

Whitley Parish Council

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2026 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

1. **Opening Meeting:** The meeting was opened at 7.00 p.m. by Cllr K Walton
2. **Present:** Cllr K Walton, Cllr White, Cllr Cole, Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Paley, and Clerk to the Council J Hunter.
3. **Election of Chair of the Council for 2026/27:** Cllr Walton invited nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr White proposed Cllr Cole be appointed as Chair to Whitley Parish Council for 2026/27 seconded by Cllr Walton, carried unanimously.
Action: Cllr Cole signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair of Whitley Parish Council for 2026/27.
4. **Election of Vice Chair of the Council for 2026/27:** Cllr White proposed that Cllr Patley be appointed as Vice Chair to Whitley Parish Council for 2026/27 Seconded by Cllr Humphrey and Carried unanimously.
Action: Cllr Patley signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice Chair of Whitley Parish Council for 2026/27.
5. **Chairman's Report for 2025/26:** The Chair advised that a summary of the Parish Council's work during the year, including key achievements, activities undertaken for the benefit of the community, and highlights of challenges faced by the village, had been included within the Parish Council newsletter due to be published and distributed throughout the village.
6. **Public Forum:** Members of the public present at the Annual Meeting made no comments or observations.
7. **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:

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 19th May 2026

2.1 A resident raised concerns regarding recent power outages in the area, including the most recent incident which lasted more than two hours. The resident queried the apparent increasing frequency of outages and whether ongoing housing and infrastructure development may be impacting the local power supply. Concerns were also raised regarding the standing charge on electricity bills, which the resident felt had increased significantly and appeared comparatively high for the area, with a request for clarification as to the reasons for this.

Councillors acknowledged that residents do receive text alerts and updates from the electricity distribution network operator regarding outages. It was further noted that Councillor Keir Mather MP has been in contact with the network operator regarding these issues.

Councillors appreciated the concerns raised and suggested that the Parish Council, via the Clerk, contact the network operator to request clarification, with a copy to the local MP.

Action: The Clerk to contact Northern Energy Network to seek clarification on the frequency of outages and related issues.

2.2 Cllr White, on behalf of the Allotment Association, advised that the current three-year rolling agreement with the Parish Council has expired and is due for renewal.

It was agreed that this matter be included as an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: The Clerk will circulate a copy of the existing agreement to all councillors in advance of that meeting to allow for review and consideration.

2.3 The Chair closed the open public forum.

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3.0 **Record Councillors in attendance:** Cllr Cole (Chair), Cllr Patley (Vice Chair), Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Walton, Cllr White and Clerk to the Council J Hunter.

Cllr White, on behalf of the councillors, expressed thanks and gratitude to Cllr Walton as the outgoing Chair of the Parish Council for her service and contribution during her term of office.

4.0 Apologies for absence

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Barber along with her notice of resignation. Councillors acknowledged the decision of Cllr Barber to resign due to family commitments.

Action: The Clerk to process the resignation in accordance with the relevant procedures and make any necessary notifications.

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 21st April 2026:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 21st April 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 introduced the planning officer's formal response (received 25 March) to the Parish Council's earlier without prejudice representations relating to the proposed Section 106 mitigation scheme. It was noted that the officer's response was structured as a direct reply to the Council's submitted points and accompanying correspondence.

Councillors then considered a proposed Parish Council response to the planning officer, together with an accompanying "Schedule of Requirements (Works in Kind)" document.

The proposed response sought to reframe elements of mitigation from cash contributions to delivery of specified works in kind, including drainage improvements, levelling and upgrading of Daffodil Field to a formal playing surface, provision of play infrastructure, and independent certification of works to an appropriate standard.

Councillors considered the planning officer's response and the draft Parish Council reply, including the Schedule of Requirements. It was agreed that the response should proceed, incorporating amendments discussed, particularly in relation to management company liability provisions.

Councillors agreed that a short statement should be prepared for publication on the Parish Council's social media channels, outlining the ongoing work and continued engagement with North Yorkshire Council planning officers in relation to the proposed development. The purpose of the update is to inform residents of the Parish Council's ongoing diligence in reviewing, challenging, and responding to planning matters affecting the parish.

Action:

- The Clerk to finalise and submit the agreed response to North Yorkshire Council planning officer, including the revised Schedule of Requirements.
- Cllr White to draft and publish an appropriate social media update as required.

