

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 14th July 2026

2.1 There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

2.2 The Chair closed the open public forum.

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 14th July 2026 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 04/27

3.0 **Record Councillors in attendance:** Cllr Cole (Chair), Cllr Paley (Vice Chair), Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Walton, Cllr White and Clerk to the Council J Hunter.

4.0 Apologies for absence

4.1 All councillors were present at the meeting,

5.0 Disclosure of interest:

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

6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 14th July 2026:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2026 were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting.

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

7.0 Matters for information and action as required:

7.1 **Whitley Allotment Association:** The Chair signed the Allotment Association Agreement on behalf of the Parish Council, covering the terms for the rental of the allotments to the Allotment Association for the forthcoming three years 2026 to 2029. The agreement is to be countersigned by the Chair of the Allotment Association and returned to the Clerk for retention.

Action: Allotment Association Chair to countersign and return the agreement to the Clerk.

7.2 **Investment in Daffodil Park and Playground:** Councillors discussed the Parish Council's intention to invest in improvements and repairs to the village's open spaces, with consideration given to Daffodil Park and the children's play equipment. It was noted that approximately £17,000–£20,000 of reserves were available for this purpose, comprising a North Yorkshire Council grant of £8,000, donations from the Eggborough Power Community Fund and Community Infrastructure Levy allocations.

Proposals discussed included the provision of additional play equipment at an estimated cost of £6,000 and repairs to existing equipment, including remedial work to wooden fixtures. In view of the forthcoming annual playground inspection, it was agreed to defer further action until the inspection had been completed and its findings considered. Following receipt of the report, quotations would be sought for any necessary repairs and an order placed for the additional play equipment, subject to approval.

It was further agreed that, before committing the North Yorkshire Council grant, the Council would seek approval to use the £8,000 grant towards play equipment rather than the drainage works for which the grant was originally awarded.

Actions: Clerk to seek approval from North Yorkshire Council for the proposed change in use of the £8,000 grant. Following the annual inspection, quotations to be obtained for any required repairs and the proposed additional play equipment.

7.3 Location of waste bins in village: Councillors considered concerns raised by a resident of Gravel Hill Lane regarding the condition and location of the waste bin outside the resident's property, including a request for consideration of an alternative location.

The matter was considered alongside the general condition of waste bins throughout the village and whether any required replacement. Councillors discussed the merits of responding to the resident's request and agreed to inspect the location and review the condition and positioning of waste bins across the village before considering the matter further.

It was agreed that the findings would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and any appropriate action considered.

Action: Councillors to inspect the waste bin on Gravel Hill Lane and review the condition and location of waste bins throughout the village before the next meeting.

7.4 Defibrillator Training: Councillors noted the favourable outcome of the defibrillator training session, which was attended by 17 residents from the community. Councillors expressed their appreciation to the representative of the Yorkshire Ambulance Service for giving their time to deliver the training.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would donate £25 to the Yorkshire Ambulance Service in appreciation of the training provided.

Action: Clerk to arrange the £25 donation to the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

7.5 Irwin Mitchell: Councillors considered correspondence received from Irwin Mitchell Solicitors concerning their purported claim that an outstanding amount remained due in relation to the Gale Common Judicial Review.

It was resolved that a "Without Prejudice" response be sent to Irwin Mitchell setting out the Parish Council's position on the matter.

Action: Clerk to forward the approved "Without Prejudice" response to Irwin Mitchell.

7.6 Banking Arrangement: Councillors considered the arrangements for making payments from the Parish Council's bank account, including the continuation of the existing cheque system requiring two signatories and the alternative of introducing online banking.

The advantages and disadvantages of both arrangements were considered, particularly in relation to financial control and the administration of payments. It was agreed to introduce online banking, with councillors approving payments and the Clerk authorised to execute the transactions online.

It was resolved that the Clerk be authorised to make online payments on behalf of the Parish Council, with all transactions supported by bank statements to be presented to and available for inspection by councillors at each monthly meeting.

Action: Clerk to make arrangements for the introduction of online banking and implement the agreed payment procedure.

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

8.1 Emails and correspondence.

- 8.1..1** Email from Sarah Ward PC providing an update on local crime & Anti Social Behaviour within the village covering the month of August 2026.
 - 8.1..2** Email from Vision ICT confirming the initiation of the upgrade of the Whitley Community website at a cost of £650 plus VAT.
 - 8.1..3** Email from a local resident enquiring into whether the Parish Council provide any bespoke grass cutting support to disabled or infirm residents. It was noted that a response had been sent explaining that, due to budgetary constraints, the Parish Council was unable to provide such a service.
 - 8.1..4** Email from Keir Mather MP from his constituency office concerning the enquiries being made by North Yorkshire Council about the range of road safety initiatives that are being implemented by the different parishes across the county. Keir is seeking to engage with this exercise and facilitate the exchange of information and the conclusions reached. **Action:** Copy to be shared with Parish Councillors.
- Social media: Cllr Humphrey provided an update on activity on the Parish Council's social media pages.

Members of the community made reference to the rumours that the M62 junction 34 into the village was to be closed for a period. It appears to suggest that the result would be westbound traffic out of the village would be affected. Cllr White suggested that he make enquiries with North Yorkshire Highways department seeking clarification.

