

# **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> Jan 2026**

2.1 A resident raised concerns regarding the removal of the 30-mph speed limit sign at the lower end of Gravel Hill Lane. It was noted that there is currently no visible 30 mph sign for vehicles travelling up the lane until reaching the Mushroom Farm, and that the original sign located approximately halfway up the lane has disappeared.

It was acknowledged that, in accordance with Department for Transport guidance, a speed restriction continues when turning onto another road unless otherwise signed. However, concern was expressed that the absence of clear signage may cause confusion, particularly for vehicles joining Gravel Hill Lane from Fulham Road, which is subject to a 60-mph limit.

A further suggestion was made that the 30-mph limit should potentially be extended beyond the Mushroom Farm towards the Nature Reserve, due to pedestrian use of the lane.

Councillors noted that previous speed monitoring exercises had indicated no evidence of excessive speeding and that there is no objective record of traffic accidents along this stretch of road. Under North Yorkshire Council policy, traffic calming measures such as speed bumps would only be considered where a defined number of accidents (normally four within a specified period) has occurred. It was noted that the installation of speed bumps would cost approximately £4,000–£5,000 and would need to be funded by the Parish Council, with installation undertaken by North Yorkshire Highways.

It was also clarified that responsibilities are divided as follows:

- Road signage management and installation: North Yorkshire Highways
- Speed enforcement: North Yorkshire Police
- Speed restriction mechanisms (e.g. speed bumps): Installed by North Yorkshire Highways and funded by the Parish Council

The question was raised as to whether sufficient households on Gravel Hill Lane would support the installation of speed bumps.

The Council acknowledged residents' concerns but noted the absence of supporting accident data and the policy constraints governing the introduction of traffic calming measures. Further clarification is required regarding signage regulations and community support for any proposed measures.

### **Actions**

- The Clerk to contact Gary Lumb of the Highways Department to clarify the regulations concerning the location and recent changes to speed signage within the village.
- The Parish Council speed activated sign to be installed on Gravel Hill Lane, facing in both directions, to measure vehicle speeds.
- Residents to submit complaints directly to North Yorkshire Police regarding speeding and request monitoring.
- Residents to contact County Councillor John McCartney to express concerns and seek support.
- The level of household support for the installation of speed bumps on Gravel Hill Lane to be established.

**2.2** A resident reported ongoing issues with low water pressure and outlined communications with Yorkshire Water. Yorkshire Water had acknowledged reducing pressure during the hosepipe ban and confirmed that pressure to the property boundary was measured at 50 litres, but only 8 litres was reaching the property. Engineers suggested that the fault may lie within the property's internal pipework.

The resident indicated that at least 30 individuals from Whitley and neighbouring communities had reported similar issues, including residents in Eggborough, Kellington, Balne, Womersley and the wider surrounding area. Concern was expressed that Yorkshire Water had provided differing explanations to residents and that there was no consistent response.

Engineers proposed monitoring the situation over a six-month period due to a history of burst pipes in the area. The resident expressed dissatisfaction with the response and the rising cost of water bills.

Councillors discussed the need for a coordinated approach across affected parishes to avoid fragmented communication and to present a unified position to Yorkshire Water. It was noted that the matter falls primarily within the responsibility of Yorkshire Water.

**Actions**

- The Clerk to contact neighbouring parish clerks (Womersley, Eggborough, Kellington and Pollington) to determine whether similar water pressure issues are being experienced and, if so, to lodge a collective representation with Yorkshire Water.
- The matter of water pressure to be raised with the local Member of Parliament.

**2.3** The chair closed the open public forum.

**Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup>  
Jan 2026 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building –  
07/26**

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

**4.0 Apologies for absence:**

**4.1** All Councillors were present.

**5.0 Disclosure of interest:**

**5.1** There were no declarations of interest for items to be discussed at the meeting.

**6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025:**

**6.1** It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025.

**Action:** The Clerk to present to the Chair for signature.

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

**7.1 Eggborough Parish Council:** Cllr White reported that all members of Eggborough Parish Council had resigned collectively in protest at the handling of planning applications by the North Yorkshire Council Planning Department. It was noted that North Yorkshire Council will appoint temporary ward councillors to serve until vacancies are filled by residents through the appropriate process. The Clerk to Eggborough Parish Council remains in post.

Councillors discussed whether Whitley Parish Council could or should offer support or assistance to the Eggborough Clerk in the discharge of their duties during this interim period. Councillors also considered the reasons behind the collective resignation, which were understood to relate to frustration at the perceived disregard given by planning officers to objections raised by the parish council in relation to recent planning applications.

