

Whitley Parish Council

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

2. Open Public Forum(OPF) 20th Sept 2022

2.1. North Yorkshire and Selby District Councillor (NY&SDC) Cllr McCartney was present at the meeting together with the Chair of Cridling Stubbs Parish Council Simon Bennett. Cllr McCartney provided some input into the issue of the proposed cancellation of bus services by Arriva details of which are included in the agenda item 7.3. The newly appointed Chair of Cridling Stubbs attended the meeting to by way of introduction and to observe the process of the Whitley Parish Council to learn and gain some insight into the conduct of such meetings.

A resident of the Parish of Eggborough was in attendance to seek an update on the legal action with Gale Common.

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 20th Sept 2022 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex Buidling – 04/23

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

4. **Apologies for absence:**

4.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cole & Cllr Humphrey. Cllr Woodhead was also not in attendance.

5. **Disclosure of interest:**

5.1. Cllr Cole and Cllr Blackburn are resident on Whitefield Lane and as such would be directly impacted by the HGV movements from the Gale Common site. Cllr White is treasurer of the Allotment Association and a plot holder.

5.2. There were no other interests registered.

6. **Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 19th July 2022:**

6.1. It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2022 were a true record of the meeting,

Action: The Clerk to deliver a copy of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19th July 2022 for signature by the Chair.

7. **Matters for information and action as required:**

7.1. **Gale Common:** The Clerk updated the Councillors on the legal status of the pending appeal and legal advice from our solicitors that withdrawal from the case could initiate a claim for the full amount of the PCO notwithstanding the stipulations imposed by the Parish Councils application, namely a PCO of over £5,000 cannot be covered and the Parish Council can only proceed if it is able to secure donations to meet the cost of the PCO.

Action: Clerk to seek direct consultation with our barrister to discuss the financial situation and legal implications.

The Clerk provided an outline of the S106 agreement particularly the requirements imposed by the Deed concerning Highways Improvements, Pre-commencement obligations and the establishment of a Gale Common Community Liaison Group.

The Clerk advised that the position of the other Parish Council members of the collective action group, Womersley, Cridling Stubbs and Heck remain the same, that none hold sufficient resources to make any contribution to the residual PCO costs.

- 7.2. **Allotment Association:** Cllr White referred to the Parish Council's agreement with the Allotment Association that under the terms and conditions a three-year review and renewal is now due. The agreement provides for the devolved management by the Allotment Association of the land owned by Whitley Parish Council. Under the management arrangement the Parish Council charge a set annual rental being 1/3 of the plot rental payments charged by the Allotment Association to its members.

Cllr White requested in his capacity as Treasurer of the Allotment Association that the Parish Council consider the following during their review:

1. The amount of the annual rental for the next term.
2. The notice period to be served on the Allotment Association should the Parish Council wish to dispose of the land.
3. Registration of the land as public property with the appropriate authorities.

The Clerk confirmed that the membership of the Allotment Association is covered by the public liability insurance of the Parish Council.

Action: Parish Councillors to consider the points raised by the Allotment Association and review the matter in the next Parish Council meeting.

- 7.3. **Arriva Bus:** NY&SDC Cllr McCartney outlined the circumstances of the present decision of Arriva to cancel the 405-bus service between Selby and Doncaster with effect from 3rd October 2022. South Yorkshire Council has withdrawn from its partnership with North Yorkshire Council in the funding of cross county bus services. This has placed increasing pressure on the budgets of NYCC who now face a shortfall in funding for buses in the magnitude of £4m to £5m. The current allocations to subsidise bus services of £1.5m is fully committed there are no further sums available to cover the 405 route. The ongoing reduction in passengers utilising the bus service compounds the problem and serves to fuel Arriva's decision to cut routes coupled with their difficulty in recruiting drivers.

The impact of the suspension will also mean there is no access between Askern & Doncaster. Although school buses will be provided for children needing to attend Brayton there will be no provision of school buses for +16 year olds.

