Agreement:** Cllr White tabled the revised Allotment Agreement that was approved by the Parish Council.

**Action:** Cllr Walton to sign the agreement on behalf of Whitley Parish Council.

**7.6 All Saints Church:** There were no further updates to report concerning discussion with Leeds Dioceses. It was agreed that the notice board currently sited within the Church premises is beyond economic repair and will not be replaced.

**7.7 Parish Council Meeting:** Parish Councillors reviewed and provisionally agreed the suggested meeting dates with the exception of the 17<sup>th</sup> October that will move to the following week Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

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

**8.1** Emails and postage.

**8.1.1** Clerk presented the following details of emails or correspondence by mail relevant to the affairs of Whitley Parish Council:

**8.1.1.1** An email from a resident with an observation that Sycamores in College Farm Close had been removed. Cllr Walton advised that she had replied to the resident explaining the reason for the action being that branches were legitimately felled due to encroachment on telephone lines.

**8.2** Social Media

**8.2.1.1** Exchanges on the community website concerning the felling of the Sycamore Trees on College Farm Close.

**8.2.1.2** Complaints about the state of growth of the verges at the top of the village at the M62 junction 34. Since the posting the verges have been cut by North Yorkshire County Council.

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

**9.1.1** There are no new planning applications to report. The following decisions were made on outstanding applications.

**9.1.1.1** 2023/0051/FUL, erection of detached bungalow to the north of Berties, 2 Whitefield Lane, Whitley. Application refused. Noted

**9.1.1.2** 2023/0124/TPO, application to reduce canopy height and spread of various trees. Holly Close, Whitley. Granted with exclusions. Noted

**9.1.1.3** NY/2022/0015/FUL, erection of 2.4-metre-high green weldmesh fencing at Whitley and Eggborough Community Primary School, Learning Lane, Whitley approved. Noted

It was also noted that the owners of the Larth Close development are proposing to sell the site by auction.

**10.0 Council Finance & Administration:**

**10.1 RFO Report as at 16/05/2023:**

Bank/Account	Income since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	Expenditure since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit				15,248.50	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	5,250.00	2,443.71		6,312.53	No interest
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>				<b>21,561.03</b>	
<b>Less following funds:</b>					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field Gale Common Settlement		1,798.71 12,230.00 600.00	
Total Allocated funds				14,628.71	
Parish Council 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.		6,932.32	
VAT due for reclaim				1,172.05	
<b>Total Unallocated Parish Funds</b>				<b>8,104.37</b>	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary analysing month by month the actual receipts and payments up to May 2023, with a forecast of income and expenditure for the remainder of the year to March 2024. Total expenditure up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 is anticipated to amount to £29,584.62 that compares with total income of precept and rent flowing into the bank for the year of £10,867. The balance of reserves carried forward at the end of the year is forecast to be £6,222.17.

Payments during the month of May 2023 presented for payment included the renewal of the Parish Council insurance for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 the amount of which is a slight increase on the previous year. Councillors approved the renewal.

It was noted the provision for expenditure to cover repair of the notice board located in the grounds of All Saints Church will no longer be required the notice board being beyond economic repair. It was agreed the budgeted sum will be carried forward as a contingency against other costs.

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

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Amount: £</b>
22537	BHIB – insurance for Year to May 2024	754.71
22536	NYCC – settlement of Protective Cost Order	200.00
22538	Danvm Drainage	25.76
22539	George Fillingham	1,848.00
22525	Cancelled cheque to George Fillingham	-1,848.00

**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>

**11.0 Recreational Open Space in Whitley:**

**11.1 Parks and Verges:**

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

**11.1.1.1 Replacement of Memorial Bench:** Cllr White confirmed the managers of the Police Benevolent Fund are happy for the Parish Council to manage the acquisition of the bench with a claim for reimbursement of costs to be made to the Police Benevolent Fund when installation is completed. It was agreed that the total cost including delivery, fitting and memorial plaque cannot exceed the maximum grant offered by the Fund of £1,3000.

