

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 17th Sept 2024

2.1 A resident requested an update on the progress of registering the George & Dragon Pub as an Asset of Community Interest. It was confirmed that a successful application had been submitted to North Yorkshire Council. The pub is now officially listed on the register of Assets of Community Interest and will remain on the list for the next five years, after which the application will need to be renewed. The owners and landlords of the establishment have been informed.

2.2 A resident requested an update on the progress of cutting back the overgrown vegetation in the Nature Reserve. The encroachment of bramble hedges onto public pathways has significantly restricted access. The Clerk informed the meeting that quotations had been obtained from George Fillingham for the cutting back of vegetation on the pathways. Councillors agreed that it would be prudent to visit the Nature Reserve with the grass-cutting contractor to define the extent of the work required and to consider future maintenance plans.

Action: Clerk to facilitate the onsite meeting.

2.3 A resident from Gravel Hill Lane raised further concerns about the ongoing issue of illegal traffic using the lane to access the Mushroom Farm. It was noted that farm tractor units have been seen frequently traveling to and from the farm, towing trailers exceeding the permitted 7.5-tonne weight limit. Councillors discussed the matter and believed, based on their understanding, that all types of transport vehicles, including HGVs and farm tractors, are allowed to use the road to access the Mushroom Farm's warehouse facilities. They suggested the resident contact Gary Lumb, Asset Manager at North Yorkshire Council Highways Department, with whom the resident had previously communicated, to clarify the legal status of farm vehicles using the road.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that Gary Lumb had indicated there would be another survey of vehicle movements on Gravel Hill Lane. This will complement the traffic management data collected during the previous survey conducted over the summer.

Comments were raised regarding the vegetation covering traffic management signage near the Mushroom Farm, which requires attention. As this poses a safety issue, it was suggested that the matter be reported to the North Yorkshire Council Highways Department.

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

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 17th Sept 2024 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex Building – 04/25

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

4.0 Apologies for absence:

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thompson.

5.0 Disclosure of interest:

5.1 There were no other interests registered.

6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 16th July 2024:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 16th 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: After careful consideration Councillors decided that issuing the Chair’s annual report at this stage in the year would hold limited interest or value for the community.

7.2 Park Land behind Tunstall Healthcare: In Cllr. Thompson’s absence, the Clerk provided an update on the progress regarding the offer of land to the Council. Cllr. Thompson had reached out to Keith Dawson, the sender of the initial email about the matter, and proposed on an onsite meeting to discuss the matter further. Keith Dawson responded by stating he would consult with the landowners and provide their feedback in due course.

7.3 HGV Movements on Gravel Hill Lane: Cllr. White informed the meeting that the vehicle activated sign on Gravel Hill Lane has been relocated back to the A19. Data collected during the two months the sign was on Gravel Hill Lane showed that 75% of vehicles adhered to the 30mph speed limit, while 20% travelled at no more than 35mph.

It was acknowledged that the rise in HGV traffic on Whitley’s road network is primarily due to the restrictions on the A1 caused by extensive roadworks, which are expected to continue for the next 12 months.

Councillors discussed the potential installation of a speed hump on Gravel Hill Lane. Quotations received from Gary Lumb, Asset Manager at North Yorkshire Council Highways Department, indicated a cost of £4,500. This amount exceeds the Council’s available financial reserves; therefore, if Councillors decided to pursue this solution, grant funding would be necessary.

After debating the options, Councillors concluded that, due to the skewed traffic patterns resulting from the A1 roadworks, it is not an appropriate time to make such an investment. Additionally, before committing to this plan, it would be important to gather the opinions of residents on Gravel Hill Lane.

7.4 Repairs to track leading to the Allotments: Cllr. White informed the meeting that quotations would be obtained and presented to the Parish Council at an appropriate time.

7.5 Whitley Parish Council website: The Clerk informed the Council that VisionICT, the host provider for the Parish Council website, has announced its intention to withdraw support for version 4 of the web software within the next 12 to 18 months. To continue hosting, an upgrade to version 5 will be necessary, which will incur a one-time fee of approximately £650 for the conversion. After discussing the options, Councillors concluded that remaining with VisionICT would be the most viable alternative.

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 (NYC) promoting a series of events, liaison meetings, conferences and online resources to enhance and improve communications between NYC and local communities. Email copied to Parish Councillors for information and review.

8.1.1.2 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.

8.1.1.3 An email from a local resident requesting support from Parish Council in lobbying NYC for the provision of zebra crossings on the A19. Clerk informed councillors of his response to the resident outlining the history of the Parish Council in pursuance of crossing facilities within the village.

8.1.1.4 An email from NYC providing advance notification of the first stage "Issues and Options Consultation" following the nationwide launch of the Government's consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system.

8.1.2 Social Media

8.1.2.1 Cllr. Humphrey reported that there had been no significant posts shared on the social media pages. However, as noted in previous Council meetings, the volume of traffic on the Whitley Community Facebook account is being "swamped" with advertisements from businesses. With over 5,000 registered members on the site, community communication is becoming overwhelmed by promotional material. This issue requires careful consideration regarding whether to change the membership rules or to close the site and relaunch it under new guidelines.

