

Whitley Parish Council

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2024 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

1. **Opening Meeting:** The meeting was opened at 7.00 p.m. by Cllr K Walton
2. **Present:** Cllr K Walton, Cllr White, Cllr Cole, Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Paley, Cllr Barber and Clerk to the Council J Hunter.
3. **Election of Chair of the Council for 2024/25:** Cllr Walton invited nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr White proposed Cllr Walton be reappointed as Chair to Whitley Parish Council for 2024/25 seconded by Cllr Humphrey, carried unanimously.
Action: Cllr Walton signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman of Whitley Parish Council for 2024/25.
4. **Election of Vice Chair of the Council for 2024/25:** Cllr Walton proposed that Cllr White be reappointed as Vice Chair to Whitley Parish Council for 2024/25 Seconded by Cllr Humphrey and Carried unanimously.
Action: Cllr White signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice Chair of Whitley Parish Council for 2024/25.
5. **Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting:** The minutes for the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2023 were agreed.
6. **Chairman's Report for 2023/24:** 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:

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 21st May 2024

2.1 A resident thanked the Parish Council for their undertaking to make application for the nomination of The George and Dragon Public House as an Asset of Community Value.

2.2 PC Sarah Ward Community Officer for Eggborough and Whitley attended the meeting to respond to any questions concerning policing in the community. She referred to an incident of assault by two youths against another youth that occurred in the M62 underpass. A graphic video of the attack had been shared on Facebook social media pages. This has now been removed. The offending parties have been apprehended and bailed with a prohibition of them entering Eggborough or Whitley. Their case will be dealt within the jurisdiction of the Youth Offending Scheme.

Councillors remarked on comments made on social media pages about the matter and erroneous rumours that had circulated that there had been assaults to elderly pedestrians. Sarah Ward offered reassurances that such incidents are rare and there have been no direct assaults on any innocent members of the public.

There were no other incidents to report within the local community. However, there were burglaries, thefts and anti-social behaviour outside of the Whitley Ward all of which are under investigation.

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 21st May 2024 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Annex Building – 01/25

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 16th April 2024:

6.1 It was resolved, subject to some minor amendments, the minutes were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 16th April 2024.

Action: The minutes to be amended as discussed at the meeting and then 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 recounted the details of a conversation with Gary Lumb Improvement Manager for Area7 Highways North Yorkshire Council. The promised signage has been ordered and is expected to be delivered within 4 to 6 weeks. The survey has been commissioned to be delivered by an independent contractor and conducted over a 7-day period to ensure that a full week's profile of traffic movement will be gathered. The data that will be collected will be comprehensive including speed, and type of vehicle. This will be analysed to provide insight and learning to guide any further action. Upon finalisation of the survey the data will be made available to the Parish Council.

Gary Lumb confirmed that the temporary passing bays on Booty Lane have been installed by Highways Engineers, because of damage to the verges on either side of the road. The frequency of HGV lorries negotiating two-way passage on the narrow stretch of road had caused considerable damage to the verges necessitating the construction of a serviceable passing point. The section 278 condition imposed an obligation on Monaghan Mushrooms, when planning permission was granted, to construct passing bays on Booty Lane. The North Yorkshire Council Planning Department officers have now been charged to action the execution of this condition.

Cllr Humphrey observed that to his understanding, in addition to the passing point the planning approval required work to be carried out to improve the junction of Booty Lane and Fulham Lane to facilitate HGV's turning left onto Fulham Lane.

Action: Details of the commitments from Area7 Highways Department for signage, survey and the expediting of passing bays be reported on the Parish Council social media pages.

Action: Clerk to continue to liaise with Gary Lumb Area 7 Improvement Manager as the project is actioned.

7.2 Daffodil Park Drainage: Cllr White advised that there has been no further response from Sweeting Bros in connection with his request for advice about alternative options for the management of the water levels in Daffodil Park. North Yorkshire Council who had provided the grant funds have recently made enquires into the status of the drainage project. Although they are relaxed about the limited progress it is anticipated that these funds will have to be refunded if alternative schemes cannot be identified. However, a request for approval for the funds to be allocated for a different purpose such as improvements to play equipment was contemplated.

Councillors reflected on the situation and questioned whether improvements in drainage, regrettably could not be attained and there was little option but to accept that the Park would be subject to water logging during periods of heavy rainfall.

The meeting speculated on the adequacy of the network of land drainage in the surrounding area. Whether the drains were free of debris and capable of handling peak water flows? North Yorkshire County (NYC) Councillor John McCartney informed councillors that he was a member of the Independent Drainage Board and could raise questions about the state of the drainage system.

Action: Cllr White to provide NYC Cllr John McCartney with details of the drainage system serving Daffodil Park.

