

# Whitley Parish Council – Ref 6/2009

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

## Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 p.m. by the chairman Cllr Humphrey
2. **Present.** Cllr Humphrey– Chair, Cllrs. F Blackburn, J Davie, S White & K Walton. Also present was D. Cllr G Ivey.
3. **Apologies:** Cllr P Gerrard
- 4 **Declaration of Interests** – None declared.
- 5 **Minutes of the last meeting**
  - 5.1 The minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were agreed as being a true record. Proposed by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Davie and signed by the chairman.
- 6 **Matters Arising.**
  - 6.1 Councillor Vacancy – The clerk explained the necessary procedures that are required and suggested that if no election is requested by the closing date of 2<sup>nd</sup> July, the vacancy should be advertised by way of the website and notice boards. It was agreed to hold a special meeting in late July or August 2009 to consider the applications and choose the person to be co-opted to fill the vacancy.
  - 6.2 Alcohol Free Zone – The clerk reported the letter he had received from SDC. This sets out the proposals and the next steps to be taken by Selby DC. A response from the parish council is not required.
  - 6.3 Allotments – It was reported that five people have expressed an interest. Cllr Blackburn left the meeting at this point and returned a few minutes later. The chairman said that the idea of allotments in Whitley should be promoted as along term project and featured in the newsletter and on the website. There followed a general discussion about the options available to the council for the provision of land, including renting and buying land in the village.
  - 6.4 Appointment of Auditor – Our normal auditor, Mr Bryan Metcalfe, has a serious illness and now has to relinquish some of his audit work. He recommended a Mrs Farman of Gateforth who is qualified to do the work. It was resolved that Mrs Farman be appointed as auditor.

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

- ◆ D. Cllr Gillian Ivey told the meeting that a sign was now in place on Templar Close warning that the police will take action on any inconsiderate parking reported to them. She also said that parking and congestion situation on Learning Lane was now improved. The bus service has now been discontinued.
- ◆ She also reported that a tree on the corner of Whitefield Lane requires pruning and she has already contacted Selby DC about this matter.
- ◆ A resident has complained about the narrowness of pavements and overhanging trees/shrubs from private gardens adjacent to the pavement. The area of concern is on the west side of the A19 between Millfield and Silver St. The clerk agreed to inspect the area and if action is required, write to NYCC highways and the households concerned. This is a problem area caused by wind blown soil build-up and there was a short discussion about possible solutions to the problem.
- ◆ The chairman mentioned the election of John McCartney as our new county councillor. It might be a good idea to make him aware of the various concerns and problems in Whitley and the chairman agreed to prepare a draft letter to CC McCartney. The draft letter will be on the July 2009 agenda for discussion.

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

7.1 Letter from Selby DC re AFZ. Covered in 6.2 above.

## **8 Finance & Administration**

8.1 The clerk reported the bank balances at 14/6/09 as being **Current Account** £6,353.71, **Deposit Accounts** - Ringfenced for playarea maintenance £87,306.02 Other earmarked funds £2020 89.

8.2 The following accounts were presented for payment: Y & NY Playing Field Ass. £25, Petty Cash Imprest £55.13. These were approved and the cheques were signed.

## **9. Recreational Open Space in Whitley.**

9.1 Cllr Walton reported that she received quotes from Neil Dobson for cutting the hedge and the grass on the public footpath in the Daffodil Field, £100 & £15 respectively. These quotes were approved. The grass around the gas tanks is becoming overgrow, but since this area is owned by Persimmon, they are responsible for maintenance.

9.2 On 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 11.00 a.m. there will be a site visit by Groundwork NY staff to inspect the site and discuss the plans for the development of the Daffodil Field for ROS.

9.3 Richard Dixon has offered to mow the field at no cost to the council. Following a vote, the unanimous decision was to accept this offer. It was suggested that it might be possible to access the field from the A19, but more investigation is required, particularly about highway safety issues. Cllr Walton stated that a drop-kerb access point is on the plans produced by Groundwork NY.

