

# **Whitley Parish Council**

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

## **2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025**

**2.1** Residents attending the open public forum explained that their primary reason for being present was to understand the parish council's stance on a recent planning application submitted by Harron Homes. The application proposes the construction of 85 new homes on land within Whitley.

Residents noted that although a petition opposing the Harron Homes development had gathered over 200 signatures, only a small number of objections (12) had been submitted via the official planning portal. They expressed concern that the low number of formal objections might weaken the community's influence and asked what could be done to encourage more residents to submit comments directly to the portal.

Councillors confirmed that the planning notice had already been shared on the parish council's social media channels. They observed that responsibility for encouraging petition supporters to make individual submissions would typically fall to the petition organiser. Councillors emphasised that, regardless of how many people signed the petition, it would carry limited weight in the formal planning process compared with individual representations submitted through the planning portal

The council acknowledged the residents' interest and concerns regarding the proposed development and noted that it will clarify its position on the planning application as part of the meeting's planning agenda item.

In addition, the parish council's social media pages will be updated to remind the community about the planning application, provide information on how to submit comments, and highlight the deadline for doing so

**2.2** The chair closed the open public forum.

## **Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 06/26**

**3.0 Present:** Cllr Walton (Chair), Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Barber, 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 White.

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2025:**

**6.1** It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2025.

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

## **7.0 Matters for information and action as required:**

**7.1 Daffodil Park & Nature Reserve:** The Clerk reported that a sum of just over £7,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds had been received from the Larth Close development. These funds may be used for improvements to open spaces or infrastructure within Whitley, with no time limit attached to their use.

Councillors noted that two main projects were currently under consideration for Daffodil Park:

- Upgrading the play equipment, which could utilise the £8,000 grant already secured from North Yorkshire Council.
- Using the CIL funds for complementary projects, such as raising the public footpath to reduce the impact of flooding or undertaking landscaping work near properties where residents had expressed concerns about the height of adjacent trees.

Discussion took place on the feasibility and potential benefits of raising the path above regular flood levels and on options for managing the boundary area, including landscaping and the possible removal or pollarding of trees to address resident concerns.

The council agreed that further information on costs and practical options was needed before decisions could be made on the allocation of CIL funds.

### **Actions arising**

- Investigate the cost of raising sections of the path through Daffodil Park.
- Develop and present ideas for landscaping the small boundary area adjacent to nearby residents' properties.
- Obtain cost estimates for pollarding or removing the trees in question.

**7.2 Harron Homes:** Councillors reviewed the planning application submitted by Harron Homes for 85 homes on land off Doncaster Road, adjacent to the A19.

It was noted that the proposal contained significant issues, particularly that the development does not comply with the criteria for land designated as 'Green Belt' under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Councillors agreed that these non-compliances represent strong grounds for objection.

Councillors also considered the significance of these points of contention, together with the level of community concern as exemplified by the number of signatures on a petition. They emphasised that the Parish Council expects and requires that the objection submission will be considered by the planning committee.

The council agreed to formally object to the application based on its failure to meet Green Belt development criteria.

It was further agreed that the council intends to make verbal representations to members of the planning committee during the consideration of the application.

Cllr White who, although absent from the meeting shared by email that he has endeavoured to arrange a meeting with Keir Mather MP to discuss the Harron Homes development. In addition, contact was made with North Yorkshire Councillor, J McCartney requesting his attendance at the Parish council meeting. He declined the invitation on the grounds that he is a serving member of the North Yorkshire Planning Committee.

**Actions arising**

- The Clerk will draft an objection for consideration and approval by the Parish Council.
- Once approved, the objection will be submitted to the North Yorkshire Council planning portal before the comment deadline of 4th December 2025.
- The council will prepare to provide verbal representations at the planning committee meeting to support the objection.

**7.3 2026/27 Precept:** The Clerk presented the projected budget for 2026/27, with total anticipated expenditure of just over £15,000.

Councillors considered alternative levels of precept income and their impact on individual household parish council tax. Comparative examples showed a precept of £13,000 would result in a charge of £31.80 per household, while a precept of £14,625 would result in a charge of £35.77 per household.

After discussion and review of parish council reserves, it was resolved a precept of £13,500 be set for the year 2026/27

This would result in a Band D equivalent household parish council tax charge of £33.02, representing a 2.56% increase on the previous year, or an actual increase of £0.82 per household in parish council tax for the whole year.

**Actions arising:**

The Clerk to formally request from North Yorkshire Council a Parish Precept of £13,500

**7.4 Play Areas:** Cllr Paley and Cllr Barber provided an overview of the recent play area inspection report.

They identified the primary safety concern as the closure mechanism on the gate at Blackthorn Close play area. The report noted a crushing or shearing hazard on the side of the gate and recommended adjustments to ensure a minimum spacing of 12 mm throughout the gate's range to eliminate the entrapment risk.

Councillors agreed that the gate issue constitutes a pressing safety risk that requires attention.

**Actions arising**

The council will engage the general maintenance handyman contractor to carry out the necessary repairs to the gate at Blackthorn Close play area.

**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 PC Sarah Ward attaching the North Yorkshire Police newsletter for October 2025 covering the Osgoldcross Ward. The schedule of local community surgeries was noted with the next for the village being at the Tea Barn.

**8.1..2** Email from the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) North Yorkshire Council advising of the notice of an order setting a 30 mph speed limit on additional sections of Gravel Hill Lane Whitley with effect from 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

- Social Media

**8.1.1** Cllr Humphrey advised that there were no postings on social media relevant matters appertaining to Whitley Parish.

