

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 16th April 2024

2.1 Mr Tom Baseton owners of Pollington Grange Farm introduced himself to the meeting providing a briefing of his background in farming with the long history of his previous generations of family farming in the community of Pollington and Whitley. He explained that given pressure on farming it was his intention to diversify into other operations including the continuation of the Gale Common Moto X facility. The Gale Common site until recently had been leased and operated by an independent tenant from 2016 to 2022. The farm has now taken over control of the facility with plans to continue the operation of Motor X from this location with a clear strategy focusing on improving the spectator experience. The aim is to work collaboratively with the community and parish council to ensure transparency and respect for community amenity. Plans include the submission of further planning applications for development of provisions in the site and to accommodate more events and practice sessions.

Councillors expressed their frustration with the previous operators in their failure to comply with planning conditions, specifically regarding the number and timing of events and the incomplete installation of mandated bunds. Mr Baseton acknowledged these issues and gave undertakings that his takeover would represent a fresh start with objectives that included: clear scheduling of events, traffic control on race days preventing illegal parking, and the implementation of noise abatement and alleviation measures to protect the amenity of residents.

Mr Baseton provided assurances of responsible management and encouraged direct communication with him about any issues or questions as plans develop.

2.2 A resident raised a concern following a distressing personal incident on Silver Street. The resident suggested that a zebra crossing on Silver Street might have prevented the accident. The street is notably busy, with dropped kerbs already in place for disability access.

Councillors explained that North Yorkshire Council's Area 7 Highways has stringent regulations for installing crossings. These regulations are not solely based on traffic accidents but include other criteria.

Even if Silver Street meets the criteria for a zebra crossing under these regulations, the necessary engineering works would require funding, which could be a significant challenge.

Councillors recognised that notwithstanding these obstacles' submission of request for consideration by North Yorkshire Highways would not be a pointless exercise.

Action: Clerk to provide details to the resident of email contracts to North Yorkshire Highways. Clerk to make enquiries with North Yorkshire Highways about the provision of a crossing at Silver Street.

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 16th
April 2024 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex
Building – 11/24**

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

4.0 Apologies for absence:

4.1 All 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 19th March 2024:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 19th March 2024.

Action: The minutes to be signed by the Chair and published on the Parish Council website.

7.0 Matters for information and action as required:

7.1 HGV Movements on Gravel Hill: The Clerk referred to an email from Gary Lumb, Highways Improvement Manager Officer for North Yorkshire Council, addressing concerns about HGV movements on Gravel Hill Lane and the construction of lay-bys between Whitley and Womersley. The email confirmed the commitment to installing additional warning signs on Selby Road, on either side of the junction with Gravel Hill Lane. In addition, a traffic survey will be conducted on Gravel Hill Lane to assess the speed and volume of HGV vehicles. The email noted that the current lay-bys are not official road installations. Monaghan Mushrooms has an outstanding responsibility under a specific planning application condition to construct lay-bys according to North Yorkshire Council standards.

Action: Clerk to continue the engagement with NYC Improvement Manager to monitor status of the installation of signage, survey and enquires with Monaghan Mushrooms.

7.2 Daffodil Park Drainage: Cllr White advised that Sweetings Bros drainage contractors have been approached for ideas about alternative options for the control and management of drainage in Daffodil Park.

Action: Cllr White to further engage with Sweetings seeking a response to requests for advice.

7.3 Zebra Crossing A19 Silver Street: This agenda item was discussed during the open public forum item 2.2 above.

Action: Clerk to provide details to the resident of email contract to North Yorkshire Highways. Clerk to make enquiries with North Yorkshire Highways about the provision of crossing at Silver Street.

7.4 Assets of Community Interest: Councillors considered the previous request from a resident that the Parish Council consider applying for the George and Dragon Pub to be registered as an Asset of Community Interest. After discussion and reflection on this request councillors agreed on the merits of submitting the application.

Action: The Clerk to complete an application for the registration of The George and Dragon Public House as an Asset of Community Interest.

7.5 Grants & Donations: Councillors discussed various improvement and maintenance projects, including:

- Christmas Lights
- Playground equipment
- Notice Boards
- Pathways in Daffodil Park.

It was agreed that further consideration would be given to the provision of Christmas Lights.

Funding sources were identified as a critical issue with the Gale Common Community Fund identified as a valuable source. It was noted an application to the fund for a notice board on Templar Close has already been submitted. Other potential funding sources include sponsorships from local commercial companies and a contribution from Locality Budgets managed by the North Yorkshire Councillor McCartney, who has £10,000 available to support parishes in his area.

It was agreed that the provision of Christmas Lights will undergo a focused assessment. Previous cost estimates for Christmas lights will be revisited. A funding strategy will be developed, which includes the identification of an initial number of lamp posts for electrical conversion to accommodate Christmas light fittings, applying for grants from the Gale Common Community Fund, to cover conversion costs, and the securing of donations and sponsorship for the actual Christmas lights. It was important to recognise that the Parish Council cannot proceed without securing total funding for the installation costs.

It was recognised that detailed rollout plans for any improvement project must be established given the limited financial resources available to the Parish Council.

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

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 Liam Miller the Project Manager for CORE advising of A645/A19 Roundabout improvements. Noted.

8.1.1.2 An email from a resident requesting clarification of the policy for the timing of the posting of agenda and draft minutes of Parish Council meetings. **Action:** Clerk to advise resident of requirements and publication timetables.