9.4 The clerk reported that he has written to Caroline Sampson-Paver at Selby DC requesting the transfer of the first tranche of the Bovis Sec. 106 funds to the parish council bank account.

## **10. Whitley Community Website/Economic Downturn**

10.1 There is no information available for this meeting and this matter will be carried forward to the July 2009 meeting.

## **11. Gale Common Moto-Cross Planning Application.**

11.1 This agenda item was brought forward at the meeting and discussed after the open forum. The councillor comments on the application were given to D Cllr Ivey and included the traffic volumes on Whitefield Lane from the Sunday market and HGVs during the week. Cllr Davie was concerned that the site will grow and develop as the events increase in popularity. Cllr Humphrey said that the parish council's response must concentrate on material planning issues.

11.2 After a short discussion it was agreed that the following requests/points should be included in the council's response to the planning department at Selby DC:

- ◆ Restrictions on the number of events/meetings in any year.
- ◆ Noise and dust from the events and the impact on Whitley residents.
- ◆ Environmental impact on wildlife in vicinity of site and Gale Common.
- ◆ Visual impact of 12 m noise bunds on the agricultural landscape
- ◆ The application should be heard by full planning committee.

11.3 Cllr Davie asked if British Energy were aware of the planning application. He will provide the clerk with the contact number for George Dunnington, the landscape architect at Gale Common, so that his comments may be used in our response.

11.4 The clerk was asked to write to Bryan Crossdale so that the OF could also send comments on the planning application to SDC.

## **12. Christmas Lights In Whitley - Preparations**

12.1 Provision has been made in the 2009/10 budget for Christmas lights in the sum of £750. Cllr White is not keen on the idea of Christmas lighting because of the environmental impact. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that lighting could not realistically be provided over the whole length of the A19 through Whitley. The compromise solution was to focus our effort in

the centre of the village by collaborating with the George & Dragon on an improved display outside the pub. This was approved.

- 12.2 Cllr Walton offered to liaise with the landlord and ensure that the 2009 tree and lighting were much improved when compared to previous years. It was said that the 2008 display was disappointing given that the council had donated £150 to help with the overall cost.

### **13. Common Land – Maintenance & Facilities**

- 13.1 The clerk said that there is a need to carry out maintenance work on the common land. A budget of £600 is available for maintenance and facilities and he requested that work on vegetation control and the provision of two seats be approved. It is likely that regular vegetation clearance will be required during the rest of the summer months. It was resolved that the work be carried out and that the total spend on common land maintenance for 2009/10 should be within the budget figure. Cllr White left the meeting at this point.
- 13.2 Cllr Walton will request Neil Dobson to give estimates for the work, and if these are reasonable, the work will be started as soon as possible.

### **14. Chairman's & members' report.**

- 14.1 Cllr Walton attended a CIP meeting where Whitley Wolves requested a grant of £1000 for the new pitches near the canal. The members were concerned that the fields would be subjected to flooding during the winter months. The next CIP meeting is the AGM, when more information on this matter will be available to members.
- 14.2 Cllr Blackburn reported that there are two more first responders for Whitley & Eggborough with three more due to finalise their training in the near future. The volunteer numbers for the police desk is now satisfactory. The OF Social Enterprise Board may become a limited company. The OF Highways Board is meeting with a Wakefield councillor about the proposed route and extension of the BMX track to Askern. The Environmental Board is gathering information on windfarms and battery recycling. On flood protection, the OF is now a consultee body for the scheme and they may collaborate with The Lower Aire Action Group to monitor and comment on the flood protection works. Documents on the flood prevention works to be circulated.

### **15. A.O.B**

- 15.1 The sign at the entrance to Whitefield Bungalows has not yet been repaired.
- 15.2 There is indiscriminate parking in the area of the bungalows on Whitefield Lane.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m.

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

**Date.**