

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 19th March 2024

2.1 The Parish Council received a request from a village resident regarding the reconsideration of the application to seek formal registration of the George and Dragon Pub as an Asset of Community Interest. The resident highlighted the benefits of such registration, emphasising that it would offer the village the opportunity to acquire the property and business should the brewery decide to sell or shut down the facility. They argued that despite past experiences of limited community engagement in potential acquisitions, registering the pub as a Community Asset would be advantageous. It was noted that there is no cost associated with the registration process, and it would impose an obligation on the owners to offer the pub for acquisition by the community, providing a specified time period for the community during which to evaluate the opportunity, explore alternatives, generate a business case, and seek funding.

Action: Reconsideration of the registration of the George & Dragon Public House to be included as an item on the agenda of the April 2024 Parish Council meeting.

The resident and councillors engaged in a discussion regarding the future building intentions outlined in the Selby Local Plan by North Yorkshire Council. It was concluded that there is no large-scale building program anticipated within Whitley Parish, with most of the development concentrated in Eggborough and further expansion into Kellington.

2.2 Community Police Constable Sarah Ward invited the sharing of any concerns or issues about crime and policing in Whitley. She sought confirmation that her monthly newsletter was being received and explained that the distribution cycle of the newsletter was scheduled for email at the commencement of each month with crime statistics being reported for the preceding month. It was noted there had been 3 incidents in Whitley during February all being of a domestic nature.

Councillors inquired about the status of policing regarding road infrastructure in the area. It was clarified that traffic policing falls under the direct management of the traffic bureau based in Northallerton.

Councillors discussed the current policy adopted by North Yorkshire Police regarding speeding management, noting that it relies solely on the deployment of mobile speed cameras administered through a network of camera vans. It was highlighted that North Yorkshire Police considers fixed speed cameras to be ineffective in controlling traffic.

However, it was observed that with the appointment of a new chief constable for North Yorkshire, these policies may come under review, that may herald a reconsideration of the approach to the management of speeding in the area.

2.3 North Yorkshire Councillor (NY Cllr) J McCartney updated Parish Councillors on matters of interest.

2.3.1 The Selby Local Plan does not have any impact on Whitley. There are no proposals for housing developments to be actioned in Whitley Parish.

2.3.2 North Yorkshire Council is proposing to change the criterion of eligibility for free home to school transport with effect from the 2025. Under its new policy children will only have eligibility for free transport to one school, that being the nearest to their home address (with places available). Thus, although Brayton is the catchment school for Whitley, free transport will only be available to

Campsmount Academy, Delacy Academy, The Snaith School, and so on. This means that any pupil wishing to attend the catchment school in Brayton will only receive free transport if there are no places available to them in their nearest schools. North Yorkshire Council are suggesting that such changes will generate savings of £2.8 million.

NY Cllr McCartney speculated on the long-term implications of changes in policy, particularly regarding the complement of pupils attending the catchment school in Brayton. It was noted that these changes could impact various aspects, including the size of the school bus service to Brayton and the actual number of pupils registering to attend Brayton school. This may prompt Brayton High School to fund a specialist bus service.

2.3.3 It was welcome news of the intention of Microsoft to build a data centre at the Eggborough Power Station site.

2.3.4 NY Cllr McCartney highlighted the positive outcomes resulting from the collaborative efforts of the respective police forces in the area, particularly regarding cross-border activities. The collaborative working together has had a significant impact on combating county lines crime.

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

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 19th March 2024 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex Building – 10/24

3.0 Present: Cllr Walton (Chair), Cllr White (Vice Chair), Cllr Thompson, Cllr Humphrey, 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 Cole. 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 20th February 2024:

6.1 Subject to some minor amendments it was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 20th February 2024.

Action: Councillor White to advise Clerk of the minor amendments for update of the minutes following which a revised copy to be signed by the Chair and published on the Parish Council website.

