

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 21st Oct 2025

2.1 A resident raised concern regarding excessive hedge and bramble growth along the public footpath across the canal bridge at the boundary between Whitley Parish and Eggborough Parish, and along Templar Close. The overgrowth is encroaching onto the roadway and presenting an obstruction. It was noted that responsibility for maintenance lies with Area 7 Highways, North Yorkshire Council.

Action: Parish Clerk to contact Area 7 Highways, North Yorkshire Council, to request that the vegetation be cut back

2.2 A resident welcomed the proposal by North Yorkshire Council Highways Department to extend the 30-mph speed limit on Gravel Hill Lane to the Mushroom Farm but queried how the new limit would be enforced. Councillors advised that enforcement of speed limits remains the responsibility of the Police. It was noted that the Parish Council possesses a movable average speed camera sign which can be deployed periodically on Gravel Hill Lane to remind drivers of the speed limit and record traffic data. The information gathered from the sign may be shared with North Yorkshire Police to assist in monitoring and enforcement activity.

The resident also raised concerns regarding the number of vans and vehicles parked along Gravel Hill Lane associated with contractors working on the Larth Close development. These parked vehicles were reported to be creating unsafe obstructions for other road users. Councillors noted that several residents have already contacted the Police to raise these safety concerns.

Action: Parish Council to continue monitoring parking and traffic issues on Gravel Hill Lane and to liaise with North Yorkshire Police as appropriate. Enquires be made with Sarah Ward the Community Support officer regarding the state of the obstructive parking of contractor vehicles on Gravel Hill Lane and enforcement action that can be taken.

2.3 The chair closed the open public forum.

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 21st Oct 2025 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 05/26

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

4.0 Apologies for absence:

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Barber.

5.0 Disclosure of interest:

- 5.1 Cllr Paley declared an interest in a planning application reference ???????????? development at Blenheim House, Whitley.

6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 16th Sept 2025:

- 6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 16th Sept 2025.

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

7.0 Matters for information and action as required:

- 7.1 **Daffodil Park:** Cllr White reported that the Parish Council had been awarded £8,000 by North Yorkshire Council to address drainage issues in Daffodil Park. The planned drainage works could not proceed because local landowners declined access to their field ditches due to existing flooding concerns on their own land. As a result, the Council must identify an alternative use for the grant funds within the scope permitted by North Yorkshire Council.

Several options were discussed:

- Refurbishment of the existing playground equipment, which is now in a worn condition.
- Improvements to other areas of the park, particularly along the northern perimeter adjacent to Whitley Farm Close, where residents have expressed concern about the height and safety of several trees.
- Landscaping of the same northern area to enhance its appearance, with possible removal of tall trees and provision of benches.
- Raising the level of the public footpath at the northern end of the park by approximately one foot, using appropriate infill material, to reduce the impact of annual flooding and improve accessibility throughout the year.

The Council discussed whether to proceed with one of these options or a combination of them.

Action: Estimates to be obtained for the proposed works, to enable further consideration by the Parish Council and subsequent approval by North Yorkshire Council.

- 7.2 **2026/27 Budget:** In preparation for setting the precept for 2026/27, the Clerk presented a draft budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2027. The draft budget, based on projected expenditure for the current year, outlined total overheads of just under £15,000. This compares with the current income level of approximately £14,000, including the 2025/26 precept of £13,000.

Councillors reviewed the anticipated costs for the forthcoming year and did not expect any significant or exceptional items of expenditure. It was agreed that the precept should be determined based on known and planned expenditure, rather than potential future costs that may not materialise. Any exceptional or unforeseen expenses should, if necessary, be met from Parish reserves, with the potential for recovery through future precepts if appropriate.

Action: Clerk to refine the budget in line with these principles for formal consideration when setting the 2026/27 precept.

7.3 Proposed speed limit on Gravel Hill Lane: It was noted that the 30 mph Speed Limit Order introduced by North Yorkshire Council has been approved and will come into effect in due course.

Cllr White reminded councillors of the previous enquiries made during the summer with Area 7 Highways, North Yorkshire Council, regarding the possible installation of traffic-calming speed humps on Gravel Hill Lane. The indicative cost of such works was reported to be in the region of £1,500. Councillors agreed that this option should remain under consideration for possible implementation in the future.

7.4 Harron Homes: Cllr White provided an update on the proposed Harron Homes development of 85 dwellings. North Yorkshire Councillor John McCartney had been invited to comment on the proposals and advised that the principal objection is likely to relate to the use of Green Belt land. The developers' consultants, however, appear confident that the site qualifies as "Grey Belt Land" under recent central government planning guidance and have indicated that any refusal by North Yorkshire Council on Green Belt grounds would likely be appealed to the Secretary of State. It was noted that interpretation of the new planning guidelines may be a determining factor in the outcome.

Cllr White also reported that he had written to Keir Mather MP to ensure he was fully aware of the concerns and dissatisfaction expressed by local residents regarding the way new planning legislation is being applied.

Councillors further noted that the family members owning the land, in accordance with the wishes of the late founder of Tunstall Telecom, had previously offered to gift a parcel of open space land to the Parish Council, though no progress has been made since the original offer.

It was reported that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) associated with the proposed development would potentially include contributions of £170,000 towards public open space, £600,000 towards education, and £65,000 to the Parish Council.

Councillors discussed the community's reaction to the proposal, including local petitions and the possible influence of Parish Council representations on the planning decision.

