

# Whitley Parish Council

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

## 2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

2.1 Residents from the village shared their concerns and frustrations about the increase in the incidence of vehicles speeding in the village. The residents expressed dissatisfaction with the responses received from officers of North Yorkshire Council citing generic emails limited to promises of follow up in due course. They mentioned their efforts to engage with community police officers attending local meetings and coffee mornings. Attempts that were met with expressions of sympathy but levels of unsurety of what actions can be taken to address the issues.

It was noted that representatives from Keir Mather MP constituency office had indicated they would attend the Parish Council meeting as our MP was called into London on Parliamentary business.

Significant concerns were expressed about the number of HGV's passing along the A19 with increased volumes due to diversions, following the major road works on the A1M by Wentbridge. It was disappointing to reflect that National Highways in planning these road works had failed to consider the consequent impact of changes in traffic flows in the region as vehicles endeavour to avoid the congestions on the A1M.

The residents made suggestions about possible management initiatives that could be actioned including fixed speed cameras, traffic calming and mobile speed cameras.

Parish Councillors empathising with the residents' frustrations outlined their efforts over many years to engage with the relevant authorities to address the problem. The Parish Council had spent a great deal of time and financial effort to challenge the planning application for the removal and transport of Ash from Gale Common. The object of the challenge to mitigate the vast numbers of HGVs that would pass through the village that were projected to be 100's per day. Issues of safety of residents, children walking to school and air pollution were raised as real threats to the community. This case, although delaying the commencement of the development, was lost primary on the grounds of the conclusion by North Yorkshire Highways that all the extra movements of HGVs would have no significant effect on the traffic through the village. Such sentiment demonstrates the obstacles that the Parish Council has in arguing the case for traffic management. The North Yorkshire Council's corporate framework works against sensible measures to improve road safety for the community.

It was noted that there have been some successes in the setting of the maximum speed limit through the village at 30mph down from its 40mph default that had been previously established some 15 years ago. However, it was recognised that the A19 trunk route is failing due to bad maintenance and ineffective management.

In summary there were two authorities with collective responsibility for the traffic management issues. North Yorkshire Highways responsible for the quality of the road system, who will express that there is nothing more they are able to do with the A19. The other is the North Yorkshire Police who content that their analysis of road traffic movements lead them to conclude there is no major problem.

Councillors after discussion of options going forward suggested that the involvement of the community within the village is critical to support the lobbying and demands for action of the Parish Council. Representations need to be made to the highest level, the Chief Constable, the Fire and Crime Commissioners Office, and our Parliamentary MP Keir Mather. Members of which departments should be encouraged to attend on site in Whitley Village to gain understanding of the issues. In addition, open invitations to be

made to attend the Parish Council meetings to engage with and consider the real concerns of the community.

**Action:** Cllr White to share with the residents' contact details for the managers within the Traffic Bureau.

**2.2** A resident raised concerns about two new lay-bys constructed on the road joining Gravel Hill Lane to the Womersley Road. Hardcore has been deposited at both sides of the lane widening the road to provide space to allow oncoming HGV's to pass each other along the route. The key question being who owns the land on either side, who has undertaken the construction and under whose authority has the work been done? A significant issue is the nature of the construction which has resulted in a drop of 6 inches down from the road level to the dyke running parallel to the road. This presents a hazard to vehicles that may veer into the dyke below and become stranded and to the many pedestrians who walk along the road.

**Action:** Clerk to make enquires with Mushroom Farm to question whether they have undertaken the work and the North Yorkshire Highways to establish whether the work has been undertaken with their authorisation.

**2.3** The Chair closed the public forum and proceeded to the conduct of the Parish meeting.

**Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup>  
February 2024 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School  
Annex Building – 09/24**

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

**4.0 Apologies for absence:**

**4.1** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thompson. All other Councillors were present at the meeting.

**5.0 Disclosure of interest:**

**5.1** There were no other interests registered.

**6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2024:**

**6.1** It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Action:** The Clerk to deliver a copy for signature by the Chair.