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

Councillors noted that, aside from the Harron Homes planning application discussed under agenda item 7.2, there were no other planning matters requiring consideration

## 10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

### 10.1 RFO Report as at 18/11/2025:

| Bank/Account                          | Income since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025 | Expenditure since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025   |  | Current Balance                            | Notes/Comment         |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|
| Santander Deposit                     | 78.57                                   |  |  | 15,632.12                                  | Interest paid monthly |
| Santander Current Account             | 20,430.46                               | 11,732.41  |  | 14,692.42                                  | No interest           |
| <b>Total Bank Balances</b>            |   |  |  | <b>30,324.54</b>                           |                       |
| <b>Less following funds:</b>          |   |  |  |  |                       |
| Allocated Funds                       |   | Surplus from Crossing<br>Drainage Daffodil Field<br>Notice Board for Templar Close<br>CIL – Larth Close  |  | 1,798.71<br>8,000.00<br>518.74<br>7,067.46 |                       |
| Total Allocated funds                 |   |  |  | 17,384.91                                  |                       |
|                                       |   |  |  |  |                       |
| Parish Council Bank Funds             |   | -Future Development and facility provision –Buildings, ROS & Nature Reserve<br>-Public Liability Insurance<br>-Clerk Remuneration<br>-Donations<br>-Management costs<br>-Repairs<br>-Unexpected/unforeseeable expenditure. |  | 12,939.63                                  |                       |
| VAT due for reclaim                   |   |  |  | 4,938.28                                   |                       |
| <b>Total Unallocated Parish Funds</b> |   |  |  | <b>17,877.91</b>                           |                       |

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to November 2025. Based on budget expectations and planned expenditure, the estimated year-end balance was noted to be £14,902.69 subject to the accuracy of ongoing budget assumptions.

Cllr Walton reported that three additional residents in the village, all over the age of 80, had been identified as eligible for a Christmas Parcel.

It was resolved a further £100 will be allocated to cover the cost of the additional Christmas Hampers.

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

| <b>Cheque No.</b> | <b>Payable to:</b>                     | <b>Amount: £</b> |
|-------------------|--|------------------|
| 22616             | G F Fillingham Contractors Ltd         | 583.20           |
| 22617             | Vision ICT Ltd                         | 315.16           |
| 22618             | K Walton – Over 80's Christmas Parcels | 100.00           |
| 22619             | S Cole – Remembrance Sunday wreath     | 27.00            |

- 10.3 Accounts Payable retrospectively:** The following retrospective payments made by bank transfer since the last council meeting were approved.

| <b>Cheque No.</b> | <b>Payable to:</b> | <b>Amount: £</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|                   |                    |                  |
|                   |                    |                  |

## **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:** There were no further items to discuss concerning the management of the open spaces apart from the cut of the hedges on the boundary of the Daffodil Park. Councillors noted the broken public footpath sign and fencing at the entry to Daffodil Park that has been reported to North Yorkshire Council. Councillors noted that Cllr White has requested a quote for replacement fencing.

**11.1..2 Nature Reserve:** Cllr Cole advised that there was no further update to share concerning the reserve.

**11.1..3 Community Payback Team:** Cllr Barber and Cllr Paley provided an update on recent maintenance work carried out by the Community Payback team in Daffodil Park and the play areas.

They outlined further planned tasks for forthcoming visits, including verge clearance within the play areas. It was noted that a Health and Safety representative from the administration team would be present at the sites to ensure the safety of the operatives while work is being undertaken.

**11.1..4 Verge cutting:** It was noted the growing season has concluded and there were no further items to be considered following completion of the final grass cutting. Total expenditure has been within the budget set for the year.

## **12.0 A19 Safety:**

The Clerk report on a resident who has raised concerns about motorists exceeding the speed limit through the village, particularly those travelling at 40–50 mph and who

had expressed frustration with the perceived ineffectiveness of enforcement measures such as police speed vans.

The resident indicated personal efforts to engage with the police, the Police, Fire and Ambulance Deputy Mayor, and other authorities to address the issue.

Councillors recognised the issue as ongoing and challenging and confirmed that the Parish Council has implemented all feasible measures within its powers to monitor and reduce speeding.

It was agreed residents are encouraged to continue raising concerns with the relevant authorities, and the Parish Council will maintain its advocacy efforts.

### **13.0 A.O.B.**

Cllr White unable to attend the meeting, provided updates and raised points for future consideration

- 13.1** Grants from EP UK for defibrillator pads and batteries, and for an information board at the Nature Reserve will be progressed. In the meantime, decisions are awaited on grant application to replace the Silver Street noticeboard. In addition, future grant applications are contemplated for new seats near the swings in Daffodil Park.
- 13.2** It was confirmed that parts for the defibrillator have been ordered for delivery to the Clerk will on receipt install them in the cabinet at the George and Dragon pub.
- 13.3** A reminder to chase up Mr & Mrs Taylors contribution to the tree work.
- 13.4** It was noted that Kellington will receive an additional mobile library stop. Consideration should perhaps be given to representations being made for a similar provision to be available for Whitley
- 13.5** Concerns were raised about the short notice of the bus service cancellation due to the George and Dragon Bonfire Night. Should the Parish Council share these concerns with Arriva and the North Yorkshire Passenger Transport for improve notice in the future.
- 13.6** The clerk advised that the most convenient and mode of communication to the clerk on Parish Council matters should be by email to ensure information retention.

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

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

**Closure of meeting:** 09:00 pm