It was further noted that Sherburn in Elmet Town Council has also expressed dissatisfaction with North Yorkshire Council's planning processes and has made representation to the Ombudsman for Social Care and Local Government.

Reference was made to a recent article in the Selby Times outlining the pressures on local planning authorities from central government to increase housing development. Cllr White suggested that, considering these events, Whitley Parish Council should seek a meeting with representatives of North Yorkshire Council's planning function to better understand the planning mechanisms in operation and to obtain assurance that correct procedures and national planning guidance are being followed.

Councillors agreed that it would be appropriate to seek clarification from North Yorkshire Council regarding the application of planning policy and decision-making processes. The Council expressed a willingness to better understand the context in which planning decisions are being made and the extent to which parish council representations are considered.

**Action:**

Cllr White to pursue a meeting with the Chair or Vice Chair of North Yorkshire Council's Planning Committee to seek clarification regarding planning procedures and the application of the National Planning Policy Framework

**7.2 Harron Homes:** The Clerk provided an update on the current position regarding the Harron Homes planning application. A detailed representation has been submitted on behalf of the Parish Council. The objection does not focus on whether the land constitutes Green Belt, but rather on the requirements associated with any proposed classification as Grey Belt under the National Planning Policy Framework.

It was stated that the proposal does not comply with key national planning requirements. Where Grey Belt designation is applied, up to 50% of the housing provision must be affordable homes. The applicant has proposed 25% affordable housing, which was described as a clear breach of national planning policy. It was further noted that Grey Belt provisions build upon North Yorkshire Council's adopted requirement of 40% affordable housing, with an additional requirement up to a maximum of 50%.

Concerns were also raised regarding the lack of demonstrated compliance with sustainability requirements, including transport infrastructure, flood risk, wastewater management, healthcare provision and GP capacity. Yorkshire Water has submitted a formal objection to the application on the grounds of flood risk, pollution and public health concerns.

The statutory decision date of 16 January 2026 has passed. North Yorkshire Council has agreed an extension with the applicant, setting a revised target decision date of 30 March 2026. This extension indicates that the authority requires additional time to determine the application. It is anticipated that the application will be referred to Planning Committee, particularly considering the volume of objections received (more than 60). Remaining committee dates identified were 16 February 2026 and 11 March 2026.

The Clerk has registered the Parish Council's intention to speak at committee, should the matter be considered there. It was explained that public speaking is limited to three

minutes per speaker; however, allocated speaking time may be transferred, enabling a coordinated approach to maximise representation.

It was noted that, should North Yorkshire Council approve the application notwithstanding a failure to meet national planning requirements, there may be grounds to submit a complaint to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman based on maladministration. It was acknowledged that the Ombudsman cannot overturn a planning decision but can investigate procedural failings. Alternatively, if the application is refused, the applicant may appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, which would also be required to apply statutory planning policy.

The Council agreed that the current priority is to await the Planning Committee process and to prepare for formal representation. The application may provide a clear test case regarding compliance with national planning policy, particularly in relation to affordable housing requirements. Further steps, including potential complaint to the Ombudsman, will depend on the outcome of the decision.

**Actions:**

- Parish Council to prepare and coordinate representation for the Planning Committee meeting, including consideration of transferring speaking time to maximise impact.
- Clerk to monitor the revised decision timetable and confirm the committee date once published.
- Subject to the outcome of the decision, the Council to consider submitting a complaint to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman if there is evidence of maladministration.

**7.3 Daffodil Park & Nature Reserve:** The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council currently holds £7,000 in Section 106 funding.

Cllr Cole advised that a meeting had been arranged with the liaison officer of the Mushroom Farm to agree the location of two donated benches for installation within the Nature Reserve. The meeting is scheduled for 22 January at 11.00am and all councillors are invited to attend.

Cllr Humphrey raised further proposals for Daffodil Park, including contacting the sub-contracted tree surgeon to discuss tree management along the park boundary adjoining residential properties.

Cllr White updated Councillors on the status of potential maintenance and improvement works within the park. A longstanding grant of £8,000 remains available for the park, with consideration being given to upgrading or refurbishing the existing play equipment. In addition, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds of £7,000 could be allocated to complementary projects, such as raising sections of the public footpath to mitigate flooding and undertaking landscaping works near properties where concerns have been expressed regarding the height of adjacent trees.

The Clerk confirmed that a total of £15,000 is currently ringfenced for expenditure on residential open spaces within the village.