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

**7.1 New Parish Councillors:** Cllr Barber and Cllr Paley were welcomed as newly co-opted members of Whitley Parish Council.

**Action:** The Clerk to receive signed and witnessed Declarations of Acceptance of Office and duly completed Register of Interest from Cllr Paley and Cllr Barber.

**7.2 Drainage of Daffodil Park:** Cllr White advised that he has not had opportunity to consult with the Farmer who owns the fields adjacent to the Daffodil Park.

**Action:** Cllr White to communication with the farmer as early as is practical.

**7.3 Gas Tank Enclosure:** Cllr White advised that he will pass on the contact details of the Calor Gas Team to Cllr Thompson who is taking the lead on issues relating to Daffodil Park.

**Action:** Cllr Thompson to liaise with Calor Gas support team to progress the maintenance of vegetation and hedges of the gas tank enclosure.

**7.4 Gale Common MotoX:** The Clerk advised that he has approached the planning officer concerning access to the planning documents submitted in support of the original application. The North Yorkshire Council planning portal no longer presents any details of the planning applications in connection with the MotoX development.

Councillors questioned the nature of activity on the site. It was conjectured that only 'Children Training' race meets are now being conducted by the MotoX operators.

**Action:** Clerk to chase up access to the original planning documentation to identify the precise terms and conditions attached to the planning approval and the specific requirement for the deadlines set for the construction of the bund. Clerk then to make direct representation about the failure of the developer to complete this condition.

**7.5 HGV movements on Gravel Hill:** The Clerk advised that contact has been made with Sharon Fox Highways Customer Communications Officer of Area 7 North Yorkshire Council regarding the high volume of HGV's utilising Gravel Hill Lane. Reply to these enquiries is pending.

**Action:** Clerk to chase up response and add to the enquiry the concerns raised in the meeting concerning the construction of the lay-by. Cllr White to pass on details of Darren Griffiths the Highways Officer based in Northallerton.

**7.6 Play Areas Daffodil Park, Lee View & Blackthorn Close:** Cllrs Paley & Barber reported on their reviews of the play areas in Lee View and Blackthorn Close following the delivery of the Inspection Report that provided recommendations for maintenance. They concurred with the findings of the Inspector about the state of the Play Areas agreeing that the sites will be greatly improved with some basic cleaning and weeding of the surface. The absence of a telephone contract number to facilitate the reporting of any issues was noted. It was agreed that the notice affixed to the entrance gate of the park should include a reference to the contact details of the Clerk that is shown on the Parish Councils notice boards on Silver Street, Daffodil Park and Templar Close. In Lee View it was agreed the 'Spring Animals' looked to be insecure and dangerous for use by young children.

**Action:** Reference to be attached to the Play Area notice boards. Repair of 'Spring Animal' to be discussed with Wicksteed.

Cllr Thompson advised of the activity of Moles in Daffodil Park.

**7.7 Waste Bin on Templar Close:** The Clerk advised that the frequency of collection of rubbish from the Waste Bin has been reported to North Yorkshire Council.

**Action:** Clerk to await and report on response from North Yorkshire Council.

**7.8 EP UK Investment:** Cllr White advised of his contact with the Project Team of the Gale Common Development seeking an onsite meeting with the members to discuss the status of the project and future plans to meet the conditions attached to the grant of approval. It has been agreed a meeting will be arranged as soon as practically possible.

**8.0 Correspondence received:** The Clerk summarised the details of correspondence received by email or post.

**8.1** Emails and postage.

**8.1.1** Clerk presented the following details of emails or correspondence by mail relevant to the affairs of Whitley Parish Council:

- 8.1.1.1** An email from PC Sarah Ward of the North Yorkshire Police Neighbourhood Policing Team, attaching a copy of her February 2024 newsletter for circulation among the community. Noted.
- 8.1.1.2** An email from North Yorkshire Councillor John McCartney advising of parking restrictions to be put in place on Learning Lane. Noted
- 8.1.1.3** An email the Yorkshire Local Council Association attaching the latest version of the D Day 80 guide. Noted
- 8.1.1.4** An email from North Yorkshire Council providing details of the Garden Waste Bin licence scheme and the arrangements for the collection of annual licence fee. Noted.
- 8.1.1.5** An email from North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner promoting an online public meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 examining the North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service's Workforce Plan. Noted
- 8.1.1.6** An enquiry from a resident of Blackthorn Close into any opportunity for voluntary work by a young adult who is engaged with the Princess Trust programme of personal development. Councillors were keen to support such initiatives and were happy to reflect on potential work in the village. It was recognised that the only limitation would be any child protection compliance issues and the need to meet public health and safety requirements. **Action:** Clerk to consult with the Yorkshire Local Council Association to establish any precedents and or constraints imposed by legislation.

**8.1.2** Social Media

**8.1.2.1** Cllr Humphrey reported on the comments and content of social media postings relevant to the Whitley Parish. Copies of the newsletter from PC Sarah Ward have been published together with the information concerning the new arrangements of the Garden Waste Bin licence scheme. References were made about vandalism and graffiti with red paint daubed in the underpass. In addition, complaints were made about the poor state of lighting in the underpass highlighting safety concerns for pedestrians.

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

**9.1.1** There were no planning applications delivered since the previous Parish Council meeting in January 2024.

**10.0 Council Finance & Administration:**

**10.1 RFO Report as at 20/02/2024:**

<b>Bank/Account</b>	<b>Income since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023</b>	<b>Expenditure since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023</b>	<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>Notes/Comment</b>
Santander Deposit	153.03		15,366.15	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	12,252.00	14,782.11	2,541.07	No interest
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>			<b>17,907.22</b>	
<b>Less following funds:</b>				
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field	1,798.71 12,230.00	
Total Allocated funds			14,028.71	
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.	3,878.51	
VAT due for reclaim			2,553.56	
<b>Total Unallocated Parish Funds</b>			<b>6,432.07</b>	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary analysing, month by month, the actual receipts and payments up to February 2024, with a forecast of income and expenditure for the remainder of the year to March 2024. Income to date is £12,252 compared with expenditure of £14,782 leaving a balance of £17,907 on deposit and current account.

Given that the planned drainage work in Daffodil Field is on hold total expenditure up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 is anticipated to amount to £15,782. The balance of reserves carried forward at the end of the year is forecast to be £20,298.

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

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

**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:**

**11.1.1 Parks & Playground Maintenance:** Councillors commented on the state of the ground in Daffodil Park noting extent of waterlogging of the fields and public pathways.

**11.1.2 Memorial Bench:** Clerk to establish the realistic timescale for the installation of the memorial bench and repairs to the Templar Close Notice Board.

**11.1.3 Verge Cutting:** Councillors anticipated the launch of the grass and verge cutting season would commence in the spring. Prior to this it was considered desirable that discussions with the contractor, George Fillingham be initiated to specify requirements and negotiate costs. Such discussions would include the suitable management of the Nature Reserve.

**12.0 A19 Safety:**

**12.1 Speeding on A19:** Cllr White shared the latest data presenting details of traffic movements and speed of vehicles travelling along the A19.

**13.0 A.O.B.**

**13.1** Cllr Humphrey expressed thanks to Cllr White for his efforts in the production of the newsletter. Cllr White will liaise with Tunstall Healthcare in the printing of the newsletter and distribute the pamphlets to Parish Councillors for delivery to residents.

**13.2** Councillors agreed that a community litter pick will be organised in late spring.

**13.3** Following the planning application lodged for the conversion of the Church building into residential home Cllr White will pursue the Leeds Diocese for a refund of some of the contribution Whitley Parish Council had made to the railings at the boundaries of the church land.

**13.4** Councillors reflected on the changes by ARRIVA to the bus service affecting Whitley village and considered making a request to the constituency office of Keir Mather MP to seek his support in enquiring into the logistics of the proposed changes to the service.

**14.0 Confirm the date, time and place of next meeting:**

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

**Closure of meeting:** 9:00 pm