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 26/04775/FUL: Willow House, Doncaster Road, Whitley. Single storey extension to rear. Noted without comment.

9.2 SELZG2025/1035/FULM: for land at E456060 N421899, Doncaster Road, Whitley, relating to the proposed erection of 85 residential dwellings.

Councillors considered the draft response to the additional submissions made by Harron Homes with amended plans and reports. The Clerk commented on the various positions taken by the statutory consultees particularly, the Strategic Housing Team and Yorkshire Water who continue to raise their concerns and objections to elements of the planning proposal.

Action: The clerk to forward the updated objection to the North Yorkshire Planning Department.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 20/09/2026:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2026	Expenditure since 1 st April 2026		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	33.34			15,743.14	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account	16,697.01	8,134.17		19,291.99	No interest
Total Bank Balances				35,035.13	
Less following funds:					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field Notice Board for Templar Close CIL – Larth Close Eggborough Power Fund Power Minerals Ltd		1,798.71 8,000.00 518.74 7,067.46 743.00 1,600.00	
Total Allocated funds				19,727.91	
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.		15,307.22	
VAT due for reclaim				220.00	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds				15,527.22	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to Sept 2026 for the new financial year. Receipts during the period include the payment of the annual rental from the Allotment Association of £367 together with the refund of VAT of £5,980.01. Based on budget expectations and planned expenditure, the estimated year-end balance was noted to be £16,549.44 subject to the accuracy of ongoing budget assumptions. Councillors reviewed the anticipated expenditure for the forthcoming year.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
	G H Fillingham Ltd	1,100.00
	J R Hunter- Clerk salary quarter to Sept 2026	494.50
	HMRC – PAYE on Clerk's salary quarter to Sept 2026	123.40

- 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 considered the general condition of Daffodil Park, which was considered to be satisfactory overall. However, concerns remained regarding the broken fencing alongside the pathway at the northern end of the park and a gap at the entrance gate in the north-west corner. It was agreed that the issue with the entrance gate would be reported to North Yorkshire Council's Public Rights of Way team to establish whether assistance with the repair could be provided or whether responsibility for the repair rested with the Council.

The condition of the Calor Gas tank enclosure was also discussed, including the continuing difficulty in obtaining appropriate maintenance of the surrounding area and perimeter hedges from the landowners.

Councillors also considered concerns raised by George Fillingham, the grass-cutting contractor, regarding vegetation cut by the Community Payback team in Daffodil Park and Blackthorn Close. The cut vegetation had been left in a pile in the centre of the park, despite an undertaking by the Community Payback team to return and bag and remove it. It was agreed that the Community Payback team would be contacted to arrange removal of the vegetation and, if necessary, George Fillingham would be asked to undertake the clearance and disposal.

Actions: Clerk to contact North Yorkshire Council regarding responsibility for repair of the north-west entrance gate. Clerk to contact the Community Payback team regarding removal of the cut vegetation and agree arrangements for its clearance and disposal, including payment to George Fillingham if required.

- 11.1..2 Nature Reserve:** Councillors Cllr Cole suggested that the Community Payback team be approached to assist with preparing the area within the Nature Reserve designated for a wildflower bed, including digging and incorporating compost into the soil. It was noted that advance notice of the team's attendance would be required to enable the Mushroom Farm to be approached to provide compost material.

Action: Cllr White to liaise with the Community Payback team to arrange a suitable date and time.

- 11.1..3 Community Payback Team:** Councillors had no further comments or observations to make concerning the activities of the team.

- 11.2 Other issues or matters to report:** Councillors noted the management for the verges in progressing as planned within budget.

- 12.0 A19 Safety:** Councillors noted the previous correspondence and approaches made by Keir Mather MP seeking to facilitate a review of road safety measures implemented across North Yorkshire.

Councillors also enquired about the response from North Yorkshire Council Highways Department to concerns previously raised regarding the condition of the road surface at Junction 34 roundabout at the A19/M62 interchange. The Clerk reported that representations had been submitted through the newly established Parish Portal. No further response had been received at the time of the meeting.

Councillors expressed concern regarding the increasing number of advertising signs appearing along the A19 and questioned whether such signs were permitted to be erected within the highway or roadside verge.

Action: Cllr White to contact Area 7 North Yorkshire Highways to establish the applicable regulations

13.0 A.O.B:

- 13.1 Councillors expressed some disappointment at the state of the verge on Whitfield Lane adjacent to Poskitt's Farm.

Action: The Clerk to communicate with the farm manager of Poskitt's Farm highlighting the state of the boundary.

- 13.2 Councillors agreed arrangements for the installation of Dog Waste Notices at key locations within the village's open spaces.

- 13.3 Cllr White reminded councillors that the next quarterly Gale Common Community Fund grant application deadline was approaching at the end of the month. Councillors were requested to consider potential projects for which funding could be sought.

- 13.4 Cllr White reported that the managers of the Eggborough Power Community Fund had indicated that funding could be provided for notice boards for the Parish Council, subject to appropriate recognition of the donation being displayed on the notice boards.

Councillors noted the offer and agreed that the opportunity should be considered as part of the Parish Council's future provision of notice boards.

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

Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 09:10 pm