Action: Cllr Humphrey to reflect on options and present suggestions concerning the management of the Whitley Parish social media pages.

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 ZG2024/0789/HPA, Chantry House, Doncaster Road, Whitley. Erection of two storey extension to the rear of the property. Noted with no comments.

- 9.1.2** ZG2024/0762/PPP 4 College Farm Close, Whitley. Lawful development certificate for proposed use of ground floor room as a hair salon. Noted with no comments.
- 9.1.3** ZG2023/1167/FUL, All Saints Church, Doncaster Road, Whitley. Conversion of church to residential dwelling and erection of granny annex and double garage. No further progress has been, made on the application nor has there been any progress on the sale of the Church that consequently remains within the possession of the Leeds Diocese.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 17/09/2024:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2024	Expenditure since 1 st April 2024		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	67.36			15,549.84	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	6,898.00	6,405.54		2,280.63	No interest
Total Bank Balances				17,830.47	
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.		8,031.76	
VAT due for reclaim				3,297.91	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds				11,329.67	

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 17th Sept was £8,628.89.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
Bank Transfer	George Fillingham Cut No 6 & 7 – 1 st July & 19 th July 2024	1,044.00
Bank Transfer	George Fillingham Cut No 8 – 12 th August 2024	522.00

22572 cancelled	George Fillingham grass cutting 14 th & 19 th April 2024	(1,044.00)
22576 cancelled	George Fillingham grass cutting 10 th and 28 th May 2024	(1,044.00)
Bank Transfer	George Fillingham grass cutting 14 th & 19 th April 2024	1,044.00
Bank Transfer	George Fillingham grass cutting 10 th and 28 th May 2024	1,044.00

Two cheques payable to George Fillingham being cheque no 22572 dated 21st May and cheque no 22576 dated 18th June 2024 have failed to be presented and cleared through the bank. The two cheques have been cancelled and the respective invoices paid by bank transfer as indicated in the above transaction.

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: The following observations concerning various matters appertaining to the Open Spaces in the Village.

- Cllr. Barber informed the Council that, following a further review, the condition of the "Spring Animal" in the Lee View Play Area is adequate. Therefore, there is no need for repairs or removal.
- Cllr. Humphrey reported on his repairs to the play equipment in the Daffodil Park play area, and Councillors expressed their gratitude for his efforts. Cllr. White mentioned the availability of online courses focused on the inspection of health and safety aspects of children's play equipment. He suggested that Parish Councillors consider attending such a course to enhance their ability to monitor the play equipment in the village.
- Cllr. White presented a quotation of £120 for weed spraying along the edges of the paths in Daffodil Park. It was agreed that the work would be commissioned for completion during the autumn.
- Cllr. White informed Councillors that an approach has been made to North Yorkshire Council, requesting approval for their £8,000 donation for drainage in Daffodil Park to be redirected to alternative projects that would benefit the park.
- Cllr. White noted the condition of the hedges in the park and acknowledged that, with the nesting season coming to an end, the overgrowth needs attention. The local farmer will be approached to request trimming of the hedges surrounding Daffodil Park.
- Cllr. White suggested that, following the successful installation of the memorial bench in Daffodil Park, the Parish Council consider applying to the Mushroom Farm for a donation to provide a new bench in the Nature Reserve.

- Councillors requested an update on the Northern Powers arrangements to cut back overgrown trees impeding power lines at the perimeter of the Nature Reserve.

Action: Clerk to progress the matter and seek an update on the plans of Northern Power.

11.1.2 Planters: Councillors commended the efforts of Cllr. Cole and Cllr. Paley in the maintenance of the two planters in the village. It was agreed that a selection of spring bulbs would be purchased in anticipation of the next growing season.

11.1.3 Community Payback Team: Cllr. White outlined the work to be undertaken by the “payback team” during their attendance the following weekend. This work will include trimming the trees alongside the bush shelter and managing the bund by Silver Street. Additionally, it was suggested that maintenance of the verges alongside the underpass could be beneficial.

11.1.4 Verge Cutting: The Clerk advised Councillors that approaches had been made to an alternative grass cutting contractor to provide quotations for the 2025 growing season, for comparison with quotations from the existing contractor.

12.0 A19 Safety:

12.1 Speeding on A19: Cllr. White informed the meeting that he has retrieved the speed gun lent to the Eggborough community group. It was agreed that, since the Whitley Community has no use for the equipment, it will be offered for sale.

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 Cllr. White informed Councillors that he has written to Keir Mather MP and the Major of North Yorkshire Council regarding the reduction in the bus services within Whitley, pointing out that an “Non Service” bus passes through the village only to commence a bus route in Askern and beyond.

13.2 Cllr. Cole informed Councillors of a voluntary driver service for the Selby Community offering transport for the elderly and disabled for visits to hospitals, doctors or shopping. It was agreed promotional material for this service to in posted onto the notice board and shared on social media.

13.3 Cllr. White requested that to facilitate effective communications between members of the Parish Council emails and other forms of message are acknowledged by the recipients.

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

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 15th Oct 2024 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 9:00 pm