Action: Parish Council to continue monitoring the progress of the planning process and await formal submission of the planning application before determining any further action.

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 two residents being family members of new recipient candidates for the over 80's Christmas Hampers. A communication with Cllr White offering to assist in the organisation of the 80's Christmas Hamper distribution.

8.1..2 Email from a resident on Lee View offering support and assistance in the organisation of the Remembrance Event at the Memorial in Daffodil Park.

Councillors expressed their gratitude and appreciation of the residents who have volunteered their services.

- Social Media

8.1..1 Cllr Humphrey noted that were comments on social media concerning the proposed Harron Homes development including an online petition that has been established to garner support against the development.

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

- ZG2025/0949/HPA, 3 Yew Tree Park, Whitley. Erection of single storey extension with sloped roof to the front and rear of existing double garage, conversion of one half of the existing double garage to create a new ground floor bedroom as well as a wet room with disabled access. Noted without comment.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 21/10/2025:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2025	Expenditure since 1 st April 2025		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	78.57			15,632.12	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account	13,363.00	10,334.05		9,023.32	No interest
Total Bank Balances				24,65	
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.		14,337.99	
VAT due for reclaim				4,788.55	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds				19,126.54	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to October 2025. Based on budget expectations and planned expenditure, the estimated year-

end balance was noted to be £14,756.65 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: £
22614	G H Fillingham Contractors Ltd – cut 9 & 10	1,166.40
22613	Keith Watson – repair to bench on Whitefield Bungalows	120.00
22615	Kath Walton – Over 80's Christmas Hampers – 20 at £25.00	500.00

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

- 11.1..1 Parks & Playground Maintenance:** Cllr Paley reported on a quotation received for the cleaning and vegetation management of the three village play areas. The quotation proposed an initial deep clean at a cost of £1,200, followed by maintenance cleaning at either £300 every three months or £400 every four months. The service would include power washing of play equipment and seating, removal of moss from safety matting, and edge trimming. Councillors considered the quotation excessive and beyond the Parish Council's available resources. It was agreed that engagement with the Community Payback Team would provide a suitable and more cost-effective alternative.

Cllr White advised that the Community Payback Team is scheduled to attend for three weekends commencing Sunday 9 November, and could be directed to focus initially on cleaning and maintenance at the Blackthorn Play Area.

Cllr Paley further reported on the completed review of the Playground Inspection Report. The assessment indicated a generally low level of risk, with no issues requiring urgent action other than the replacement or repair of a spring-loaded gate closure mechanism that could present a finger-trapping hazard. It was agreed that the full Inspection Report would be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk advised that George Fillingham, the grass-cutting contractor, would undertake further treatment to address the mole infestation in Daffodil Park and within the planters along the A19.

Councillors also noted the overgrown state of vegetation within the gas tank enclosure in Daffodil Park.

Action: Cllr White undertook to contact the facility owners, Northern Energy and Calor, requesting that the vegetation be appropriately maintained.

It was observed that the wooden fencing at the rear exit of Daffodil Park requires repair.

Action: Cllr White agreed to obtain a quotation for the necessary work from the local handyman, Keith Watson

- 11.1..2 Nature Reserve:** Cllr Cole provided an update on the current condition of the Nature Reserve. No further work appears to have been undertaken recently by the Mushroom Farm; however, the existing bench has been refurbished with new seating, and surrounding vegetation has been cleared to improve access. Pathways throughout the reserve remain in satisfactory condition.

It was noted that the Mushroom Farm has yet to install the two new benches they have acquired and donated to the Parish Council. Cllr Cole expressed the hope that regular vegetation maintenance within the reserve will continue.

Councillors discussed the future management of the Nature Reserve and how it might best be maintained to enhance environmental benefit. It was noted that the Wildlife Trust had recommended the planting of additional trees to support biodiversity within the area.

- 11.1..3 Community Payback Team:** Cllr White confirmed that the Community Payback Team will attend on three consecutive Sundays commencing 9 November 2025. The planned work will begin with a tidy-up of Blackthorn Close, followed by a range of maintenance tasks in Daffodil Park.

Councillors also discussed the management of hedges within the parish, noting that hedge cutting should take place between October and February, outside the bird nesting season, to ensure compliance with environmental guidelines.

- 11.1..4 Verge cutting:** The Clerk advised that the additional verge cut at the perimeter of the Rosslyn Property will be completed by the end of October.

12.0 A19 Safety:

Cllr White presented data collected from the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) monitoring traffic movements through the village. The data indicated that most vehicles travelling along the A19 comply with the speed limit, with an average recorded speed of 30.2 mph and 86% of vehicles travelling below 35 mph. Councillors noted that while some residents perceive excessive speeding through the village, the recorded data does not substantiate these concerns.

It was further noted that a balance of £1,400 remains in the Parish Council's allocated reserves, which could be utilised towards the potential purchase of speed bumps for Gravel Hill Lane.

13.0 A.O.B.

- 13.1** Cllr White provided an update on the progress of the Parish Council's outstanding grant applications submitted to the Eggborough Power Community Fund. The applications remain under consideration, and further information will be reported once approval outcomes are confirmed

13.2 The Clerk advised that residents at Lee View have been requested to contribute towards the management of the oak tree adjacent to their property. No response has been received to date, and the outstanding sum will be pursued.

14.0 Confirm the date, time and place of next meeting: Next Parish Council Meeting:
Tuesday 18th Nov 2025 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 09:00 pm