7.2 **Nature Reserve:** Cllr Cole provided an update on recent maintenance work within the Nature Reserve. It was reported that the Community Payback Team had undertaken a significant amount of work and were thanked for their efforts. Cllr Cole had visited the team during their work on site and met with both operatives and their supervisor. It was noted that the team were unable to cut the verge adjacent to the outside of the reserve due to health and safety requirements, which necessitated the installation of protective barriers when working alongside the road. Vegetation around the nature reserve signage has been cleared, improving visibility for the public. Some questions were raised regarding the extent of cutting back of dog roses and brambles, although overall the work was considered satisfactory.

The Payback Team supervisor indicated they may be able to return in due course, subject to availability, and advised that they could undertake fencing repairs between the Nature Reserve and the Mushroom Farm. Arrangements for a future visit would be coordinated via Cllr White.

Cllr Cole also reported on a meeting with the grass cutting contractor, who recommended the use of herbicidal treatment along encroaching vegetation on access paths within the reserve to maintain defined walkways, at an estimated cost of £400 per treatment. It was further advised that a flail mowing cut would be carried out at the end of the season. Councillors were informed that the Mushroom Farm had not yet confirmed when, or if, installation of promised benches within the Nature Reserve would be completed.

Cllr Cole also suggested the installation of a picnic table within the park area to encourage community use. Cllr White advised that applications to the Gale Common Community Fund would open at the end of June, and that the Parish Council could consider an application to fund this proposal.

Actions:

- Cllr White to contact the General Manager of the Mushroom Farm regarding the status of the bench installation.
- The Parish Council to consider a funding application to the Gale Common Community Fund for a picnic table.

7.3 Parish Council Newsletter: Councillors considered the draft content of the Parish Council newsletter. Councillors suggested that further updates be included, a statement outlining the latest position regarding ongoing matters relating to the Harron Homes development.

Cllr Humphrey requested that suitable photographs of sites within the village be included to support the newsletter content.

Action:

The newsletter to be finalised by Councillors Humphrey and White.

7.4 Development of the Website: The Clerk confirmed ongoing engagement with Vision ICT regarding the update and maintenance of the Parish Council website. Councillor Humphrey's contact details have been shared with Vision ICT's technical support team, who will liaise directly with him to progress the required updates.

Action:

No further action required at this stage, other than continued liaison between Vision ICT and Cllr Humphrey.

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 a resident on Templar Close requesting any information concerning clearance activity on land adjacent to the entrance of Templar Close. The Clerk advised that in response he had referenced comments made by North Yorkshire Councillor John McCartney and previous communications with an individual who had indicated an interest in the land for use as a winter storage facility of "travelling show" rides and equipment.

- 8.1..2 An email from the Selby Town Clerk referring to a email from a resident in Whitley complaining about smell and smoke seeming to emanate from fires by the local canal. Councillors considered that this is likely to be the same source as the clearance activity by Templar Close.
- 8.1..3 An email notice from North Yorkshire Council Waste Department notifying that all council residents are now obliged to register to use the council waste facilities located in North Yorkshire. **Action:** copy of notice to be published on the Whitley Community social media pages and included in the Parish Newsletter.
- 8.1..4 An email issued from North Yorkshire Council initiating a new round of “Call for Development Sites” over the next six weeks. Noted without comment.
- 8.1..5 An email from North Yorkshire Council Area 7 Highways Department extending open invitations to attend workshops being hosted throughout the county. The workshops are intended to provide insight and information into the functions and operations of the Highways Department.

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

8.1..1 Cllr Humphrey indicated there was nothing to report on content posted on social media.

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 ZG2026/0398/HPA: 3 Woodview Close, Whitley. Single storey extension. Noted without comment.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 19/05/2026:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2026	Expenditure since 1 st April 2026		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	12.32			15,722.11	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account	6,750.00	3,228.94		16,250.21	No interest
Total Bank Balances				31,972.32	
Less following funds:					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing		1,798.71	
		Drainage Daffodil Field		8,000.00	
		Notice Board for Templar Close		518.74	
		CIL – Larth Close		7,067.46	
		Eggborough Power Fund		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.	13,709.41	
VAT due for reclaim			5,488.54	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds			20,197.95	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to May 2026 for the new financial year. Based on budget expectations and planned expenditure, the estimated year-end balance was noted to be £15,165.33 subject to the accuracy of ongoing budget assumptions. Councillors reviewed the anticipated expenditure for the forthcoming year noting the key items of costs particularly related to the management of the open spaces with grass cutting and the maintenance of trees.

The Clerk advised that an additional CIL payment of £4,942.08 will be made by North Yorkshire Council covering the levy due on the development within Larth Close outstanding since 2023/24.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22686	G H Fillingham Contractors Ltd	1,320.00
22688	Clear Insurance	944.14
22687	Glasdon	488.80
22685	J White – Grass Seeds0	6.97

- 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:** Cllr Humphrey commented that Daffodil Park appeared particularly overgrown, although it was noted that the grass cutting contract provides for two cuts per month and that a further cut was expected imminently.