7.0 Matters for information and action as required:

7.1 Drainage in Daffodil Park: Cllr White provided an update on the situation regarding the installation of drainage structures in the Daffodil field, stating that the farmer who owns the adjacent land remains unwilling to permit such installations. Consequently, the option to deploy a drainage network in the Daffodil Field is no longer feasible.

Councillors discussed various alternative solutions in the management of excess water in the park, including the possibility of boardwalks, creating a central pond, establishing reed beds, among other ideas. However, it was agreed that seeking expert advice is essential to understand the feasibility of these land management options.

Furthermore, it was emphasised that the original grant was provided for the purpose of deploying drainage, and therefore, the Parish Council must consider alternative solutions with sensitivity to the wishes of the local authority. Additionally, any deadlines imposed on the expenditure of the grant must be considered.

Action: Cllr White to engage with Sweetings the drainage contractor to seek advice about alternative options to deal with water drainage.

7.2 HGV Movements on Gravel Hill: The clerk advised that engagement has been initiated with North Yorkshire Council Area 7 Highways Department expressing concerns about HGV signage leading to Gravel Hill and the installation of two HGV passing lay-bys along Booty Lane. To date there has been no response to the enquiry.

Action: Clerk as appropriate to chase up a response to the initial enquiry.

7.3 Waste Bin on Templar Close: The clerk informed the council that communication has been initiated with the North Yorkshire Council Waste Management team regarding concerns raised by residents about the overflowing bins on Templar Close. It was noted that residents have observed a frequent overflow of rubbish in the bins.

A request was made to review the frequency of waste collection to mitigate the excessive accumulation of rubbish at the bins and address the concerns of the residents.

7.4 EP UK engagement: Cllr White reported on a meeting of Cllrs White, Cole, and Walton with representatives of Eggborough Power concerning the status of the Gale Common Ash Extraction Project. It was established that given the economics of the world market for ash it was not the intention of the operators of the site to commence extraction in the foreseeable future. However, it is their intention to undertake some work on the entrance on Cobcroft Lane.

A Gale Common Community Fund is to be launched that will invite applications from local community groups including Parish Councils to apply for grants that will be offered on a quarterly basis of up to £1,000. It seems that the funds will be restricted to groups from Whitley, Womersley and Cridling Stubbs on the basis that collectively these communities are the Parishes that will be most affected by the activities of the Ash Extraction Project.

7.5 Council Meetings: The Clerk advised that following the publication of the North Yorkshire School Term timetable for 2024/25 he has drafted a Parish Council meeting schedule for the forthcoming year.

Action: Clerk to forward a copy of the schedule to Councillors for information, review and comments.

7.6 Grants & Donations: Cllr White proposed the Parish Council take a proactive approach to raise grants and funds to support various community projects. Several initiatives were identified including, Christmas Lights and Trees, support for the Over 80's hampers, and provision of plants for the planters, that would benefit from the injection of external financial resources.

It was agreed that the matter be discussed further at the next meeting of the Parish Council in April including clarification of potential funding sources and community projects.

Action: Councillors to consider potential projects that could be progressed with the provision of external financial support.

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 the Yorkshire Local Council Association providing details of their training programmes schedule for April to September 2024. Of, note is the online sessions for new councillors entitled “Off to a Flying Start”. It was agreed councillors would review the programme and advise the Clerk of any sessions they wish to attend.

8.1.1.2 An email from the National Association of Local Councillors providing a briefing document emphasising the importance the management of security of email addresses of public bodies including Parish Councils. The separation of personal emails from any emails dealing with the business of the council was noted. It was emphasised that Parish Councils should maintain a separate email address for all council communications.

8.1.1.3 An email for North Yorkshire Council attaching a leaflet to be attached to the notice board promoting the help and support available to residents who are experiencing financial pressure in the current “Cost of Living” crisis.

8.1.1.4 An email from North Yorkshire Council providing an information pack and promotional material in connection with the forthcoming Majoral Elections. It was agreed the information would be added to the social media pages of the Parish Council.