8.1.2 Social Media

8.1.2.1 Cllr Humphrey reported that there were no comments and content of social media postings relevant to the Whitley Parish. Cllr Humphrey observed that subscribers to the Whitley Community Group have expanded beyond the area of the local community with private business becoming members to promote their activities. Consideration may have to be given to either closure of the group or to strictly control the qualification criteria of members to reflect the original objectives of the media pages to be a resource to residents for information relevant to the community.

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 April 2024.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 16/04/2024:

Bank/Account	Income since 1st April 2024	Expenditure since 1st April 2024		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	0.00			15,392.48	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)		448.00		1,340.17	No interest
Total Bank Balances				16,732.62	
Less following funds:					
Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing Drainage Daffodil Field		1,798.71 8,000.00	
Total Allocated funds				9,798.71	
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.		6,933.91	
VAT due for reclaim				2,601.61.	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds				9,535.52	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary analysing, month by month, the actual receipts and payments up to March 2025. It was noted the balance held on unrestricted reserves at 30th April was £6,944.67.

Councillors considered the demand for settlement of additional legal fees in connection with the original Gale Common Judicial Review heard in Leeds Crown Court on 9th and 10th December 2021. Given the circumstances, significance and timing of the billing it was agreed that a separate meeting of Councillors be convened to examine the history of the billing and actions of the legal team.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22571	Yorkshire Local Council Association	448.00

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 following the attendance of a representative from Sovereign Design Play systems to inspect the “Spring Animal” the quotation for repair is outstanding.

Action: Clerk to chase the provision of the quotation.

Cllr Paley advised that the young community volunteer had attended the Play Areas and carried out maintenance work under supervision of his parents. The work was completed satisfactorily, and Cllr Paley provided the young person with the appropriate confirmation to meet the requirements of the his Princes Trust certification.

Cllr Barber reported on her inspection of the Oak Tree adjacent to the rear of a property located in the open space of Lee View. The tree does marginally overhang at its summit, but the branches are healthy and do not present a hazard. The Oak tree is firmly planted with no prospect of falling.

11.1.2 Daffodil Park: Cllr Thompson commented on the state of the Daffodil Park following a recent grass cut. Given the surface water in all areas of the park the playing field was left in a poor condition.

Action: The Clerk to address the practice of cutting the Daffodil Park when the grass is waterlogged with George Fillingham.

11.1.3 Community Payback Team: Cllr Barber reported on the activities of the community payback team in their maintenance work paths in Blackthorn Close and Lee View. In addition, they tackled the cut back of the Hazel bush that had been encroaching on the fence of a resident whose property is adjacent to the open area in Lee View.

Cllr White advised that the payback team are scheduled to return next weekend to continue their maintenance activities. It was agreed Cllr Barber and Cllr Thompson would liaise to meet with the team supervisors to provide instructions on the further work to be completed.

11.1.4 Memorial Bench: The Clerk advised that George Fillingham would be available to undertake the installation of the bench. Cllr White reported that he had been in contact with Eggborough Power who indicated they would supply a team to install the bench.

11.1.5 Community Litter Pick: Cllr Walton & Cllr Barber agreed to undertake to take the lead on the organisation and management of a litter pick to be scheduled in May.

Action: Cllr Walton & Cllr Barber to liaise in setting a date for the litter pick, and the promotion of the event to secure volunteers from the community.

11.1.6 Verges Cutting: The Clerk outlined the details of the contract arrangement with North Yorkshire Council for the cut of verges in Whitley. Based on the square metreage of the designated areas and a price of £8.00 per square metre North Yorkshire Council will subcontract with Whitley Parish with a purchase order for the sum of £800 for the cut of the verges.

The Clerk advised that a budget of £6,000 had been agreed with George Fillingham for grass cutting of Parks and Verges during 2024, based on 8 cuts of the verges and 10 cuts in the Parks.

12.0 A19 Safety:

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

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 Cllr White advised that he had applied to the Gale Common Community Fund for the purchase of a replacement notice board for Templar Close.

13.2 Cllr White commented on the activities of the internet utility company engineers who have been laying underground cables in the community with some detriment to the verges.

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

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 9:25 pm

Whitley Parish Council

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2023 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

1. **Opening Meeting:** The meeting was opened at 7.00 p.m. by Cllr K Walton
2. **Present:** Cllr S Humphrey, Cllr F Blackburn, Cllr K Walton, Cllr Cole, Cllr J White, and Clerk to the Council J Hunter. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Woodhead.
3. **Election of Chair of the Council for 2023/24:** Cllr Walton invited nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr White proposed Cllr Walton be reappointed as Chair to Whitley Parish Council for 2023/24 seconded by Cllr Blackburn, carried unanimously.
Action: Cllr Walton signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman of Whitley Parish Council for 2023/24.
4. **Election of Vice Chair of the Council for 2023/24:** Cllr Cole proposed that Cllr White be reappointed as Vice Chair to Whitley Parish Council for 2023/24 Seconded by Cllr Blackburn and Carried unanimously.
Action: Cllr White signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice Chair of Whitley Parish Council for 2023/24.
5. **Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting:** The minutes for the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2022 were agreed during the Parish Council meeting held on 21st June 2022. Noted
6. **Chairman's Report for 2022/23:** It was agreed the Chair's report would be included within the content of the Annual Parish Newsletter to be edited and published by Cllr Humphrey and distributed to all households in the village.
7. **Public Forum:** Members of the public present at the Annual Meeting made no comments or observations.
8. **Close Meeting:** There being no other business for this meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.10 p.m.

Chairman of the Parish Council:

Date: