

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 16th Sept 2025

- There were no members of the public in attendance of the meeting.

2.2 The Chair closed the open public forum.

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 16th Sept 2025 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 04/26

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

4.0 Apologies for absence:

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Humphrey.

5.0 Disclosure of interest:

5.1 There were no declarations of interest for items to be discussed during the meeting.

6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 15th July 2025:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 15th July 2025.

Action: The Clerk to present to the Chair for signature.

7.0 Matters for information and action as required:

7.1 Haron Homes: Representatives of Haron Homes attended to present their proposal for a development of 85 homes on land at the northern end of the village, east of the A19 between All Saints Grove and Whitley Farm Close.

The proposal relies on the reclassification of land under the new Central Government “Grey Belt” designation, which permits development on previously designated Green Belt land.

Residents and councillors raised several concerns, including:

- The ethical and environmental implications of reclassifying productive agricultural land.
- Risks to drainage and increased potential for local flooding, given existing issues in nearby fields.
- Increased traffic volumes during and after construction, with safety implications for the A19 and the nearby primary school.
- Impact on vulnerable residents of a care home opposite the proposed site.
- Insufficient provision of local services and amenities to support a larger population.
- Ongoing dissatisfaction among existing homeowners regarding the build quality of Haron Homes properties in Whitley.

Conclusion:

The Parish Council resolved to object to the proposed development once a formal planning application is submitted. It was agreed that representations would also be made to local MP Keir Mather and County Councillor J McCartney.

Actions:

- Parish Council to prepare and submit a formal objection to the North Yorkshire planning authority when the application is lodged.
- Parish Council to write to MP Keir Mather and North Yorkshire Councillor J McCartney outlining concerns.
- Residents encouraged to make their objections directly to the planning authority in writing when the application is open for comment.

7.2 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations: The Clerk presented the latest National Association of Local Councils (NALC) template model of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. He guided councillors through the clauses, drawing attention to those most relevant to the nature and size of Whitley Parish Council. The Standing Orders outline the rules and legal requirements for the conduct of council meetings, while the Financial Regulations set out the framework for responsible and prudent financial management.

Conclusion:

Councillors reviewed the documents and agreed that a tailored final version should be prepared.

Actions:

- Clerk to produce a final draft of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, incorporating the council's requirements, for circulation to councillors
- Councillors to review the final draft in readiness for formal adoption at the October Parish Council meeting.

7.3 Daffodil Park Landscaping: Councillors received proposals from Cllr White and Cllr Humphrey regarding future landscaping plans for Daffodil Park. As Cllr Humphrey was absent, councillors agreed that full consideration of the options should be deferred.

Conclusion:

The matter will be revisited once both councillors are present to present their proposals.

Actions:

Landscaping proposals for Daffodil Park to be tabled again for discussion at the October Parish Council meeting.

8.0 Correspondence received: The Clerk summarised the details of correspondence received by email or post.

8.1 Emails and correspondence.

8.1..1 There was no correspondence to report concerning issues or matters relevant to Whitley Parish.

- Social Media

8.1..1 Cllr White observed there were specific matters raised in the social media of the Parish Council apart from references made to the intentions of Harron Homes to undertake a presentation to the Parish Council concerning a proposed planning application.

9.0 Planning matters: The Clerk provided a summary of the planning applications made in the month for review and consideration by the Council.

- ZG2025/0756/DEM, Land Adjacent The Firs Doncaster Road. Prior notification for demolition of 5no agricultural buildings. Noted with no comments
- ZG2025/0729/TPO, 21 Yew Tree Park. Application for consent to crown reduce by 50% and remove dead branches to 1No Oak tree covered by TPO 6/2002. Noted with no comments
- ZG2025/0690/HPA, 14 Yew Tree Park. Erection of front porch. Noted with no comments
- ZG2025/0684/TPO, Tunstall Telecom Whitley Lodge Doncaster Road. Fell 1 No Ash Tree, raise canopy to 5 metres to 1 No Aspen Tree, remove deadwood from 3 No Sycamores, prune by 2 metres to 1 No Sycamore, crown reduction by 3 metres to 1 No Oak tree and remove deadwood, broken/hanging branches to 1 No Norway Maple protect by Tree Preservation Order 16/2006. Noted with no comments.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 16/09/2025:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2025	Expenditure since 1 st April 2025		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	65.30			15,618.85	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account	6,863	8,807.65		4,049.72	No interest
Total Bank Balances				19,668.57	
Less following funds:					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field Notice Board for Templar Close		1,798.71 8,000.00 518.74	
Total Allocated funds				10,317.45	
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.		9,351.12	
VAT due for reclaim				4,594.15	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds				13,945.27	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to Sept 2025. Based on budget expectations and planned expenditure, the estimated year-end balance was noted to be £15,321.65 subject to the accuracy of ongoing budget assumptions.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22609	G H Fillingham Contractors Ltd – cut 6 & 7	1,166.40
22610	G H Fillingham Contractors Ltd – cut 8	583.20
22611	J R Hunter – salary quarter to Sept 2025 month 6	494.30
22612	HMRC – PAYE quarter to Sept 2025 month 6	123.60
22613	ROSPA Playsafety – playground inspection	292.80

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

- 11.1..1 Parks & Playground Maintenance:** Councillors reviewed the findings of recent inspections of the playgrounds at Daffodil Park, Lee View, and Blackthorn Close. Overall, no high-risk issues were identified, with risks assessed as low to medium. Attention was drawn to the spring-loaded closure mechanism on the Blackthorn Close Park gate, where gaps could pose a hazard to children's hands.