7.3 Assets of Community Interest: The Clerk advised Councillors that a nomination for the registration of The George and Dragon Public House has been submitted to North Yorkshire Council Selby Area.

Action: The Clerk to await response to the application.

7.4 Christmas Lights: Cllr Cole advised due to work commitments she has not been able to progress the matter of Christmas Lights. Discussion will be deferred to the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Cole observed that the critical issue will be to source the funding for the project. Estimated costs for the provision of Christmas Lighting on 10 lamp posts will be in the order of £4,500 in year one with a further £1,500 of cost for the following two years.

Councillors questioned NYC Cllr John McCartney about the possibility of sourcing a contribution from his £10,000 Locality Budget. He explained that the focus for his Locality Budget would be on the provisioning of Automatic Number Plate Recognition Cameras within the communities he serves.

Cllr White suggested that approaches be made to nearby Parish Councils who have experience in the installation of Christmas Lights to establish the economics of their projects and the funding sources.

7.5 Improvement Projects in the village:

Councillors reflected on and debated the merits of potential improvement projects that could be considered for the benefit of the community and concluded that the following be the focus:

- The replacement of the notice board in Templar Close.
- Provision of Christmas Lights.
- Repair or improvement of playground equipment.
- Provision of a Village Hall in the longer term.

NYC Cllr John McCartney advised councillors of an approach made by local developers of a proposition to Whitley Parish. They own the parcel of land (Parcel A) bounded by Tunstall Healthcare at the South and the slip road off the west bound carriage way of the M62 at the North which is adjacent to the All-Saints residential development. They are seeking to develop the land (Parcel B) on the A19 between the All Saints Grove development to the North and Whitley Farm Close development to the South. In exchange for the Parish Councils support for planning for Parcel B they will transfer title of the Parcel A.

Action: NYC Cllr John McCartney to share email from developers with the Clerk.

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 North Yorkshire Council providing notice of an Executive Meeting to consider recommendations on the Home to School Travel policy consultation to be held on 11th June 2024 at County Hall. **Action:** Clerk to forward email to Cllr Humphrey for insertion into social media pages.

8.1.1.2 An email from Area 7 Highways provided details of weblinks to useful sites covering various aspects of highways management and safety

issues. **Action:** Clerk to forward email to Councillors for review and further reference.

8.1.1.3 An email from PC Sarah Ward attaching a copy of the NPT Community Newsletter for Eggborough & Whitley providing details of crime and antisocial behaviour in the Ward.

8.1.1.4 An email from a resident highlighting the state of repair of the bench at the nature reserve.

8.1.1.5 An email from the Yorkshire Local Council Association providing a copy of the revised 2024 NALC model of Financial Regulations.
Action: Clerk to share copies of the model Regulations and to present for review and adoption during the June 2024 meeting of Whitley Parish Council.

8.1.2 Social Media

8.1.2.1 Cllr Humphrey referred to the extent of comments generated from the uploading of the video of the assault reported by PC Sarah Ward. The matter for concern for Cllr Humphrey and Cllr White as administrators of the Parish social media pages is the protocol to be adopted in the management of the posting of such objectionable images and videos. The question being to balance the need to ensure the community is informed of threats or perils in the Ward, set against their exposure to inappropriate and distressing content. In this case the video was taken down by Facebook because it contravened their standards.

8.1.2.2 There have been numerous comments and complaints posted following the installation of yellow lines at the junction of Whitley Farm Close and Doncaster Road. The new parking restrictions have led staff from the nearby Care Home to park their vehicles on the A19, often on the pavements. This has resulted in cars being parked directly in front of the Care Home and the residences along the A19 near Whitley Farm Close.

8.1.2.3 A range of comments were directed at the actions of a bus driver who while travelling North on the A19 was observed “flashing the bus lights” warning south bound drivers of the presence of a police speed detection van. Some expressed approval of the action, others distain.

Councillors discussed the importance of carefully monitoring the Parish Council's social media. Comments, debates and issues raised on these platforms reflect the variety of community sentiments and can influence the relationship between the community and the Parish Council. For many residents, these exchanges are a crucial communication channel and a means to hold councillors accountable, even on issues beyond the Parish Council's authority.

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 relevant to the Whitley Parish.

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 21/05/2024:

Bank/Account	Income since 1st April 2024	Expenditure since 1st April 2024	Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	26.82		15,419.30	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account (Cash Book)	6,722.00	2,290.89	6,219.28	No interest
Total Bank Balances			21,638.58	
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.	11,839.87	
VAT due for reclaim			2,775.61	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds			14,615.48	

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 as of 30th May was £11,838.57.

Councillors noted the amount of the renewal premium for the year at £798.90 and subject to the receipt of an alternative quote approved a budget amount of £800.00.