It was also reported that the public footpath sign has fallen over. Although responsibility for footpath signage does not rest with the Parish Council, quotations have been obtained for replacement fencing near the playground and for reinstatement of the sign. The quoted cost is £270.

Councillors noted the available funding and ongoing discussions regarding improvements to Daffodil Park and the Nature Reserve. The proposed minor repair works were considered appropriate and proportionate.

## Actions and Resolutions

- Councillors to attend the meeting on 22 January to agree the siting of the donated benches in the Nature Reserve.
- Sub-contracted tree surgeon to be contacted regarding tree management along the boundary of Daffodil Park.
- Consideration to be given to the allocation of the £8,000 park grant and £7,000 CIL funding towards agreed improvement projects.
- It was resolved to approve the quotation of £270 for replacement fencing near the playground and reinstatement of the public footpath sign.

**7.4 Eggborough Power Community Fund:** The Clerk confirmed that Whitley Parish Council had received £1,150 from the Eggborough Power Community Fund. The funding has been allocated as follows: £400 towards the replacement pads and battery for the village defibrillator, £500 towards the installation of an information board in the Nature Reserve, and £250 for a bench in the Nature Reserve.

**Action:** Eggborough Power to be requested if their staff will help install the benches in the Nature Reserve.

**7.5 Play Areas:** Cllr Barber provided an update on the current condition of the village play areas. Over the winter period, the equipment is not in regular use. Visual inspections indicate that the play equipment and benches are in satisfactory condition. It was noted that at an appropriate time, the benches and wooden structures may benefit from a scrape down and re-varnishing.

The weight-bearing capacity of the play equipment has been tested and found to be sound. The Community Payback team's recent work at the end of 2025 on vegetation management in the play areas has largely addressed maintenance needs, leaving limited further work for them at present.

The only outstanding issue identified in the inspection report relates to the closure mechanism of the gate at Blackthorn Close, which is to be attended to by the handyman.

The play equipment and surrounding areas are generally in good condition. Minor maintenance work is anticipated when weather permits, and the gate closure issue will be resolved.

### Actions

- Handyman to repair or adjust the closure mechanism on the gate at Blackthorn Close.
- Plan for scraping and varnishing of benches and wooden structures when weather conditions allow.

**7.6 George & Dragon Pub:** Cllr White provided an update following the announcement of the temporary closure of the George & Dragon. Enquiries with the Stonegate Group, owners of the property, confirmed that the company intends to reopen the pub.

Discussions are currently underway with two prospective tenants, one of whom is a resident of Whitley, to take on the tenancy.

**Action:** The council will monitor the progress on any further development regarding the tenancy and reopening of the George & Dragon.

**7.7 Council Meeting Dates:** The Council meeting dates were agreed.

**Action:** Notice of meeting dates to be posted onto the Parish Council notice boards.

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

**8.1** Emails and correspondence.

- 8.1..1** Email from North Yorkshire Parish Liaison concerning Future Ready Fuel campaign. Inviting input to the current consultation on alternative low carbon heating options. This is an online questionnaire. **Action:** forward link for inclusion on social media.
- 8.1..2** Email from the Office of Keith Mather MP advising of a 'power cuts roundtable' meeting hosted by our MP inviting parish councils to put questions to Northern Power to raise specific issues (power cuts etc) within each area. Meeting to be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 12.00 – 13.00 with location to be confirmed.
- 8.1..3** Email from Sarah Ward PC providing an update on Local crime & ASB figures for December 2026.
- 8.1..4** Email from The Local Government Boundary Commission notifying changes to the future electoral arrangements. With effect from May 2027 following the North Yorkshire Council elections Whitley Parish will move from the Osgoldcross Division to join the Camblesforth & Carlton Division.
- 8.1..5** Email from North Yorkshire Council Waste department notifying of the charges for the collection of Garden Waste Bins for 2026/27 at a fee of £52.00
- 8.1..6** Email from North Yorkshire Council Highways confirming the submission of a notice of overgrown vegetation on Templar Close. It was noted that action has been taken after the notice.
- 8.1..7** Email from Neil Harrison enquiring into whether Emma Doree (community engagement office policing, fire and crime) has been in touch with the Parish Council. **Action:** Clerk to communicate with Emma Doree to pursue the matters raised by Mr Harrison.

- Social Media

- 8.1..1** Cllr Humphrey advised that several comments were raised expressing concerns about the traffic on Gravel Hill Lane.