Cllrs Barber and Paley, who have taken a particular interest in the management of the three play areas, noted that while overall risks are low, the equipment is showing signs of age. Wooden benches and protective footing mats are worn and affected by vegetation growth, and some clearing and maintenance, including potential application of weed control spray, may be required.

Conclusion:

The playgrounds are generally safe, but some remedial maintenance is necessary due to wear and vegetation impact.

Actions:

- Cllrs Barber and Paley to review the play areas in the context of the Inspection Report and report back to the Parish Council with recommendations for further remedial actions.
- Clerk to ensure ongoing monitoring and inspections continue according to schedule.

Councillors noted that tree work in Lee View and the Nature Reserve has been completed. However, the planned management of trees in Blackthorn Close is still outstanding. Following the recent pruning of the Oak Tree in Lee View, councillors also noted that the contribution from the resident who requested the work and had agreed to cover part of the cost remains unpaid.

Conclusion:

Outstanding tree management work at Blackthorn Close requires urgent attention, and the resident's contribution for the Lee View Oak Tree work needs to be followed up.

Actions:

- Clerk to liaise with the contractor to expedite completion of tree management at Blackthorn Close.
- Clerk to contact the resident to secure settlement of the agreed contribution for the Oak Tree work in Lee View.

- 11.1..2 Nature Reserve:** Cllr Cole reported on progress in the management of the Nature Reserve. A quotation has been received from a potential contractor to carry out maintenance, focusing on controlling vegetation such as brambles that encroach on public pathways. The proposal includes three cuts per season—spring, summer, and autumn—with the first cut costing £800 to cover specialist equipment, and subsequent summer and autumn cuts at £200 each.

Councillors agreed that an additional quotation should be obtained from the existing verge contractor. The Clerk was also asked to seek further clarification from the quoted contractor regarding the breakdown and justification of the proposed costs.

Conclusion:

Further information and comparative quotations are required before any formal decision on Nature Reserve maintenance can be made.

Actions:

- Clerk to obtain an additional quotation from the existing verge contractor.
- Clerk to seek clarification from the quoted contractor regarding the nature of the proposed costs.

Cllr Cole confirmed that Monaghan Mushrooms has acquired and donated two benches to the Parish Council for installation in the Nature Reserve.

Conclusion:

Installation of the benches is pending action by Monaghan Mushrooms.

Action:

- Cllr Cole to follow up with managers at Monaghan Mushrooms to ensure the benches are installed in the Nature Reserve.

- 11.1..3 Community Payback Team:** Cllr White reported on two visits from the Community Payback Team from Wakefield, noting that although Whitley Parish is not within their usual area, the team carried out hedge cutting in Daffodil Park and tidied some pathways. Cllr White highlighted that additional work remains to be done and suggested that the Nature Reserve could be included in future tasks requiring upkeep and attention.

Conclusion:

The work by the Community Payback Team is ongoing, and additional areas such as the Nature Reserve may be considered for future visits.

Actions:

Cllr White to liaise with the Community Payback Team regarding future maintenance tasks, including potential work in the Nature Reserve.

- 11.1..4 Verge cutting:** The Clerk presented a quotation for ad hoc verge cutting along the roadside perimeter of the Rosslyn land. The work involves clearing vegetation encroaching onto public pathways, with a quoted cost of £180.

Conclusion:

Councillors agreed to proceed with the verge cutting work at the quoted cost.

Actions:

Clerk to instruct the contractor to carry out the verge cutting on the Rosslyn land at the agreed price of £180

12.0 A19 Safety:

Cllr White reported on an action group of parish councils campaigning for the installation of fixed speed cameras to improve road safety. The group is seeking additional support from other local councils.

Conclusion:

Councillors agreed to lend Whitley Parish Council's support to the campaign.

Actions:

- Cllr White to communicate the council's support to the action group coordinating the campaign for fixed speed cameras

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 Cllr White observed that the promised repairs to the benches outside Whitefield Bungalows has yet to be completed.

13.2 It was noted that there remains fly-tipped waste on the public verge by Gale Common Motor Cross. Clearance of this waste by North Yorkshire Council has yet to be actioned.

13.3 Cllr White commented on that nothing seems to have been progress on the sale by the Diocese of the land of All Saints Church.

13.4 Cllr White commented on the outstanding grant applications to Eggborough Power, and their next application period for the quarter to Sept. It was suggested that an application be submitted for contributions to the cost of a new notice board by Silver Street.

13.5 Cllr Walton agreed to inspect the Defibrillator to confirm its continued functionality.

13.6 Cllr White suggested that the council consider the ongoing maintenance of Daffodil Park and that this work should be put out to tender for inclusion in the formal budgetary requirements of the Parish against which the precept will be assessed.

13.7 Councillors enquired into the status of the archiving of council documentation to be deposited with North Yorkshire Council in Northallerton.

14.0 Confirm the date, time and place of next meeting: Next Parish Council Meeting:

Tuesday 21st Oct 2025 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 08:30 pm