Action: The Clerk to seek alternative quotes for insurance.

In closed meeting Parish Councils considered the demand from Irwin Mitchell arising from their engagement with the Gale Common Action group and agreed on a considered response to be presented to Irwin Mitchell concerning the demand.

Action: Cllr White to finalise the draft the final letter and forward to Irwin Mitchell.

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
22752	George Fillingham	870.00
22753	Clear Insurance	798.90

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 presented a quotation from Sovereign Design Play for the replacement of the “Spring Animal”. At a cost of £3,486.85 Councillors determined that this expense is beyond the Parish Council’s budget. They discussed the option of removing the equipment and concluded that further enquiries are needed to determine the process and who could be engaged to remove and dispose of the “Spring Animal”.

The Councillors also considered the frequency of use of the play equipment and the potential of removal of these play facilities.

Action: Cllr Barber to undertake further inspection prior to exploration of alternative approaches to removal.

Councillors discussed the disposal of grass and hedge clippings from maintenance work in Daffodil Park. These clippings are currently being dumped in the far corner of the park, which is limiting George Fillingham’s access to this area for grass cutting. It was noted that the activities of the Community Payback Team also produce clippings that need disposal.

Action: Enquires to be made to investigate whether the team has access to Council-supplied green bins, allowing North Yorkshire Council Waste Department to collect and remove the clippings.

11.1.2 Planters: Councillors debated various options for the village planters. Suggestions included removing the planters, calling for community volunteers to take over their maintenance, and creating a low-maintenance planting scheme with self-sustaining shrubs and perennials that require minimal care.

Action: Cllr Humphrey and Cllr Thompson will explore these options further to determine the most feasible and beneficial solution for the community.

11.1.3 Community Payback Team: Cllr White and Cllr Walton provided an update on the activities of the Community Payback Team over the past three weekends. They reported that there is still significant work to be done including cutting back bushes in Daffodil Park, varnishing the notice board on

Silver Street, and clearing vegetation from pavements. The team's availability for the next sessions is confirmed for June 16th and June 23rd.

11.1.4 Memorial Bench: Cllr White confirmed that a team from Eggborough Power have undertaken to lay footings and install the memorial bench.

11.1.5 Community Litter Pick: Councillors deliberated on the possibility of organising a litter pick. It was noted that there is currently not a significant amount of rubbish in the village, leading to the consensus that a litter pick is unnecessary at this time.

Councillor Humphrey noted that staff from Monaghan Mushrooms have been observed undertaking extensive litter pick activities on Gravel Hill Lane near the boundary of the factory.

Action: Thanks to be extended to the staff at Monaghan Mushrooms for their efforts in contributing to the cleanliness of the verges in Gravel Hill Lane.

11.1.6 Verge Cutting: Councillors raised concerns regarding the quality and extent of verge cutting in the village. Complaints have been received regarding excessive vegetation growth and the need for improvement in the management of the grass cutting schedule.

The Clerk committed to meeting with the verge cutting contractor during their next visit to discuss the areas to be managed in detail and to formulate a plan for improved verge maintenance.

12.0 A19 Safety:

12.1 Speeding on A19: The Clerk advised that a communication with North Yorkshire Council Highways department requesting that they consider the installation of a pedestrian crossing in Silver Street is outstanding.

Action: Clerk to email North Yorkshire Council Area7 Highways with a request for the consideration of the installation of a pedestrian crossing in Silver Street.

Cllr White mentioned proposals from North Yorkshire Council Highways for the installation of a new roundabout at the Balne crossroads. Considering the proposed engineering works, Cllr White suggested that after the completion of the roundabout, a request should be submitted for consideration to lower the speed limit from the northbound exit of the new roundabout from 40mph to 30mph.

Action: Cllr White to communication with North Yorkshire Council Highways to explore the idea.

13.0 A.O.B.

13.1 Cllr Thompson mentioned a suggestion from a resident for the provision of Poo Bag dispensers to be made available in Daffodil Park. Councillors noted the suggestion but considered that such an expenditure would be unwarranted.

13.2 Cllr White requested that following the inspection of the Oak Tree at the rear of Lee View the resident be advised of the Councils conclusion that the tree is stable and presents no threat.

13.3 Cllr White brought up a request from the operators of Gale Common Moto X, who are seeking to increase the number of marshals for each race meeting. The operators questioned whether the Parish Council would support their request for additional staff and promote this in the Parish Council Annual Newsletter. Cllr White advised in declining this

request he explained that it is not the policy of the Parish Council to sponsor or promote any commercial enterprise.

13.4 Cllr White sought clarity from councillors as to their preferred mode for communication. This proved to be email and phone call.

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

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 18th June 2024 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 9:40 pm