Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 13th October 2026

2.1 Cllr White, on behalf of the Whitley Allotment Association, presented the signed Allotment Lease Agreement between Whitley Parish Council and the Association. The agreement, signed by Cllr White in his capacity as a member of the Association and countersigned by the Treasurer of the Association, formally records the agreed terms and rental arrangements for the allotment land.

The signed agreement was received and noted by the Parish Council.

2.2 The Chair closed the open public forum.

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October 2026 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 05/27

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 15th September 2026:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 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 Investment in Daffodil Park and Playground: Councillors reviewed the quotation from HAGs for the installation of new children's play equipment in the playground, totalling £9,500 plus VAT. The proposed expenditure would be funded through an £8,000 grant from North Yorkshire Council, £900 in donations from the Gale Common Community Fund, administered by Eggborough Power, with the balance met from the Council's CIL receipts.

A separate quotation of £986 was also considered for the repair of defective wooden treads on the existing play equipment.

It was agreed that both the installation of the new equipment and the repairs to the existing equipment should be commissioned. However, given that both elements of the work were expected to be undertaken during the same visit, it was considered appropriate to seek a revised quotation for the repair work to reflect the combined commission.

Actions:

- To instruct HAGs to proceed with the installation and repairs, subject to negotiation of the repair cost.
- To seek confirmation from North Yorkshire Council that its grant funding may be applied to the proposed play equipment installation.

7.2 Location of waste bins in village: Councillors discussed the provision of replacement litter bins on Learning Lane and Templar Close. It was agreed that a replacement bin should be purchased for Learning Lane, adjacent to the underpass, to replace the existing damaged bin. The cost will be met from the £700 grant provided by Eggborough Power through its Gale Common Community Fund initiative.

A further bin, to be supplied by the North Yorkshire Council Waste Department, will be located at the upper end of Templar Close. It was agreed that both bins would initially be delivered to Cllr Humphrey's home address for temporary storage pending installation by Father & Son Handyman.

Given the proposed location of the Templar Close bin near residential properties, councillors considered it appropriate to consult with the affected residents and seek their agreement before proceeding with its installation.

Actions:

- The Clerk to arrange the purchase of the Learning Lane replacement bin using the Eggborough Power grant.
- The Clerk to arrange delivery and temporary storage of both bins at Cllr Humphrey's address.
- Cllr White to consult with affected residents of Templar Close regarding the proposed bin location.
- The Clerk to arrange installation by Father & Son Handyman.

7.3 Land Opposite Templar Close: The Clerk brought to councillors' attention correspondence from a local resident expressing concern about increased activity on the fenced-off plot of land opposite Templar Close. The reported site clearance activity included the accumulation of cleared vegetation in several mounds. The resident expressed concern that the land might be intended for use as a traveller caravan site, with the possibility of imminent occupation.

The Clerk referred to previous correspondence from North Yorkshire Council's Planning Enforcement Team, which had advised on 30 May that an enforcement order had been initiated and that the site would continue to be monitored. The Council had indicated that evidence of hardcore being laid would provide grounds for the issue of a Stop Notice.

Action:
The Clerk to respond to the resident, explaining North Yorkshire Council's current monitoring approach and that the Planning Enforcement Team is continuing to adopt a watch-and-wait position pending evidence of further development activity.

7.4 Gale Common Community Fund: Councillors reviewed the use of funds donated to the Parish Council by Eggborough Power through its Gale Common Community Fund initiative. Expenditure and commitments supported through the fund had included a bench for the Nature Reserve, consumable supplies for the defibrillator, a litter bin for Learning Lane, a contribution towards repairs to the play equipment at Daffodil Park, a replacement noticeboard and, most recently, an information and interpretation board for the Nature Reserve.

The discussion then focused on the proposed content and design of the interpretation board. It was envisaged that this would incorporate a plan of the Nature Reserve

alongside information about the history of Gale Common, the Mushroom Farm and the development of the Nature Reserve.