Councillors also discussed the ongoing issue of a vehicle being parked in front of the access gate to Daffodil Park, which may obstruct access for the grass cutting contractor. It was agreed that the situation should continue to be monitored and may require longer-term management should access continue to be impeded.

Cllr White advised that the rails surrounding the gas enclosure are to be removed by the Community Payback Team. Councillor White also reminded Councillors of proposals to replace elements of the playground equipment within Daffodil Park, with a further update to be provided at the next meeting.

It was further noted that the gap within the entrance gate at Daffodil Park remains an outstanding issue requiring attention.

Councillors also discussed concerns regarding the condition and size of trees within Blackthorn Close and other open spaces across the village. It was suggested that a wider review of community trees be undertaken to inform a future tree management plan.

Action:

Cllr Paley to undertake an inspection of community trees to assess condition and identify any potential risks

- 11.1..2 Nature Reserve:** Cllr White reported that the Community Payback team has attended on two occasions and plans are in place for further work at the nature reserve. It was noted that the type of work they can undertake is limited, generally to low-risk tasks such as clearing, moving materials, and basic maintenance, with activities requiring specialist equipment or working at height not permitted. Councillor Cole raised concerns regarding the extent of dog fouling within the park area and acknowledged that there are limited options currently available to effectively manage the issue.

Councillors also discussed access arrangements to the Nature Reserve. It was noted that access is gained via a large gate owned by a local farmer, who retains the key to the lock. Councillors agreed that reliable access arrangements are important to facilitate ongoing vegetation management and maintenance within the reserve.

Action:

Cllr White to meet with the farmer to discuss and agree practical arrangements for access to the Nature Reserve when required.

- 11.1..3 Community Payback:** Cllr White stressed the importance of providing the Community Payback Administration with a copy of the public liability certificate.

Action: Following renewal of the policy with Clear Insurance clerk to pass on a copy of the public liability certificate to the Community Payback Administration.

- 11.1..4 Verge Cutting:** Cllr White commented that the overall quality of the verge cutting had improved. However, it was noted that several areas had not yet been attended to as part of the works.

Actions: Clerk to advise George Fillingham of the omission for rectification.

- 11.2 Other issues or matters to report:** Cllr White reported on a meeting with a representative from North Yorkshire Council regarding provision of a litter bin for Templar Close. It was advised that North Yorkshire Council could provide the litter bin, although installation would need to be undertaken locally. Councillors discussed the need to identify a suitable location for the litter bin within Templar Close and considered whether residents should be consulted regarding the preferred siting of the bin.

It was further reported that the representative from North Yorkshire Council Waste Services raised concerns regarding two small litter bins located within the Blackthorn Close Play Area dating from the original development of the site. It was noted that replacement liners or bags for these bins are no longer available.

Action:

The Parish Council to consider removal of the two small bins at Blackthorn Close Play Area.

It was noted that the damaged sign on Whitefield Lane will be replaced by North Yorkshire Council Highways Department.

12.0 A19 Safety:

Councillors commented on the clearance of fly tipped waste on sites within the village.

13.0 A.O.B:

13.1 Cllr Cole reported that arrangements with the George and Dragon public house to host defibrillator training sessions are ongoing.

13.2 Cllr White provided an update following a meeting with representatives associated with the Gale Common Ash Site. It was reported that ownership of the site has been transferred within the EP Investments Group. The Parish Council was advised that it remains the intention of the organisation to progress development of the site in due course, including future ash extraction operations. Councillors noted that the organisation expressed a desire to maintain ongoing communication with the Parish Council regarding site activity.

13.3 Cllr White also raised the potential cost of a new noticeboard at Silver Street, estimated at approximately £1,400 net of VAT, and queried whether sufficient funds existed within reserves to support such expenditure.

13.4 A suggestion from a resident regarding the formation of a Men's Group was also discussed. Councillors considered that this initiative fell outside the remit of the Parish Council.

13.5 Cllr White further raised a discussion point regarding the recently delivered bench currently in the possession of Councillor Walton, suggesting consideration be given to its installation in Blackthorn Close Play Area considering the number of benches proposed for the Nature Reserve.

13.6 Cllr Cole emphasised the importance of progressing improved dog fouling signage within the parish and recommended that suitable suppliers be identified and a budget allocation considered.

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

Tuesday 16th June 2026 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 09:20 pm