

# **Whitley Parish Council**

1. The meeting was opened at 7.00 pm by the Chairman Cllr Humphrey.

## **2. Open Public Forum (OPF) 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**2.1.** Members of the public raised concerns regarding vacant plots at the Whitley Village Allotment Association. Currently, plots are available that, despite attempts to advertise them to Whitley residents, are not being taken up. This adds further cost to the Allotment Association in lost rental and the expense of weed suppressant incurred in the maintenance of these unmanaged areas. Every effort has been made to promote the spaces but the only individuals expressing any interest are resident outside the village in Eggborough. Whilst, all members of the allotment association appreciate that the facilities are provided by the Council for Whitley Residents, given the current limited level of interest the Allotment Committee are requesting the Parish Council to reconsider the present restriction to the letting of plots to Whitley Residents only. Cllr Humphrey acknowledged the issue and was informed that there are 2 plots available with the possibility of additional plots becoming free as allotment holders relinquish their rentals. Cllr Humphrey advised that the matter is included as an agenda item in the current Council meeting during which item the request will be considered.

**2.2.** A member of the public was happy to note the installation of speed indicator camera and looked forward to the slowing down of traffic.

**2.3.** A member of the public expressed concerns regarding the suitability of the size of chairs available to the public attending the Council meeting. It was observed they were designed for children and as such were inappropriate seating for adults.

**Action:** Discuss the issue of the chairs with the School Caretaker.

**2.4.** A member of the public advised the Council that HGV's with tractor and trailer units continue to use Silver Street in disregard to the weight restrictions, that are clearly sign posted, imposed on the route. They questioned whether it was possible to install a different sign prohibiting HGV's and advising no access to the Mushroom Farm. The issue of the overgrown hedges obstructing visibility of the speed limit sign together with the general excess speed of traffic using the road and the failure of contractors to adhere to the stipulated one-way system were discussed. It was concluded that there is no single answer to the problem. It is however important to exercise diligence in contacting the relevant parties responsible for the management of traffic flow.

**Action:** The resident on Silver Street to be contacted regarding the maintenance of the overgrown hedge. The traffic manager of the Mushroom Farm to be approached to discuss the HGV traffic flow and speed limit. Selby Highways to be approached concerning alternative solutions to the management of the traffic flows.

**Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July  
2019 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex Building Ref  
07/19**

3. **Present:** Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Walton, Cllr Blackburn, Cllr Cole, Cllr White and the Clerk to the Council J Hunter.
4. **Apologies for absence:**
  - 4.1. All Councillors were present at the meeting.
5. **Disclosure of interests:**
  - 5.1. There were no disclosures of interest by the Councillors.
6. **Minutes of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 of the Whitley Parish Council.**
  - 6.1. Cllr White pointed out a spelling error on item 7.1 the text should read “and his colleague” rather than “and his college” and in item 7.1.2 the last sentence in the paragraph should begin “Going forward.....” and not “Gong forward..... “ and 7.2 paragraph two the text “John McCartney is his capacity” should read John McCartney in his capacity”
  - 6.2. subject to the above the Council agreed that the minutes of Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 are a true record and accordingly the minutes were signed by the Chairman Cllr Humphrey.
7. **Opening matters for information and action as required:**
  - 7.1. **Gale Common Extraction Proposal:** The Clerk informed the meeting the North Yorkshire and Selby District (NY&SD) Councillor John McCartney is currently in attendance at the Selby District Council meeting but hopes to join this Whitley Parish Council meeting later. The Clerk referred to an email from Cllr McCartney advising Councillors that in his capacity as a member of the North Yorkshire Planning Committee he must remain open minded about the application and is not therefore free to provide direct support to Whitley Parish in pursuit of their objections to the project. He can, however, provide guidance in connection with the planning issues that will decide whether it should or should not be approved. He also suggest the key stages in consideration of the application were to make all residents aware, to plough through the reports to try to pick out the material planning issues and to see what is hidden in the documents and to monitor the planning application portal to review what the consultees such as the Environmental Agencies and Highways have to say about the application.

The Clerk provided a summary of the timing of the application, which was submitted on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019, validated on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and published on the North Yorkshire County Council planning portal on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 with a following letter to the Whitley Parish advising of the consultation on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019. That letter set out the timetable for receipt of representations, setting a limit of 30 days for submission of objections or request for extension to the deadline. Examination of documentation on the planning portal at present shows no details of any representations made by interested parties. The Clerk reminded the meeting of the email forwarded to EP UK Investments Limited following the attendance of their representatives at the Council Meeting in May that set out the Parish Council’s observations and objections to their proposals in connection with the project.

