

Whitley Parish Council – Ref 2/2015

(Minute numbers should be preceded by the above reference prefix)

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 24th February 2015 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

1. The meeting was opened at 7.31 p.m. by the Chairman.
2. **Present.** Cllr S Humphrey – Chair, Cllrs. K Walton, S. White, F Blackburn & J Watson.
3. **Apologies:** – Cllr Davie. The apologies were approved.
4. **Declaration of Interests** – None
5. **Minutes of the last meeting**
 - 5.1. The minutes of the meeting on 13th January 2015 were taken as read and agreed as being a true record and were then signed by the chairman.
6. **Matters Arising**
 1. Two Waste Bins for Daffodil Park– These have now been delivered and Jim Taylor has agreed to install them at the appropriate locations in the Daffodil Park. – Cost before VAT is £334.88.
 2. Cutting of Grass verges. – Cllr Watson reported that he and Jim have not yet walked the around the sites to assess cutting required, but this will be done in the near future. He reported that Guy Poskitt’s employees have cut some of the verges on Whitefield Lane.
 3. Plan Selby Consultation - Cllr Watson and the clerk reported on the work that was done to file our response by the due date. He explained that the process was complex and the documents difficult to understand. He felt that Selby DC was focussing on the south of the district for future development because of the road infrastructure that already exists.
 4. Request to demolish planter on A19 – This enquiry has arisen because of a planning application due to be submitted for a small piece of land adjacent to The Firs. The land is outside the village envelope and would not normally be considered for development. A short discussion followed and councillors were not in favour of either moving the planter or development of the land. It was agreed that if the planter were to be moved, then the full cost of doing this would be borne by the landowner who is developing the land.
 5. New planning application – Darrington Quarries Windfarm – Details/documents are all available online and the changes involve environmental issues.

Open Public Forum. The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow members of the public to give their views and ask questions.

Mr M Lomax.

- ❖ Mr Lomax informed the councillors about the current arrangement for the maintenance of the play area and public spaces on the Harron Homes development. He told the meeting that the collective costs borne by the residents were in the region of £4000 per year. After a short

discussion about the unsatisfactory terms of the service charge and conditions, councillors suggested that residents should form a residents group with a view to changing the current maintenance arrangements provided by Harron Homes. This could involve the residents group taking control of the contract to do the work on the public spaces.

Mr M Walker.

- ❖ Mr Walker attended the meeting to thank councillors for the letter of complaint that was sent to Selby DC chief executive in respect of the Garmsway planning application and procedures. He said that he would be contacting the LG Ombudsman about the matter. He said also that he had contacted the Care Home management about the behaviour of the builders employed on the conversion of Garmsway.

John White.

- ❖ The subject of mains gas in Whitley was raised and he understood that at the October 2014 meeting it was suggested that Northern Gas Networks be invited to a parish council meeting. Has this been done?
- ❖ Notice board on Templar Close damaged and has this been reported to the police.
- ❖ He said that the printing costs re the P & CC visit will be refunded by the NY P&CC.
- ❖ Police camera vans in Whitley – Short discussion about lack of presence in Whitley but they seem to be appearing in Burn despite them also having VAS units in the village.
- ❖ He complained about the fact that the 2015/16 parish precept had been increased to cover the cost of cutting the grass verges in Whitley.
- ❖ Hits on Website should be available and regular posting should be sent to The Selby Times about meetings in Whitley.
- ❖ The NYCC highways are dragging their heels about traffic issues in Whitley.
- ❖ A community café is now open in Eggborough for use by elderly people and people living on their own. Should we publicise this?

7. Correspondence received. (Items for comment/information.)

- 7.1. The clerk reported that Rural Action Yorkshire is asking if we wish to subscribe. The clerk agreed to look at the benefits and then decide on membership. The cost is £35 per year and councillors agreed to the council subscribing to the organisation.
- 7.2. There is a public consultation exercise taking place about the Whitley & Eggborough Satellite Children's Centre – Period 23/2/2015 to 16/3/2015. The document has been circulated to all councillors and comments/responses should be sent by email to the clerk before the closing date of 16th March 2015.

8. Finance & Administration

- 8.1. The clerk reported the bank balances at 24/2/2015 as being;

Deposit Accounts – Santander PLC £33,833.33, Co-op Bank PLC Deposit Account £50,701.17 - **Total Deposit Accounts £84,534.50**

Current Accounts. – Santander PLC £591.98, Co-op Bank £ 5,341.90. **Total Current Accounts £5,933.88**

Funds held in reserve for future playarea maintenance = **£79,237**. Other ring-fenced and reserved funds = **£4,605**. Total is **£83,842**.

2. The following accounts were approved for payment: - Moxon & Barker – Common Reg. Fee £130, Clerks expenses – 6 mths to 30/9/2014 £312, Huw Forestry – Tree Pruning- £300, Glasdon UK Ltd – Waste bins for Daffodil Park- £401.85, Petty Cash Imprest £122.14, JR & L Taylor – Hedge Cutting etc. £192.

9. Transparency code for Smaller Local Authorities.

- 9.1. The clerk said that this document has already been distributed by email. From 1st April 2015 smaller councils – turnover of not more than £25,000 – will be required to make more information available to the public. This information will include the publishing of the annual return, individual payments made in excess of £100 and a list of public land and building assets held. Other changes meant that the council would no longer be required to appoint an external auditor from 2015/16. A short discussion followed and the clerk said that these new measures would increase the workload of the clerk. The necessary information will be put on our website and the deadline for publishing is not later than 1st July 2015.

10. Recreational Open Space In Whitley

- 10.1. The only problem was at the The Oaks playarea, where once again, a mushroom top had become dislodged. This is not a safety issue but would need to be refastened and the clerk will arrange for this to be done.

11.A19 Safety.

- 11.1. Cllr White reported on the recent meeting of the sub-group concerning safety on the A19 through Whitley. A number of safety projects were put forward and discussed but the top priority was a light controlled pedestrian crossing at the north end of the village. Initial cost estimate was in the region of £44,000 and this would need to be raised through a combination of sponsorship/donations from local businesses and fund matching by Whitley council.
- 11.2. A meeting has been arranged with Graham Flack from Tunstalls to discuss how they might contribute to the fund. It was also suggested that Eggborough PC might be approached to donate to the fund.
- 11.3. There was a short discussion about how Whitley PC could provide funding. The only funding source that is available to the council is the precept. It might be possible to loan a sum from the Section 106 ringfenced funds which could then be repaid back over say ten years, by way of fixed annual amount from the precept. The clerk agreed to look into this and put the matter on the March agenda.
- 11.4. Additional work on the road markings on the A19. The clerk will seek a response from Gary Lumb about this work and when it is likely to be completed.

12.Chairman's & Members Report

12.1. No reports made to this meeting.

13.A O B

- 13.1. .Cllr Blackburn said that parking on Whitefield Lane was becoming a problem for other road users. Unless they were causing an obstruction the police will not take any action.
- 13.2. Cllr Walton said that one of the glass panels in the bus shelter at Templar Close is still damaged despite the fact that one panel had been repaired quite recently. Clerk will report to NYCC.
- 13.3. The clerk reported that the damaged notice board on Templar Close has now been repaired at a cost of £27.80. The incident has been reported to the police.
- 13.4. Waste bins in both the park and on Templar Close are not being emptied on a regular basis. The problem has been reported to Selby DC.
- 13.5. The clerk mentioned the council elections on 7th May 2015. Nomination papers should be received in the near future and they will be sent to all current members for completion. The timetable for submission will be included with the papers.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

Chairman

Date.