

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 18th June 2024

2.1 Several residents expressed serious concerns about the traffic travelling along Gravel Hill Lane. Since the road works on the A1 there has been a considerable increase in the volume of motor vehicles on the route adding to the existing number of HGV's entering and leaving the Monaghan Mushroom site. Motorists are travelling on this section of road well in excess of the permitted speed limits putting pedestrians in peril throughout the length of Gravel Hill. Compounding the problem is the excessive growth of vegetation on the verges that inhibit access to pathways and impede visibility.

Councillors advised that the issue has been reported to North Yorkshire Council's (NYC) Highways Department who have engaged specialists to undertake a comprehensive survey of traffic movements along the whole length of the highway on Gravel Hill. It was noted that monitoring equipment had been witnessed being deployed in recent weeks.

Concerns were expressed by residents about the behaviour of the HGV operators who demonstrate a complete disregard for the safety of other road users and pedestrians. Drivers who have when challenged about their actions responded to residents will nothing but treats and abuse. Complaints to the police have had no satisfactory conclusion apart from a confirmation that speed limits beyond the boundary of the village are set to the maximum of 60mph.

Action: Acknowledging the extent of the problem and the limitations of their authority over Highways matters the Parish Council agreed to relocate the 'Flashing' speed sign currently deployed on the A19 to fixtures provided on Gravel Hill. The objective being to provide data in addition to the information that will be presented following NYC Highways traffic survey.

Action: In addition, it was agreed that North Yorkshire Council Highways maintenance will be approached requesting they undertake management of the verges on Gravel Hill Lane.

Action: The issue of verge maintenance to be raised with Poskitt's Farm.

2.2 Residents expressed concerns about the practice of the occupants of the first house on Whitefield Lane who regularly burn rubbish at the rear of their property. The bonfires often set in the late evening generate excessive amounts of toxic pollutant that pervades the air. Councillors noted that North Yorkshire Council under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 specifies that the presence of a smoke nuisance emitted from either commercial or domestic premises that is frequent and interferes with the use and enjoyment of a resident's home will be investigated by officers of the Council.

Councillors advised that the residents make a formal online complaint to North Yorkshire Council.

2.3 The Chair closed the public forum and proceeded to the conduct of the Parish meeting.

**Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 18th
June 2024 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex
Building – 02/25**

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

4.0 Apologies for absence:

4.1 Cllr Barber was absent from the meeting.

5.0 Disclosure of interest:

5.1 There were no other interests registered.

6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Annual Parish Council Meeting & the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 21st May 2024:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes of were a true record of the Whitley Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 21st May 2024.

Action: The minutes to be signed by the Chair and published on the Parish Council website.

7.0 Matters for information and action as required:

7.1 Chair's Annual Report: Cllr Walton advised that preparation of the draft of the Annual Report is in progress and will be shared with Councillors in due course.

Action: consideration and approval of the Annual Report to be deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

7.2 Christmas Lights: Cllr Cole advised that the investigation into the costings and options for the provision of Christmas Lights in the village is still ongoing.

Action: consideration of the matter of Christmas Lights to be deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

7.3 Park Lane behind Tunstall Healthcare: Councillors reflected on the nature of the offer of land indicated within the email shared by NYC Cllr McCartney. It was agreed further clarification should be sought about the nature of the proposition before any meaningful discussion about the offer of land.

Action: Cllr Paley and Cllr Thompson to make further enquiries with the parties involved to learn more about the land and the proposal.

7.4 Whitley & Eggborough CP School: Councillors reviewed the present arrangement with the Community Primary School for the use of the premises as a venue for Council meetings and the associated costs. It was agreed that notwithstanding the limited funds available to the Parish Council the facility is convenient, within the budgetary constraints and thereby value for money.

7.5 Daffodil Park Drainage: Councillors recognised that it is unlikely that there will be a satisfactory proposal for the provision of drainage within the Daffodil Park. Councillors are however, mindful that a grant provided by North Yorkshire Council is held in reserve as a contribution to a project to alleviate excess water of the land in the Park.