Alternative options are being considered to mitigate the impact and provide some limited coverage including the diversion of the 476 to pass along the A19 in Whitley to a bus stop at The George and Dragon pub. The only issue being how the bus will turn back from Whitley to re-join its established route.

Parish Councillors considered options for action that included:

- Cllr White seeking a meeting with Richard Flinton lead of North Yorkshire County Council
- Engagement with the local press and TV to highlight the loss of service and the inadequacy of a credible public transport policy
- Encouragement of residents to write in complaint of the decisions and the lack of service.

- Application of pressure on our local MP Nigel Adams to make representations at the highest level on behalf of the community.

7.4. **Charitable Donations:** The Clerk reminded Councillors of their traditional practice of agreeing donations to various causes and institutions. In previous years donations have been made to The Citizens Advice Bureau, All Saints Church, The Selby District Council Major's Appeal and Selby Vision.

Action: Councillors review historical donations and agree contributions during the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillors discussed the nature of the Christmas donation to the over 80's and concluded that the provision of a food parcel be continued during 2022. 16 individuals have been currently identified and at a budget of £25 per parcel a sum of £400 would be required to fund the gifts. It was agreed Tunstall Healthcare and Rington's Tea would be approached again as in previous years to contribute in kind to the parcel.

7.5. **Events during Autumn & Winter:** The Clerk reminded Councillors of the forthcoming annual events that would require consideration; Remembrance Sunday – 13th November 2022 and Christmas Tree Lighting at the George and Dragon.

Action: The logistics and budget for the events will be agreed at the next Parish meeting.

7.6. **Internal Audit Report:** The Clerk presented details of the internal audit recommendations as follows

- Several invoices in support of cheque payments had not been inspected by the auditor. The invoices in question were presented to the Parish Councillors who confirmed and acknowledged their original approval of the payment.
 - 22494 the cancellation of cheque to Irwin Mitchell for £15,5114
 - 22502 a cheque for £29,970 payable to Irwin Mitchell
 - 22498 a cheque for £1,900 payable to K&S Decorations
- The minutes reference 02/22 – 10.2 showed a payment of £680 rather than £680.13 that was the amount actually paid. Councillors noted the error in statement of the minutes whilst recognising the cash book presented an accurate position.
- It was noted that although detailed financial reports are presented to Councillors during their monthly meetings the AGAR requires that a formal annual review is undertaken of financial risk. It was therefore recommended that at the next budget meeting a financial risk assessment be carried out.

8. **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:

- a. an email from the Yorkshire Local Council Association enclosing details of their webinar training programme for October to December 2022. Noted Clerk to forward copy of the email programme to all Councillors.

8.2. Social Media

8.2.1 Cllr White referred to comments posted about recent criminal activity in Whitley.

8.2.2 The expression of frustration and complaint following Arriva's decision to cut bus services was noted.

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. 2022/0910/FUL All Saints Court, Whitley, construction of 3 No. dwelling. Noted without comment.

9.2. 2022/0911/FUL All Saints Court, Whitley, Section 73 to vary conditions 01 (approved plans) and 11 (noise) of approval 2021/1537/REM Reserved matters application including appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and access of approval 2018/0355/OUT Outline application (all matters reserved) for a residential development granted on 08 June 2022. Noted without comments.

9.3. 2022/1058/FUL 1 Firs Court Garden, Doncaster Road, Whitley. Erection of single storey extension for workshop and gym for use in association with existing massage and therapy business. Noted without comment.

9.4. It was noted that there remain no planning applications submitted in connection with the property know as Rosslyn situated alongside the George and Dragon on Doncaster Road.