It was agreed that existing historical records held within the community should be researched and supplemented by interviews with long-standing residents to establish a comprehensive record of the locality's history. This information would be collated into a repository as the basis for subsequently engaging a professional agency to develop the material into a coherent and informative interpretation board.

Action:
Cllr Cole supported by Cllr Humphrey to investigate and collate available historical records and undertake discussions with long-standing residents to establish a repository of local historical information for the proposed interpretation board

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 & Anit Social Behaviour within the village covering the month of September 2026.

- Social media: Cllr Humphrey provided an update on activity on the Parish Council's social media pages.

  Cllr Humphrey brought to councillors' attention recent posts on the Parish Council's Facebook pages concerning activities and events at the Gale Common Motocross site. It was noted that the reported frequency and nature of the events appeared to exceed the limits imposed under the planning permission granted by North Yorkshire Council. The posts had generated a number of comments from residents, approximately 90% of which expressed support for the motocross activities.

  Cllr Humphrey reported that Vision ICT had successfully completed the update of the Parish Council website. Councillors noted that the revised website presented a smart and clean appearance and provided the functionality required by the Parish Council.

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 26/04157/FUL: Land off Larth Close, Installation of new sliding gate entrance to site. Noted without comment.

9.2 26/05295/PIP: for land at E4560022 421642 Doncaster Road, Whitley. Permission in Principle for a minimum of 4 and maximum of 7 dwellings (Use Class C3).

Councillors considered the recent application for Permission in Principle in respect of a proposed development on land designated as Green Belt. It was agreed that the Parish Council should formulate an objection on the grounds that granting Permission in Principle would represent an erosion of Green Belt protection and be contrary to the principles and provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Action:
Clerk to prepare and submit a formal objection to the Permission in Principle application, setting out the Parish Council's concerns regarding the impact on Green Belt land and the relevant provisions of the NPPF.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 13/10/2026:

Bank/Account	Income since 1st April 2026	Expenditure since 1st April 2026		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	65.10			15,774.90	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account	26,389.09	17,088.37		22,034.87	No interest
Total Bank Balances				**37,809.77**	
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 12,009.54 743.00 1,600.00	
Total Allocated funds				24,669.99	
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.		13,139.78	
VAT due for reclaim				1,182.20	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds				**14,321.98**	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to October 2026 for the new financial year. Receipts during the period include the payment of fees for grass cutting 0f £840.61 undertaken on behalf of North Yorkshire Council**.** Based on budget expectations and planned expenditure, the estimated year-end balance was noted to be £15,201.58 subject to the accuracy of ongoing budget assumptions. Councillors reviewed the anticipated expenditure for the forthcoming year.

It was noted the cash flow includes the payment to Irwin Mitchell following agreement of a sum to affect full and final settlement or all costs incurred by Irwin Mitchell in connection with the original Judicial Review concerning the Gale Common Ash Extraction case. The settlement figure was set at £5,386 plus appropriate VAT covering disbursements of £2,886 and fees of £2,500.

Councillors considered the budget and arrangements for the provision of Christmas hampers for residents aged 80 and over. It was agreed that an invitation should be posted on the Parish Council's social media pages asking eligible residents to make themselves known to the Council, thereby helping to ensure that a comprehensive list of potential recipients is established.

Action:
Councillors White and Humphrey to publish a notice on social media inviting residents aged 80 and over to register their details with the Parish Council for the Christmas hamper initiative.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
	G H Fillingham Contractors Ltd	1,320.00
	Vision ICT – website upgrade	780.00
	Vision ICT – website and email hosting for year to Dec 2027	355.22
	ROSPA Playsafety – annual inspection	318.00
	Yorkshire Ambulance Service Charity – donation	25.00

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: £
	Bank charges	4.99
	Bank charges	4.99

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 received updates on several ongoing and forthcoming matters:

Cllr White advised that contractors acting on behalf of the Mushroom Farm would shortly be installing the newly acquired bench in the Blackthorn Play Area.