7.6 HGV Movements on Gravel Hill Lane: It was agreed that this agenda item was comprehensively discussed during the open public forum. The Clerk advised that Gary Lumb the Improvement Manager for North Yorkshire Council Highways Department has been approached seeking an update on the progress of the traffic survey on Gravel Hill Lane and the action of the planning department in pursuit of the s278 conditions imposed on Monaghan Mushrooms.

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 North Yorkshire Council Elections Team providing a social media toolkit to provide information to communities and voters about the forthcoming General Election on 4th July. **Action:** Cllrs Humphrey and White to post appropriate notifications and information onto the social medial pages of Whitley Parish if and as necessary.

8.1.1.2 An email from the North Yorkshire Council Accounts Manager (Campaigns) offering anti-litter campaign posters. **Action:** Cllr White has requested several copies of the weatherproof posters for displace throughout the village.

8.1.1.3 An email from PC Sarah Ward attaching a copy of the NPT Community Newsletter for Eggborough & Whitley providing details of crime and antisocial behaviour in the Ward.

8.1.1.4 An email from H2S transport review North Yorkshire Council advising of the rescheduling of the date for the executive meeting to Tuesday 16th July 2024.

8.1.1.5 An email from the area manager of Monaghan Mushrooms advising of a fund for the support of small community projects.

8.1.1.6 An email from a local resident requesting that consideration be given to the installation of a zebra crossing on the A19 by Learning Lane. **Action:** Clerk has made representations to North Yorkshire Council Highways for the review of road pedestrian crossings on the A19.

8.1.1.7 An email from a resident requesting wheelie bin speeding stickers. **Action:** Cllr White to respond to request for the stickers.

8.1.1.8 An email from the Community Development Officer of North Yorkshire Council acknowledging receipt of the request for the registration of the George and Dragon as an 'Asset of Community Interest' **Action:** Clerk to monitor progress of the process of registration with a decision to be made by 19th July 2024.

8.1.1.9 A phone call received from a resident expressing concerns about the ploughing over of the public pathway of the Whitley Way by the canal Lock by Heck. **Action:** Clerk to advice North Yorkshire Council Public Rights of Way Officer of the action by the local farmer in ploughing the field.

8.1.2 Social Media

8.1.2.1 Cllr White advised that a social media post has been uploaded informing community members that it was not the intention of the Parish Council to organise a formal 'Litter Pick'. However, an invitation was extended to any volunteers wishing to undertake a litter pick on an informal basis to make contact to access the necessary litter pickers. Responses have been received pointing out the extent of dog mess observed on the pavements in the village.

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 were no planning applications delivered since the previous Parish Council meeting in June 2024 relevant to the Whitley Parish.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 18/06/2024:

Bank/Account	Income since 1st April 2024	Expenditure since 1st April 2024		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	26.82			15,419.30	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	6,722.00	3,699.64		4,810.53	No interest
Total Bank Balances				20,229.83	
Less following funds:					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field		1,798.71 8,000.00	
Total Allocated funds				9,798.71	
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.		10,431.12	
VAT due for reclaim				2,949.61	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds				13,380.73	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary analysing, month by month, the actual receipts and payments up to March 2025. It was noted the balance held on unrestricted reserves as of 30th May was £10,540.33.

The Clerk advised that following the receipt of insurance renewal notices competitive quotes have been sought all of which are more than the amount of the renewal quote. It was resolved that Whitley Parish renew the insurance with the existing insurers.

The Clerk advised that there has been no further communication from Irwin Mitchell concerning their demand.

Action: Clerk to advise the other Parish Councils party to the Gale Common Action Group of the demand from Irwin Mitchell and the position adopted by the Whitley Parish Council in response to this demand.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22574	John White – reimburse of material for bench footings	72.25
22576	George Fillingham	1044.00
22575	Whitley & Eggborough CP School – room hire Jan 23 to May 24	292.50

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: £

10.4 Annual Governance and Accountability Reports (AGAR) 2023/24

10.4.1 Certificate of Exemption AGAR 2023/24 Form 2. It was resolved that Whitley Parish Council approve the Certificate of Exemption AGAR 2023/24 Form 2.

Action: The Certificate of Exemption to be signed by the Chair and the Responsible Financial Officer for publication on the Whitley Parish Council website and submission to the External Auditors PKF Littlejohn.

10.4.2 Approval of Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24. It is resolved that Whitley Parish Council approve section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 for Whitley Parish Council on page 5 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24.

Action: The Annual Governance Statement to be signed by the Chair and the Clerk and a copy of the Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement is published on the Whitley Parish Council website.

10.4.3 Approval of Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24. It is resolved that Whitley Parish Council approve Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for Whitley Parish Council on page 6 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24. Carried unanimously.

Action: The Accounting Statement 2023/24 to be signed by the Chair and the Responsible Financial Officer with insertion of the minute reference and a copy published on the Whitley Parish Council website

10.4.4 Approval of the publication of documents required by Accounts and Audit Regulations; It is resolved that, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, SI 2020/404 The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus Amendment) Regulations 2020 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities, Whitley Parish Council will publish the following documents on a public website.

- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 page 6
- Analysis of variances
- Bank Reconciliation to 31 March 2023
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15(2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

11.0 Recreational Open Space in Whitley:

11.1 Parks and Verges:

11.1.1 Parks & Playground Maintenance: In the absence of a financially viable repair to the 'Spring Animal' located in the Lee View play area Councillors discussed options for the removal of the piece of play equipment. It was agreed consideration be given to the use of angle griding equipment to remove the unit from its fixtures.

Action: Cllr Barber to be consulted to determine the conclusion of her assessment of the condition of the item.

11.1.2 Monaghan Mushroom: Councillors noted the availability of the Monaghan Mushroom community fund to support local projects and reflected on the potential of financing purchase of trees or hedges to be planted in the Nature Reserve of Daffodil Field. This is in addition to the community fund established by Eggborough Power that is currently considering an application from the Parish to cover the cost of a new notice board for Templar Close.

11.1.3 Planters: Cllr Walton, Cllr Cole and Cllr Paley considered maintenance activities in the management of the two planters in the village.

11.1.4 Community Payback Team: Cllr White reported that the Community Payback Team will attend over the forthcoming weekend to continue the work of verge clearance in Daffodil Park and the play areas of Blackthorn Close and Lee View.

11.1.5 Memorial Bench: It was noted Eggborough Power have undertaken to make available manpower resources to village to carry out general maintenance activities. To that end a team from Eggborough Power have been engaged in the installation of the Memorial Bench in Daffodil Park.

11.1.6 Verge Cutting: The Clerk reported on his discussion with the contractor engaged to manage the vegetation growth along the verges of the A19. Cllr White commented on the expanse of the cut along the section of vegetation growth at the junction of Blackthorn Close and A19. Although, a length of

grass has been removed from this area the cut should be extended to terminate at the end the line of houses on Lime Tree Drive.

The Clerk advised that in anticipation of the determination of budget requirement for the 2025 growing season he will seek comparative quotes from alternative grass cutting contractors.

The Council concluded the management of the grass at the plot of land within the perimeter of Rosslyn property is the responsibility of the developer.

Cllr White reminded the Councillors that the pathways within the Nature Reserve are overgrown and will require a cut to accommodate public access.

Action: Clerk to request a cut of the paths in the Nature Reserve

12.0 A19 Safety:

12.1 Speeding on A19: Councillors noted that requests have been made to North Yorkshire Council Highways for the consideration of the installation of two zebra crossings by Silver Street and Learning Lane.

Action: Clerk to await response to the request for the pedestrian crossing.

Cllr White advised that a response to his enquiries concerning plans to install a roundabout at the Balne crossroads is awaited and therefore there was nothing further to report.

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 Cllr White floated the idea about the allocation of responsibilities for areas of the management of Parish Council business to specific councillors.

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

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 9:00 pm