

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 19th Sept 2023

2.1 A resident indicated their interest in the discussion and decisions in agenda item 7.4 concerning the trees in Daffodil Park. The resident referred to email correspondence with the Parish Clerk regarding the extent of vegetation growth of a particular line of trees adjacent to the rear of properties on Whitefield Close. The trees were severely inhibiting the TV signal feeding into the satellite dishes affixed to the houses and requests have been made to the Parish Council to initiate some pollarding of the trees to remedy the issue.

Residents expressed strong concerns about the volume of heavy lorries and traffic speeding along the A19. Observations were made about the consequent impact such vehicle movement has on the roads with a marked rise in the magnitude of potholes, air pollution from the HGVs and structural vibrations from the shock waves of passing traffic undermining houses situated adjacent to the A19.

It was recognised that diversions of vehicles, official and unofficial, due to the long-term road works on the A1 is significantly increasing the volume of traffic entering the village on the A19.

Residents suggested and questioned the feasibility of the provision of speed camera's and other such traffic calming solutions.

Councillors advised that while the Parish Council can make representations to the relevant authorities it does not have decision-making power to initiate any remedial action. Road maintenance and management is under the sole control of North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Highways Department based in Selby. Vehicle speeding remains under the control of the North Yorkshire Police (NYP) Department who remain adamant in their policy of the use of mobile speed cameras as the only viable solution in the management of speed on the local highways. They are vehemently opposed to the deployment of fixed speed cameras in the network of roads within their jurisdiction. This significantly contrasts with the approaches adopted by the Police Forces of West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire.

Councillors suggested that notwithstanding the limited powers and influence of the Parish Council, it would continue to lobby and make representation to North Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire Police Force concerning the deteriorating road condition in the village and the extent of vehicle speeding. In addition, contact details of the relevant officials in NYC and NYP can be provided to residents should they wish to express their concerns directly to the relevant bodies.

Residents expressed concerns about the inconsistency in the extent of verge cutting within the village. They noted that some areas received more attention than others, leading to an uneven appearance. Consequently, residents politely requested the Parish Council explore the possibility of expanding the maintenance efforts to ensure a more uniform appearance throughout the village.

The councillors empathised with the concerns voiced by residents and conveyed their understanding. They assured the community that ground maintenance issues in the village would indeed be given significant attention and focus during the upcoming autumn session of the Parish meetings. These Parish Council meeting will include a comprehensive examination of financial budgets, aiming to devise a well-balanced and cost-effective plan for grass maintenance that aligns with responsible financial management. They assured residents that their input and feedback on this crucial matter

is valued and will be incorporated into the decision-making process to ensure the responsible use of Parish resources.

A resident residing along Gravel Hill Lane expressed deep frustration and raised significant concerns regarding the excessive presence of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) on the road. This traffic includes a combination of vehicles associated with the comings and goings into the Mushroom Farm and various commercial tractor units using the lane as an alternative route to circumvent the ongoing roadworks on the A1. Regardless of their origin, these HHVs pose a significant threat to pedestrians and other road users. Many of these vehicles flagrantly disregard the traffic restrictions imposed on the byroad, which strictly limit the carrying capacity to under 7.5 tonnes and mandate a specific one-way system. Furthermore, the unchecked growth of bracken along the hedgerows of Gravel Hill Lane significantly hampers visibility on the road and constrains the available road width for passing vehicles, compounding the safety issues.

Action: Contact the Manager of the Mushroom Farm to address the issue of HGVs inappropriately using Gravel Hill, contravening the established road restrictions. Additionally, contact Poskett's Farm to inquire about their willingness to undertake the necessary hedge cutting to mitigate the overgrowth on the lane.

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 19th Sept 2023 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex Building – 05/24

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

4.0 **Apologies for absence:**

4.1 Apologies for absence were presented by Cllr Cole and Cllr Humphrey. The resignation of Cllr Whitehead was noted.

5.0 **Disclosure of interest:**

5.1 There were no other interests registered.

6.0 **Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 18th July 2023:**

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 18th July 2023.

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:** Cllr White expressed the view that given the newsletter was the primary communication with residents, it is essential that the Council maintain transparency in its message to the community. To that end it is important to be candid about its various activities, including efforts to raise funds within the community. Residents should be prepared for the possibility of an increase in the precept if they desire the range of service and amenities they demand.

Action: Cllr White to finalise the redraft of the newsletter in anticipation of the next parish meeting in October.