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

Councillors noted that, aside from the Harron Homes planning application discussed under agenda item 7.2, there were no other planning matters requiring consideration

## 10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

### 10.1 RFO Report as at 20/01/2026:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Expenditure since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	117.58			15,671.13	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account	21,580.46	13,070.49		14,692.42	No interest
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>				<b>30,363.55</b>	
<b>Less following funds:</b>					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field Notice Board for Templar Close CIL – Larth Close Eggborough Power Fund		1,798.71 8,000.00 518.74 7,067.46 1,150.00	
Total Allocated funds				18,534.91	
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.		11,828.64	
VAT due for reclaim				5,035.48	
<b>Total Unallocated Parish Funds</b>				<b>16,864.12</b>	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to January 2026. Based on budget expectations and planned expenditure, the estimated year-end balance was noted to be £14,760.17 subject to the accuracy of ongoing budget assumptions.

Cllr White presented a quotation received from Roberts CGT Contractors for maintenance works to be undertaken at the Whitley Allotments. The value of the quotation is £880.00. Councillors considered the proposed works and associated cost. The Allotment Association have offered a donation of £880 to cover the costs of this maintenance work.

It was resolved that the quotation in the sum of £880.00 be accepted and that the expenditure be met by Whitley Parish Council.

#### Action

- Roberts CGT Contractors to be instructed to proceed with the allotment maintenance works at the agreed cost of £880.00.

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

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payable to:</b>	<b>Amount: £</b>
22620	G F Fillingham Contractors Ltd	583.20
22621	Vision ICT Ltd	315.16
22622	J R Hunter – salary quarter to Dec 2025	494.30
22623	HMRC – PAYE quarter to Dec 2025	123.60

**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:** The following observations concerning various matters appertaining to the Open Spaces in the Village.

**11.1..1 Parks & Playground Maintenance:** Councillors discussed the need to complete the hedge cutting in Daffodil Park before the end of February to avoid interference with the bird nesting season.

Cllr White presented expenses for materials used to varnish the notice board by Silver Street.

Timely completion of hedge cutting is necessary to comply with wildlife regulations. Reimbursement for materials used on the notice board will be considered at the next Council meeting.

### **Actions**

- Cllr White to make enquiries with a local farmer to expedite the cutting of hedges in Daffodil Park.
- Reimbursement for materials used to varnish the Silver Street notice board to be approved at the next Parish Council meeting

**11.1..2 Nature Reserve:** Cllr Cole advised that there were no other items of update to share concerning the reserve.

**11.1..3 Community Payback Team:** Councillors discussed ongoing engagement with the Community Payback Team and the range of maintenance work that can be undertaken in the village. Proposed tasks include planting flowers in the two community raised beds on the A19 and managing vegetation and growth within the Nature Reserve.

It was noted that the team is available for a full day at the weekend, allowing for a significant amount of work to be completed. Councillors emphasised the need to clearly define and prioritise the work to be undertaken during these sessions.

A coordinated plan of work is required to ensure that the available time of the Community Payback Team is used effectively and that priority maintenance tasks are addressed.

### **Actions**

Cllr Cole to produce a list of jobs to be carried out in the Nature Reserve for allocation to the Community Payback Team.

- 11.1..4 Verge cutting:** It was noted the growing season has concluded and there were no further items to be considered following completion of the final grass cutting. Total expenditure has been within the budget set for the year.

### **12.0 A19 Safety:**

Councillors noted that there were no new updates regarding traffic movements on the A19.

It was reported that a regional action group is campaigning for the deployment of speed cameras throughout North Yorkshire and has made representations to the Mayor of North Yorkshire Council, David Skaith.

### **13.0 A.O.B.**

- 13.1** A councillor questioned the reason for the recent closure of Fulham Lane, noting a lack of clarity on the matter.

- 13.2** Cllr White referred to a previous request from North Yorkshire Council regarding interest in the provision of a mobile library service. It was noted that Whitley Parish Council had not responded to this request.

- 13.3** Cllr White initiated a discussion regarding the perceived value and role of Whitley Parish Council within the local community. He invited councillors to share their views on how the Council could better demonstrate its usefulness and engage residents.

It was suggested that the annual parish newsletter could be used as a platform to encourage community members to become involved. This approach could also support planning for succession, ensuring continuity of the Council in the longer term.

Councillors acknowledged the importance of promoting the Council's work to the community and engaging residents in future participation.

### **14.0 Confirm the date, time and place of next meeting: Next Parish Council Meeting:**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

**Closure of meeting:** 09:00 pm