Cllr White advised the meeting that he had been in contact the NY&SD County Councillor McCartney and expressed his opinion that he felt that Cllr McCartney may wish to consider standing down from his position on the planning committee in its deliberation of this particular application so that he may support and represent residents of Whitley for whom he acts. Cllr White mindful of the deadline for representation also suggested that given there is no planned Parish meeting in August the Council need to decide on the position it wishes to adopt so that a response may be delivered within the time limits. The meeting noted the absence of any response from EP UK Investments Ltd to any of the proposals offered during the consultation period suggesting alternative routes for the HGV traffic either by way of direct reply to correspondence delivered or comments published on the planning portal. The Clerk also brought to the attention of the Councillors that the planning portal refers to the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 on which date it is implied there had been public consultation giving the impression that individual households had been contacted in connection with the application when there had been no direct communication.

Cllr Humphrey outlined details of a conversation he had with a specialist planning consultant the Parish may wish to engage to object to the application. He advised that following a cursory review of the planning documentation this consultant is of the opinion that the interests of the Parish will be better served by the appointment of an expert consultant to lend support to the Council in their representations to the application either to rebut the proposal or at least mitigate its impact. It seems the planning application has been drafted with the aid of nationally recognised experts in their fields and documentation has been meticulously prepared covering all aspects of planning law.

Cllr Humphrey advised that the planning consultant was familiar with the North Yorkshire Planning team and also is retained by the Council for the Protection of Rural England whose support may be important in the various representations that the Council may wish to lodge against the application. He suggested that the Parish could either, retain the consultant to produce a detail report on the planning application outlining its pluses and minuses and areas that can realistically be attacked when submitting objections or, alternatively, could be engaged to act on behalf of the Parish in its campaign against the proposal attending planning meetings and making such submissions as are required to support their case.

The meeting discussed the likely cost of the project and was advised the consultant's hourly rate was £65. The meeting debated the merits of using the services of a consultant and the appropriate level of the budget that should be allocated. It was concluded that initially up to 5 consultant days would be commissioned to provide enough time for the consultant to undertake a thorough review of the planning application and come back with recommendations, guidance and advice.

**Proposed:** Cllr Humphrey, that up to 5 consultant days be commissioned for the review and provision of advice on the objection to the planning application by the Parish Council. Seconded Cllr F Blackburn. Carried unanimously.

**Action:** Cllr Humphrey to confer with the consultant and engage their services. Clerk to the Council to communicate with consultant to discuss practicalities, timing and response to North Yorkshire Planning pursuant of an extension to the representation deadline.

- 7.2. Co-option of Parish Councillors:** Cllr White noted that there are two vacant seats available on the Parish Council and given the variety of work that needs to be done for the village suggested the Council may wish to actively promote the spaces with a view to filling the vacancies. He reminded the Council that eligibility to act was not only open to residents but also employees of businesses based in Whitley and consequently local employers could be approached to secure as wide a spectrum of candidates as possible. Advertising in the pub, newspapers, notice board and social media pages was considered appropriate in order to maximise the publicity.

**Proposed:** Cllr White, the Council take active steps to promote and recruit two new Councillors to join the Parish.

Cllr White offered a vote of thanks on behalf of the Council to Mrs Kirk for her support in the delivery of the Parish newsletters through the village.

- 7.3. Whitley Allotment Association:** The meeting discussed the request made by a member of the public concerning the allocation of vacant plots to non-Whitley residents. Cllr Cole ventured to suggest that in recognition that the original intention of Whitley Parish was to invest in provision of allotments for Whitley residents that a surcharge to the standard rent could be applied for non-Whitley residents this surplus being payable to the Parish. Cllr Humphrey observed that such a decision was one that should be made by the allotment association.

Cllr White explained that maintenance of vacant plots was hard work and was dependent upon the goodwill of a small number of the allotment membership. He explained that since its formation in 2010 there had never been a waiting list for plots. Cllr Humphrey expressed his view that he was keen to ensure the allotments thrived and that he was in favour of ensuring that the Whitley Allotment Association were able to operate with a full complement of plot holders.

**Proposed** Cllr Humphrey, that the Whitley Allotment Association agreement be reverted to its original form; that Whitley residents would be granted priority in the allocation of plots however, in the absence of a waiting list plots could be rented to non-Whitley residents. Seconded Cllr Cole, Carried Unanimously.

## **8. Correspondence received:**

- 8.1.** The Clerk advised the meeting of an email from Rachel Robinson the principal planning enforcement officer for Selby District Council in connection with her ongoing enquiry into the operation of the Gale Common Motor Cross. In this letter she explained that in furtherance of her investigation she has requested information from the operators of Gale Common Motor Cross concerning the dates and times of use of the track in previous months. Such information will be compared with the permissions granted in the 2011 planning approval to access whether there has been any breach of planning.