7.2 Parish Council Vacancy: The Clerk provided a summary of the information acquired from North Yorkshire Council Democratic Services regarding the composition of the Parish Council. According to statutory regulations, a minimum of three Councillors is necessary for the legal constitution of a Parish Council. If the number of active members drops below this threshold, North Yorkshire Council will conduct a review of the situation and appoint Councillors, external to the village, on a temporary basis to meet the minimum requirement. Furthermore, they will assist the Parish in publicising the vacancies to ensure that the deficiency is addressed.

Cllr White proposed that, during this interim period, the Parish Council should maintain an active approach in engaging with the community to identify and extend invitations to residents interested in becoming part of the Council. Various communication channels, including word of mouth, social media and all other available means, should be harnessed for this purpose.

7.3 Memorial Bench: The Clerk advised that the memorial bench has been ordered and a subcontractor identified to undertake the installation at a cost of £150. At the same time the contractor will repair the notice board on Templar Close at a cost of £50.00

It was resolved the subcontractor be engaged to install the memorial bench at the cost of £150 and repair the notice board on Templar Close at the cost of £50.

7.4 Trees in Daffodil Park and Lee View: The Clerk presented a quotation from tree surgeons in connection with the cluster of trees located in Daffodil Park, adjacent to the residential properties in Whitley Farm Close. Two arborists were consulted, and both concurred on the need to remove two unproductive ash trees and to pollard three willow trees, trimming them back to a height of approximately 12 feet above the ground. This course of action will alleviate the excessive vegetation growth and eliminate any overhanging branches encroaching on residents' gardens. It's worth noting, however, that the pollarding process will require periodic repetition, roughly every 3 to 4 years, to effectively stay on top of tree growth.

Furthermore, a resident brought to the attention of the Council the presence of an additional tree situated deeper within the park. Its unchecked growth raises concerns about the potential interference with TV reception and the diminishing of natural light entering their kitchen.

The councillors expressed their empathy for the residents' predicament, acknowledging that comparable issues are increasingly being manifested in various parts of the village. The widespread nature of this demand will necessitate clear planning in the allocation of a dedicated budget to address ongoing tree management.

Given the Parish's constraints in financial resource residents willingness to contribute to the tree management efforts was explored.

Action: Councillors to meet with the resident to view the additional tree located within the Daffodil Park.

Cllr White reported on his inspection of shrubs and trees adjacent to residential properties in the open space at Lee View. Two Silver Birches and a Hazel Shrub need some attention as they are encroaching the fence at the rear of the property.

Given the pressure on financial resources it was observed that the Parish Council may not have the funds to undertake the coppicing during the current financial year.

7.5 Drainage to Daffodil Park: Cllr White advised that he will arrange to contact Sweetings the drainage contractor and the Landowner of the Farm at the boundary of Daffodil Field to explore the viability of the Drainage Project.

7.6 Budgets for 2023-24: The Clerk emphasised the importance of considering the financial requirements for the upcoming fiscal year, spanning from April 2024 to March 2025. This assessment would serve as the basis for determining the precept requirement for 2024-25, a process that must be finalised in early January 2024. The Clerk provided details on the range of precept values and expenditure levels observed in neighbouring Parish Councils, spanning from £90,000 to £5,000. It was notable that Parish incomes encompass various sources, including specialised grants and contributions from commercial entities. Consequently, the comparison and benchmarking of Parish Councils proved challenging due to the wide variance in financial resources available to local communities.

The discussion then delved into the unique financial pressures specific to Whitley. These included the upkeep of speed management facilities essential for monitoring traffic on the A19, as well as the maintenance of multiple open spaces within the village, such as the Nature Reserve, three play areas, and Daffodil Park. Furthermore, in addition to these routine maintenance services, there were aspirations from certain residents for the provision of Hanging Baskets and Christmas Lights, further contributing to the financial considerations within the community.

Action: In anticipation of the budget review the Clerk to provide an initial draft of financial requirements and overhead costs to be shared with Councillors prior to the next meeting in October.

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 Local Council Association promoting a series of training courses cover all aspects of communication skills and strategies aimed at communication strategy and engagement. Noted

8.1.1.2 An email from the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioners Office publishing a delivery plan for the Office setting out its main roles and responsibilities, its staff structure and planned activity for 2023. Noted

8.1.1.3 An email from North Yorkshire Highways with further updates and confirmations of the amendment orders initiating the vehicle parking restrictions and timings on Learning Lane. Noted

8.1.1.4 An email for the Pageant Master providing notification of plans for the national lighting of beacons to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings on 6th June 2024. Noted

8.2 Social Media

8.2.1.1 Comments were raised on social media expressing concerns about the state of the surfaces on the play areas particularly moss in Blackthorn Close. Cllr White suggested that the Council seek quotations from a local contractor for the 'Jet Wash' cleaning of the play area.

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 ZG2023/0775/TELB: Gravel Hill Lane, installation of a wooden pole for the deployment of superfast broadband. Noted without comment.

9.1.2 ZG2023/0858/HPA: Cherry Tree Farm, Templar Close, removal of existing outbuildings to accommodate a new single storey, hip roof side extension and internal alteration works to existing dwellings. Noted no comments.

9.1.3 ZG2023/0913/MAN2: The Chase, Doncaster Road, non-material amendment of 2019/0665/HPA proposed extensions and renovation including new roof and re render in pebble dash. Technically this is outside of the Whitley Parish.

It was also noted that an appeal has been logged against the rejection of the proposed development of a detached Bungalow to the rear of No 2 Whitefield Lane.

Cllr Blackburn advised that he had obtained some information of a proposed further development of a link road onto the M62 near the Gale Common Ash Removal site to facilitate lorry movements from the Gale Common site thereby avoiding the route through Whitley.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 19/09/2023:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2023	Expenditure since 1 st April 2023	Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	50.56		15,299.06	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	6,342.00	7,969.12	3,464.06	No interest
Total Bank Balances			18,763.12	
Less following funds:				
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field	1,798.71 12,230.00	
Total Allocated funds			14,028.71	
		Legal Action and Complaints against the Council. Future Development and Facility Provision –Buildings.	4,734.41	

Parish Council Bank Funds		Future Development and Facility Provision – ROS. Future Development and Facility Provision -Nature Reserve. Unexpected/unforeseeable expenditure.		
VAT due for reclaim			1,882.05	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds			6,616.46	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary analysing month by month the actual receipts and payments up to October 2023, with a forecast of income and expenditure for the remainder of the year to March 2024. Total expenditure up to 31st March 2024 is anticipated to amount to £29,744.82 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 £5,768.87.

In determining the balance of forecast overheads for the remainder of the financial year the Clerk pointed out the key elements of expenditure. These include, grass cutting in the Autumn period of £1,500, the cost of the purchase and installation of the memorial bench, the fee for the playground inspection and report, the Christmas tree and the Christmas parcel for the over 80's and the hire of the hall for the Parish Council meetings.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22550	George Fillingham Ltd	1,800.00

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: £

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.

11.1.2 Community Payback Scheme: Councillor White addressed the ongoing engagement with the community payback team and highlighted a pressing issue: the absence of toilet facilities within the village, which has necessitated a temporary suspension of additional ground maintenance work. Considering this situation, Councillor White proposed a proactive approach. Recognising the invaluable service, the team provides to the village and their significant role in managing all open spaces, he recommended that we explore the possibility of requesting permission from the school's governing body to access their restroom facilities. This endeavour not only aligns with our commitment to serve the community effectively but also promises substantial cost savings for the Parish.

11.1.3 Verge Cutting: Councillors reflected on the comments made during the public meeting and agreed that a comprehensive review of the verge and grass cutting schedule and requirements be conducted in anticipation of the setting of the financial budgets for the new year. Cllr White observed that the hedges bounding the Daffodil Park will require pruning during the winter season and advised that he would make approaches to the local farmer.

12.0 A19 Safety:

12.1 Speeding on A19: Cllr White advised that he will, share an update of the vehicle movement report on the Parish social media pages.

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 Councillor White reported on his recent action taken in response to a resident's inquiry during the previous council meeting regarding the amenities available in the village. He informed the meeting that he had reached out to North Yorkshire Council to request official information on the local facilities recorded within the County's records. It has come to our attention that there are concerns about the categorisation of the Whitley community in relation to the services and amenities, particularly in its association with the Eggborough Parish.

13.2 Cllr White mentioned the enquiry made by a resident seeking to establish whether the Parish Council had registered the local pub as an Asset of Community Interest.

13.3 Cllr White informed the meeting that he has taken the initiative to extend an open invitation to our newly elected Member of Parliament for Selby & District. He invited the MP to attend one of our Parish Council meetings. During this outreach, Cllr White also took the opportunity to outline several community concerns. These include the adequacy of the bus service in our region and the status of the Gale Common Ash Removal project, which, though temporarily on hold, does present some concerns given its potential disruptive impact on local roads.

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

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 24th October; 2023 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 9:35 pm