10. Council Finance & Administration:

10.1. RFO Report as at 20/09/2022:

| Bank/Account | Income since 1st April 2022 | Expenditure since 1st April 2022 | Current Balance | Notes/Comment |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Santander Deposit | 5.51 | | 15,218.63 | Interest paid monthly |
| Santander Current Account (Cash Book) | 7,567.00 | 3,832.30 | 17,564.27 | No interest |
| Total Bank Balances | | | 32,782.90 | |
| Less following funds: | | | | |
| Allocated Funds | | Crossing | 5,000.00 | |
| Total Allocated funds | | | 5,000.00 | |
| 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. | 27,782.90 | |
| VAT due for reclaim | | | 278.00 | |
| Total Unallocated Parish Funds | | | 28,060.80 | |

The Clerk presented his report on the financial position of the Parish Council referring to income and expenditure statements providing details of receipts and payments for the period from 1st April 2021 to 20th Sept 2022. Income to date was £7,573 compared with expenditure

of £16,485 that includes the provision for the cost of the pedestrian crossing at £5,000 and settlement of the Gale Common protective cost order of £10,000. The net deficit is £8,913.

The Clerk also, presented a cash flow summary analysing month by month the actual receipts and payments up to July with a forecast of income and expenditure for the remainder of the year to March 2023. Based on the projected expenditure the cash balance at the yearend would be £14,259.04.

The Clerk reported that the cheque payment of £2,750 made by Cridling Stubbs to the Gale Common Campaign had been returned unpaid by the bank. That had cited issues with the narrative on the cheque as the reason for its rejection. Cllr Simon Bennett the new Chair of Cridling Stubbs Parish Council confirmed there had been a problem that has now been resolved. His Parish Council is establishing a new bank account and a replacement cheque will be delivered to honour the donation.

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

| Cheque No. | Payable to: | Amount: £ |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 22517 | Pamela Harrison | 75.00 |
| | | |
| | | |

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. Bank Transfer:.

| Transfer | Payable to: | Amount: £ |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
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11. 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.

- Cllr White suggested that he obtain a quote from a local farmer to undertake a cut of the hedging of the external boundary of Daffodil Park. He noted that this was undertaken in 2021 at a cost of £50.00
- Cllr White commented on the growth of vegetation by the village sign near the level crossing on Templar Close and at the southern exit of the village by Silver Street. He suggested that the overgrowth should be cut back to ensure visibility of the signage.

- Cllr White observed that the community payback scheme has been recommenced with resource available to support the management of the Parks and verges in Whitley. The key issue to resolve is the requirement for the provision of toilet facilities for the members of the payback team. Given that the Whitley Community Primary School has projects that could utilise the services of the Community Payback Team it may be possible that school administrators may consider offering their toilet facilities.

11.1.2 **Management of Tree on Lee View:** Councillors noted the feedback from Cllr Humphrey following his inspection of the tree at the rear of Lee View that has been the subject of concerns expressed by the resident of 26 Lee View. Cllr Humphrey reported that there was nothing evident that would suggest the tree offers any danger to properties on Lee View and remedial cut back of foliage is not necessary.

Action: Clerk to advise resident of the Councils decision.

11.1.3 **Planters:** Cllr White advised that Tunstall Health will not be offering garden maintenance support for the planters during the Autumn and Winter season. However, they will continue to support the maintenance with the offer of supply of plants.

1.1.1 **Verge cutting:** Councillors noted the verge cutting programme is being completed in accordance with planned requirements and there were no significant issues other than the re-emergence of mole infestation that may need action at some point.

2. A19 Safety:

2.1. **Speeding on A19:** Cllr White advised there was nothing to report on matters of vehicles on the A19 apart from ongoing problems in downloading data from the VAS machine which has yet to be investigated by the suppliers of the equipment.

3. A.O.B.

- Cllr White reported that the move of the notice board from its current site at the Church to its new location by the George and Dragon pub will be expedited in due course.
- Cllr White following conversation with the Manager of the Mushroom Farm was assured the HGV drivers collecting from the farm are regularly issued with maps of the permitted vehicle routes through the village. He acknowledged that the level of litter in the proximity of the exterior of the Mushroom Farm is unacceptable and has undertaken to instruct members of his staff to conduct a clear up exercise.
- Councillors considered the possibility of the provision of hanging baskets in the village.

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

4.1. **Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 18th October 2022 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

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