8.1.1.5 An email response for Yorkshire Local Council Association in connection with an enquiry concerning the impact of planning conditions attached to the Gale Common Ash Extraction project. They advised that they were unqualified to provide any advice or information.

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. Adverse comments were posted on social media from three residents within the village following the receipt of the Council Tax statement for 2024/25. They expressed views and opinions concerning the increase in the value of the tax and lodged general complaints about the quality of amenity in Whitley and the work of 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.

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

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 19/03/2024:

Bank/Account	Income since 1st April 2023	Expenditure since 1st April 2023	Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	153.03		15,366.15	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	12,252.00	15,535.01	1,788.17	No interest
Total Bank Balances			17,154.32	
Less following funds:				
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.	3,125.61	
VAT due for reclaim			2,553.56	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds			5,679.17	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary analysing, month by month, the actual receipts and payments up to March 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 £15,535.01 resulting in a cash flow deficit of £3,283.01 for the year. This shortfall includes a total of £2,553.56 of VAT that will be reclaimed from HMRC Customs & Excise.

The balance of reserves carried forward at the end of the year is forecast to be £19,733.87 of which amount £9,800 are restricted reserves being grant monies provided by Selby District to provide an £8,000 contribution to the costs of the provision of drainage in Daffodil Park and £1,800 to be invested in projects to enhance safety on the A19.

Councillors reviewed the itemised details of the actual expenditure incurred in the 2023/24 financial year comparing the amount with the budget set and the commencement. It was noted that prudent management of the financial resources has resulted in a final outturn that aligns directly with the budget plan.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22567	J R Hunter – Clerks salary quarter to March 2024	494.30
22568	HMRC – PAYE quarter to March 2024	123.60
22569	Cancelled cheque	0.00
22570	Crown Garden Centre – Christmas Tree	135.00

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: £

11.0 Recreational Open Space in Whitley:

11.1 Parks and Verges:

11.1.1 Parks & Playground Maintenance: The Clerk informed the meeting that a representative from Sovereign Design Play systems will be attending the Lee View Play area on Thursday 21st March to inspect the “Spring Animal” and provide a quotation for its replacement.

11.1.2 Community Volunteer: Councillors discussed the potential work that could be undertaken by a young volunteer as part of his Princes Trust programme. The Clerk advised that he has communicated with the young person’s parents explaining that the Parish Council lacks the necessary equipment for such tasks, and, for health and safety reasons, parental supervision would be required at all times. The identified work is limited to the play areas in Blackthorn Close, Lee View and Daffodil Park and would include general cleaning of the play area surface and sweeping of vegetation.

Action: Cllr Barber to liaise with the parents and young volunteer and agree a programme of work.

11.1.3 Memorial Bench: The Clerk reported that following enquiry with the local handyman who has been engaged to install the bench and undertake repairs to the Templar Notice Board, the earliest date the work can be completed is mid to late April.

11.1.4 Community Payback Team: Cllr White announced the welcome return of the Community Payback Team to Whitley. A full complement with accompanying supervision will attend on Sunday 14th April and 21st April 2024. It is anticipated they will undertake further clearing of moss and vegetation in the Play Areas of Blackthorn, Lee View and Daffodil Park together with cutting back of shrubs and vegetation in Daffodil Park and the rear of Lee View.

11.1.5 Verge Cutting: The Clerk informed councillors about a communication with the North Yorkshire Highways Asset Management (HAM) Team regarding urban grass cutting for the 2024/25 period. Specific areas in Whitley village have been identified as the responsibility of North Yorkshire Council for maintenance. The HAM Team proposed that the Parish Council manage the grass cutting of these areas, with the costs billed to HAM under a purchase order supply arrangement.

Action: The Clerk to discuss the proposal with the HAM team.

The Clerk advised of an onsite meeting with George Fillingham on 20th March to review grass cutting requirements and budget for the 2024/25 growing season.

12.0 A19 Safety:

12.1 Speeding on A19: There was nothing to report or discuss.

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 There were no items to consider.

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

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 9:35 pm