Cllr Walton presented a copy of the detailed log of meetings held throughout the year.

**Action:** Clerk to respond to the email from Rachel Robinson with a copy of the meeting log that can be compared with the information provided by the Gale Common Motor Cross.

Cllr Humphrey referred to a letter received from Rigal Bennett a chemical process plant expressing an interest in purchasing the triangular piece of land at the end of Whitley Thorpe Lane. The letter did not indicate the reason for the purchase nor do the Council have any understanding of the market value of the piece of land. It was agreed that in making decisions concerning the use of land in the village the Council are conscious it is their responsibility to act with due consideration to the collective wishes of Whitley residents. Further information concerning Rigal Bennetts intentions is required before any meaningful discussion can be conducted.

**Action:** Clerk to reply requesting further details of the propose purpose of the acquisition. The request to be included as an agenda item on the Council meeting scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

- 8.2.** The Clerk advised the meeting of a notice from Democratic Services concerning the review of polling stations within the County and that the proposed location of the polling station in Whitley will remain at The George and Dragon Pub.

**8.3.** Cllr White enquired into the receipt of any response in connection with complaints raised by the Parish concerning the quality and experience of residents in the resurfacing of the A19 earlier in the year. In the absence of such response Cllr White suggested that the matter be referred to the County Councillor.

**Action:** Clerk to refer the matter to NY&SD County Councillor John McCartney.

**9. Planning Matters:** The Clerk provided a summary of the planning applications in the month.

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
2019/0604/HPA	Mr & Mrs John Hawkins	The Gables, Doncaster Road, Whitley, Goole, East Yorkshire, DN14 0JW	Proposed single storey extension to the east elevation of new garage workshop and agricultural machinery store to allow for the storage of machinery required to manage the fishing lakes
2019/0662/DEM	Tunstall Healthcare	Whitley Lodge Farm, Doncaster Road, Whitley, Goole, East Yorkshire, DN14 0JW	Prior notification for demolition of former farmhouse now used as offices for Tunstall Healthcare and an adjacent single storey garage
2019/0665/HPA	Mr & Mrs Lakhir Bal	The Chase, Doncaster Road, Whitley, Goole, East Yorkshire, DN14 0JW	Proposed extensions and renovation including new roof and re-render in pebble dash
2019/0642/FUL	Cornerstone and Telefonica UK Ltd	Land off A19 Whitley Bridge, Eggborough, North Yorkshire	Proposed application for installation of a radio base station comprising a 30m lattice tower supporting 6 no antennas in an open head frame, 2 no transion dishes, 3 no equipment cabinets, 1 no side pod enclosure, 1 no meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto including 18 Ericsson radio systems (ERS), 1 no GPS module and a 2.1 m palisate fenced compound.
2019/0587/HPA	Mr & Mrs Harrison	9 Cathcart Close, Whitley, North Yorkshire, DN14 0JE	Proposed new front porch and detached annex / studio to the rear.
2019/0600/MAN2	Mr Will Green	Popar Farm, Doncaster Road, Whitley, Goole, East Yorkshire DN14 0HZ	Non material amendment of 2014/0464/FUL Residential development comprising 8 No detached dwellings (amendment to previously approved 2012/0809/FUL) which has subsequently been amended by way of non material amendment 2017/1177/MAN

## 10. Council Finance & Administration

### 10.1. RFO Report as at 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019	Expenditure since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019	Of which is 106 expenditure	Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	147.46	1,000.00	Nil	72,584.5	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	5,917.33	4,868.59	1,076.00	1,531.34	No interest
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>				<b><u>74,116.84</u></b>	
<b>Less following funds:</b>					
Protected 106 funds		3 x Play areas/ROS and the Tree Lines.		51,728.45	
Other protected funds		A19, WHS Defibrillator fund		3,144.65 355.00 <u>69.60</u> 3,569.25	
Total Protected funds				55,297.70	
PC Reserve 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.		12,401.40	
<b>Total protected/reserve funds</b>				67,699.10	
<b>Balance:</b>					
<b>Unprotected funds available to the Council</b>		Current account balance + 106 Funds available to transfer		<b><u>6,417.74</u></b>	Includes cheques payable in 10.2

The Clerk presented his report on the financial position of the Parish Council and tabled an income and expenditure statement providing details of receipts and payments during the year to date.

**10.2. Accounts Payable:** The following cheque payments were approved, and the cheques prepared and signed.

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22373	Bedford Mowing	912.00

**10.3. Accounts Payable retrospectively:**

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Amount: £</b>

**11. Recreational Open Space Whitley:**

**11.1. ROS and Play Areas:** The Clerk advised that the play area safety inspection has been ordered and HAGS in accordance with their quote should complete the work within the next 6 to 8 weeks. Cllr White reported that both Lee View and Blackthorn Close are in an acceptable condition and Cllr Humphrey reported that Daffodil Field appears on his inspection to be OK.

**11.2. Parks and Verges:**

**11.2.1.** Review of grass cutting, Cllr White queried the quality and extent of the cut on Whitley Common Nature Reserve. Although Bedford Mowing have billed for two cuts in the year the quality of the cut is unacceptable. Cllr Walton noted the extent of the growth on the verge at the junction of Whitefield Lane and Doncaster Road and suggested that this should be included in the regular verge maintenance programme.

**Action:** The Clerk to refer the matter to Bedford Mowing and request that the shortfall in the quality of the cut is rectified. The Clerk to instruct Bedford Mowing to cut the grass on the verge just south of Whitefield Lane.

**Proposed,** Cllr White the Bund from Silver Street to Millford be scheduled for a routine cut on a monthly basis rather than twice per year. Seconded Cllr Humphrey. Carried unanimously.

**11.2.2.** Daffodil Park: Cllr White reported on the activities of the Community Payback team over the previous 4 weeks including, the cut back of tree line Blackthorn Close to Lee View cut, hedge maintenance in Daffodil Park by Whitley Farm Close. There is still some work to complete; tidying up the state of some of the trees in the Daffodil Park, laying of weed suppressant by the shrubs and dealing with gaps in the hedges along the A19.

**Proposed,** Cllr White 4 cu metres of wood chip weed suppressant be purchased at a cost of £80.00 and £20 of young tree saplings purchased Seconded Cllr Humphrey Carried Unanimously.

Cllr White requested details of any other work left to be completed:

- Maintenance of edges of Daffodil Park; strimming and herbicidal spray by Bedford Mowing
- Replacement of fence panels in Daffodil Park adjacent to the Playground
- Management of area of trees adjacent to house on Whitley Farm Close, possible spreading wood chip and additional planting to add some further garden design features
- Trimming of hedges along A19

**Action:** Clerk to request Bedford Mowing to Strim and Spray the edges of Daffodil Park. Clerk to liaise with Jake Dickinson in the replacement fences for Daffodil Park. Cllr White to request Richard Dixon to trim hedges on A19.

**11.2.3.** Whitley Common: The state of Whitley Common and remedial action required was discussed in item 11.2.1 above.

**11.2.4.** Christmas Tree: Cllr White advised that he had spoken with the publicans at The George and Dragon to confirm their approval of the siting of the permanent tree. The Christmas Tree nursery based in Howden have suggested that the tree be planted in the Autumn and it is hoped that the tree will be planted during the Autumn in September / October.

**11.2.5.** Repair of bins: The Clerk advised that he had successfully secured the services of Jake Dickinson to carry out the various maintenance work required including the siting of the litter bins.

**11.2.6.** Notice board: The Clerk advised the meeting that Jake Dickinson – Property Maintenance has been engaged to install the notice board and this will be completed within the forthcoming week. The hourly rate for the work will be £15.00 per hour.

**11.3. Replacement of bench on Whitfield Lane:** The Clerk confirmed that this item is in hand and will be installed by Jake Dickinson – Property Maintenance.

**11.4. Rosslyn Vacant Property:** Cllr White expressed his concerns and frustration in the response received from the Empty Houses Officer concerning the vacant property. He reminded the meeting of the various incidents that have occurred including fires and reported break ins. Cllr Humphrey pointed out that such incidents are not the responsibility of the Parish Council whose only recourse is to advise the Local Authority of their concerns about security and safety of the site.

## **12. A19 Safety matters:**

**12.1. Speed Camera Data:** It was noted the new sign is functioning satisfactorily.

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

**13.1.** Given the recommendations of the Crime Commissioners Cllr White suggested the police be invited to attend the next Council Meeting. Cllr Walton suggested the police be advised of all the meetings with an open invitation to attend at any time in the future

**13.2.** Cllr White enquired whether the Council had received the promotional material from the North Yorkshire Crime Commissioners for inclusion on the Parish web. The Clerk advised that an email copy had been sent and he would pass this on to Cllr Humphrey for publishing.

**13.3.** Cllr F Blackburn reported that the historic archive papers have not be returned. The Clerk to refer the matter to Amanda Coney and chase up the return of all documentation to Cllr Blackburn.

**14. Confirm date and time of next meeting:**

**14.1. Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 pm Whitley & Eggborough School Annex Building.

**15. Meeting Closed:** 9:00 pm.