**11.1.1.2 Management of patch of tree and shrub land adjacent to the public pathway by the Play Area:** The Clerk advised

Councillors of a reports from residents in Whitley Farm Close of reptiles and grass snakes emerging from the undergrowth of this patch of land. Councillors considered management of this area and agreed that the Community Payback Team during their next visit would include some clearance work at this location.

**11.1.1.3 Regular inspection of the Parks & Playground:** Cllr White suggested that consideration should be given to arrangements for the routine proactive inspection of specific Open Space Areas.

**11.1.1.4 Planters:** The Clerk advised that Lewis Roberts gave an undertaking that the damaged Planter will be repaired with the next fortnight. Cllr White commented on the lack of success of efforts to identify volunteers within the community to assist in the management of the flowers in the planters.

**11.1.2 Community Payback Scheme:** Cllr White reported that the payback team will be in attendance on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May and will focus their efforts within Daffodil Park cutting back the shrubbery and undergrowth.

**11.1.3 Verge Cutting:** The Clerk confirmed the arrangements for the schedule of cuts. These being a total cost of £4,500 for the whole growing season with 3 cuts of the verges and 12 cuts of the Parks and Play Area. Concern was expressed about the number of verge cuts being undertaken to date compared with contractors' contractual arrangement.

**Action:** Clerk to remind the sub-contractor of the agreement.

**12.0 A19 Safety:**

**12.1 Speeding on A19:** Cllr White commented on the speed data recently collected. There are well over 10,000 vehicles passing through the village during the period during which there were 15 vehicles recorded as exceeding the 70mph speed limit. It was noted that the repairs to the A1 junctions 41 to 39 have generated a significant increase in the number of vehicles especially HGV's travelling through the village.

A resident commented on the state of the road on the interchange at junction 34 that has deteriorated significantly. It was acknowledged that representations about the quality of Highways should be made to North Yorkshire County Councillor McCartney.

**13.0 A.O.B.**

**13.1** Cllr Humphrey advised that the Police Liaison meeting will be held of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**13.2** Cllr Humphrey advised that a Community Police Messaging Service has been launched for residents who are able to register for online access.

**13.3** Cllr White requested whether the cutting agreement has been formally documented.

**13.4** Cllr White conveyed sincere appreciation to the individuals from the public who taken the time to attend the Parish Council meeting. Additionally, an open invitation was extended to join the Councillors in upcoming meetings.

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

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June; 2023 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

**Closure of meeting:** 9:10 pm

# Whitley Parish Council

## Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

1. **Opening Meeting:** The meeting was opened at 7.00 p.m. by Cllr K Walton
2. **Present:** Cllr S Humphrey, Cllr F Blackburn, Cllr K Walton, Cllr Cole, Cllr J White, and Clerk to the Council J Hunter. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Woodhead.
3. **Election of Chair of the Council for 2023/24:** Cllr Walton invited nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr White proposed Cllr Walton be reappointed as Chair to Whitley Parish Council for 2023/24 seconded by Cllr Blackburn, carried unanimously.  
**Action:** Cllr Walton signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman of Whitley Parish Council for 2023/24.
4. **Election of Vice Chair of the Council for 2023/24:** Cllr Cole proposed that Cllr White be reappointed as Vice Chair to Whitley Parish Council for 2023/24 Seconded by Cllr Blackburn and Carried unanimously.  
**Action:** Cllr White signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice Chair of Whitley Parish Council for 2023/24.
5. **Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting:** The minutes for the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were agreed during the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022. Noted
6. **Chairman's Report for 2022/23:** It was agreed the Chair's report would be included within the content of the Annual Parish Newsletter to be edited and published by Cllr Humphrey and distributed to all households in the village.
7. **Public Forum:** Members of the public present at the Annual Meeting made no comments or observations.
8. **Close Meeting:** There being no other business for this meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.10 p.m.

**Chairman of the Parish Council:**

**Date:**