

# Whitley Parish Council – Ref 3/2015

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

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

1. The meeting was opened at 7.33 p.m. by the Chairman.
2. **Present.** Cllr K Walton – Chair, Cllrs. S. White, J Davie & J Watson.
3. **Apologies:** – Cllr Humphrey. The apologies were approved.
- 4 **Declaration of Interests** – None
- 5 **Minutes of the last meeting**
  - 5.1 The minutes of the meeting on 24th February 2015 were taken as read and agreed as being a true record and were then signed by the chairman.
- 6 **Matters Arising**
  - 6.1 It was reported to the meeting that the two new waste bins have now been installed in the Daffodil Park.
  - 6.2 Cutting of Grass verges. – Cllr Watson reported that he and Jim had walked the sites to be cut. He explained that it is not clear where the areas are that NYCC say they have been cutting. Cllr Watson referred to the cutting schedule diagrams supplied by NYCC and said he will need to speak to them in order to clarify the position. He also referred to the recent letter from NYCC offering to pay the parish council for areas of cutting that they would normally continue to do because of the road safety aspect. Clarification is again required because of the possible third party liability that might arise in the case of a road accident. C.Cllr J McCartney spoke to help clarify the position.
  - 6.3 Children’s Centre Consultation. The clerk reported that two councillors had provided comments on the proposals and these had been forwarded to the appropriate department at NYCC.
  - 6.4 Information Board in Daffodil Park – Cllr Watson reported that the board had been delivered and is awaiting installation in the Park. Agreement has still to be reached about the position in the Park and whether or not it might be a good idea to arrange an opening event.
  - 6.5 Pensions Regulator – The clerk explained the need for the parish council to register with the Pensions Regulator and make the necessary arrangements to be put in place to provide employee pensions. There is quite a long lead-in period to prepare the changes and the date for the parish council is July 2016.
  - 6.6 Response from NYCC PCC – The response for the PCC has been circulated and there was a short discussion about the response. It was agreed that there were few positive aspects in the response and that there would be little or no improvement in the police monitoring of traffic speeds in Whitley

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

**Mrs S Cole.**

- ❖ Mrs Cole asked about the third party insurance cover for the allotments. The clerk said this was not the responsibility of the parish council and that the WVAA committee are responsible to ensure that this is in place.

❖

**Mr P Broadhurst**

He asked about Christmas lights in the village. There was a short discussion about the options, costs and the fact that that the village stretched for over 1 mile along the A19. Cllr Watson said that one possibility was to plant a tree in the Daffodil Park and use a solar panel/batteries to power the LED Christmas lights.

**D Cllr J McCartney.**

- ❖ He told the meeting that NYCC has given permission for the power stations at Kellington & Eggborough. There is real worry about the air quality in the area and Cllr White suggested we establish a baseline for this and agree to discuss further.
- ❖ He also reported that NYCC has agreed energy saving measures by way of streetlight dimming in the area. Letters about this have been sent to all parish councils.

**John White.** Raised the following points:

- ❖ Spring Newsletter- When will this be available?
- ❖ What is the number of hits on the village Website?
- ❖ Could flyers be delivered to every household in Whitley concerning the elections for parish and district councils?
- ❖ Could any events in Whitley be publicised in the Selby Post?
- ❖ What is the procedure adopted by the parish council for planning applications in Whitley and attendance at the Selby DC planning committee meetings? The clerk explained the procedures that are in place.
- ❖ A19 Traffic & Speeding – In Burn it is claimed that cameras are deployed because they have only one VAS unit. Noted that Whitley has been chosen in the Speedwatch pilot but there is a lack of commitment from the PCC to provide a camera presence in Whitley.

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

7.1 Three items of correspondence have been received within the last few days:

- ❖ A letter from NYCC about the verge grass cutting – It has been passed to Cllr Watson,
- ❖ Email from resident of Harron Homes estate complaining about vehicle parking – Requests that parking requires resident parking permits.
- ❖ NYCC Highways – Notice about the refreshing the road marking on the A19 scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

## 8. Finance & Administration

8.1 The clerk reported the bank balances at 24/3/2015 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 £ 3,833.02. **Total Current Accounts £4,424.50**

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

8.2 The following accounts were approved for payment: Whitley & Eggborough School – Room Hire £58.50, Filcris Ltd – Information Board - £714.00

## 9 Mains Gas in Whitley

9.1 The clerk reported the results of the questions about mains gas put on the website by the chairman.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ❖ Yes – I am interested in mains gas and am prepared to meet the proposed costs in full | 0 |
| ❖ Yes - I am interested but only if the cost was more reasonable.                       | 1 |
| ❖ Yes - I am interested but only prepared to pay a standard connection fee              | 5 |
| ❖ No – I am not interested in connecting to the mains gas network                       | 1 |

There followed a short discussion about the above results and Cllr White suggested that this matter be treated as a low priority item. If there is significant housing growth in Whitley it might be that builders/developers might pay a major proportion of costs associated with introducing mains gas into the village.

## 10 Recreational Open Space In Whitley

10.1 .Cllr White reported that the waste bin in The Oaks playarea has not been emptied for some time. The clerk will report this to Selby DC. She also reported that the moss problem appears to be responding to the treatment applied by Jim Taylor.

10.2 The clerk reported that all three playareas have been inspected David Bracey. His report has been circulated by an email attachment. The report highlights a number of low risk areas that require attention and arrangement will be made to take appropriate action.

## 11 A19 Safety.

11.1 Cllr White reported on the need to raise funds to provide a crossing on the A19. She said that both the CEF & PCC were unable to provide any funds for the project. To date, there has been no response from Graham Flack of Tunstall following a recent meeting with two Whitley councillors. We are still waiting for feedback, and whilst Graham was positive about the project, he explained that not much funding was available for this type of project.

11.2 Cllr White suggested another option might be to borrow £25,000 from the ringfenced Section 106 ROS maintenance funds and repay this loan over a 10-year period from the parish council precept. It also might be possible to raise some funding via NYCC. Whichever method of funding is chosen the implications on the precept increases to pay for the project need to be explained to all local residents. To discuss further at a future meeting.

## **12 Council Elections – May 2015**

12.1 The clerk briefed councillors on the forthcoming local council elections. The closing date for nominations is 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and nomination papers must be handed to the returning officer at Selby DC by 4.00p.m. With the exception of Cllr White, all councillors present indicated their intention to seek nomination as a Whitley parish council.

12.2 The clerk said that a nomination pack will be sent to each councillor and he asked that they be completed and returned to him before 2<sup>nd</sup> April so that he could check that they were complete and did not contain errors or omissions. The forms will then delivered by hand to Selby DC on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015.

## **13 A O B**

13.1 Cllr Davie informed the councillors about the forthcoming sale of 17 acres of land at the southern end of Whitley.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m.

Chairman

Date.