It was noted that the noticeboard originally installed by Sweeting Bros at the start of Lee Lane during the drainage works was in a significant state of disrepair.

Councillors also noted that a local farmer would be approached to undertake cutting of the hedge around the perimeter of Daffodil Park.

The deteriorated wooden fencing surrounding the gas enclosure within Daffodil Park was considered to require removal
.
Cllr White further advised that a quotation was awaited for the installation of a metal post at the entrance to Daffodil Park to close the gap in the access gate.

Actions:

- Cllr Paley to remove the glass pane from the damaged noticeboard at the start of Lee Lane.
- Cllr White to approach a local farmer to arrange cutting of the Daffodil Park perimeter hedge.
- The Clerk to obtain a quotation from Father and Son Handyman for removal of the wooden fencing surrounding the gas enclosure.

- Cllr White to follow up on the outstanding quotation for installation of a metal post at the Daffodil Park entrance.

11.1..2 **Nature Reserve:** Councillors noted that posters highlighting the prohibition of dog fouling had been installed in the Nature Reserve.

It was agreed that the grass-cutting contractor, George Fillingham, should be contacted to confirm arrangements for a further preventative treatment to control encroaching vegetation, including brambles and ferns.

Action:
Cllr Cole to contact George Fillingham to confirm his attendance at the Nature Reserve to undertake further vegetation control work

11.1..3 **Community Payback Team:** Cllr White advised that access to Community Payback resources through the Wakefield and York teams was currently limited due to a backlog of projects and pressure on Probation Service staff.

Consequently, the availability of teams to undertake work within Whitley was reduced. Councillors noted the position

11.1..4 **Verge cutting:** Cllr White expressed concern regarding the growth of vegetation along the perimeter of Poskitt's farm land at the junction of Doncaster Road and Whitefield Lane. He advised that he would contact the Farm Manager to request that the necessary vegetation management work be undertaken.

Alternatively, councillors considered obtaining a quotation from the grass-cutting contractor, George Fillingham, to carry out the work.

Councillors also discussed whether George Fillingham should be approached to provide a quotation for cutting the grassed area at the car park entrance to the George and Dragon public house.

Actions:
- Cllr White to contact the Poskitt's Farm Manager to request vegetation management at the junction.
- To consider obtaining a quotation from George Fillingham for the work at the junction and for cutting the grassed area at the George and Dragon car park entrance for recharge to the landlords.

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:** A resident had contacted the Parish Council seeking an update on the progress and outcome of an initiative undertaken by the North Yorkshire Council Mayor's Office during early 2026. The initiative involved county-wide surveys and assessments of road safety, with the intention of developing a strategy for the deployment of fixed and variable speed cameras at appropriate locations across North Yorkshire.

Action:
The Clerk to seek an update from North Yorkshire Council on the progress of the initiative, including its findings, conclusions and anticipated implementation plans

Councillors discussed the closure of the eastbound exit slip road at Junction 34 onto the M62. It was noted that the closure was necessary to facilitate extensive repair works to the M62 bridge, with the works expected to continue until April 2027. Councillors noted the anticipated duration of the closure and its potential implications for local traffic movements. Concerns

were expressed about the lack of prior notice of the road works and closures by North Yorkshire Highways.

13.0 A.O.B:

13.1 Cllr Walton advised that the budget for the Over 80s Christmas Hampers would remain at £25 per recipient. She also indicated that this would be the final year in which she would undertake the organisation of the initiative.

13.2 Cllr White reported on his conversation with Cllr McCartney concerning views on North Yorkshire Council's Planning Department.

13.3 Cllr White referred to the Gale Common Ash Extraction Project and noted that, given the last meeting with representatives of EP Investments had taken place in July, a further update meeting should be arranged in the New Year.

13.4 Cllr White reported receiving communication from Keir Mather MP indicating his intention to undertake a review of bus service routes across North Yorkshire

14.0 Confirm the date, time and place of next meeting: Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 17th November 2026 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 09:10 pm