

Whitley Parish Council

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

2.0 Open Public Forum(OPF) 14th July 2026

2.1 There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

2.2 The Chair closed the open public forum.

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 14th July 2026 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School Building – 03/27

3.0 **Record Councillors in attendance:** Cllr Cole (Chair), Cllr Paley (Vice Chair), Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Walton, Cllr White 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 declarations of interest for items to be discussed at the meeting.

6.0 Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 16th June 2026:

6.1 It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2026 were a true record of the Whitley Parish Council meeting.

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

7.0 Matters for information and action as required:

7.1 **Whitley Allotment Association:** The current three-year Allotment Agreement is due for renewal. Councillors considered the existing terms and conditions and agreed to continue the arrangement with the Allotment Association for a further three-year period covering 2026 to 2029.

Action: It was resolved that the agreement be updated to reflect the new dates and presented for signature at the next Parish Council meeting in September.

7.2 **Nature Reserve:** Councillor Cole provided an update on recent management and maintenance activities at the Nature Reserve. The ground maintenance contractor had undertaken herbicidal spraying to address areas of overgrown vegetation, including brambles and ferns. The Community Payback team had also carried out vegetation clearance, which was welcomed by councillors as a valuable contribution to the ongoing management of the Nature Reserve.

Councillor Cole shared thoughts on possible further work the Community Payback team could be of assistance in delivering, including cultivation of an area in preparation for its establishment as a wildflower meadow. Repair and maintenance of sections of the perimeter fencing were also identified as suitable works for the team.

The Mushroom Farm had donated two benches for the Nature Reserve. Councillors agreed that suitable locations for the benches should be identified. The signage previously discussed at the June meeting had been acquired but had yet to be erected.

Action: Suitable locations for the benches to be identified and arrangements made for the erection of the signage. Further suitable work for the Community Payback team to be considered.

7.3 Trees in the village: Councillors considered the condition and management of the tree line at the perimeter of Daffodil Park adjacent to a local resident's property. The resident had raised concerns regarding the height of the trees and their potential impact on the property.

The Clerk reported that, following inspection, the trees appeared healthy and were not significantly encroaching into the adjoining property. A quotation and recommendations were still awaited from a qualified tree surgeon regarding appropriate management options, including potential reduction or pollarding of the crowns.

In anticipation of the tree surgeon's recommendations, councillors agreed that the Council's general approach to tree management should be that remedial works would only be undertaken where there is a clear and present danger to the public, or where a tree is unstable, diseased or damaged and action is considered necessary.

7.4 Location of Waste Bins in the village: Councillors considered the number and condition of waste bins at the Blackthorn Close play area. North Yorkshire Council's Waste Department had advised that there was a surplus of bins at this location. It was agreed that the local handyman team be approached to establish the cost of removing and disposing of the surplus bins.

Councillor White reminded councillors that grant funding had been received from the Eggborough Power Community Fund towards the provision of additional waste bins within the community. Given the existing number of bins in the village, councillors agreed that the funding would be better utilised to replace an existing bin in poor condition rather than increase the overall number of bins.

Action: The local handyman team to be approached regarding the cost of removing and disposing of the surplus bins at Blackthorn Close. Councillors to identify existing bins within the village that may be suitable candidates for replacement using the grant funding.

7.5 Defibrillator Training: The Clerk Councillors discussed the proposed defibrillator training session to be delivered by Yorkshire Ambulance Service in August. The Clerk confirmed that the available dates were 11, 18 or 20 August, with the session proposed to commence at 7.00 pm at the George & Dragon Public House. Councillors expressed a preference for the 18th August due to holiday plans.

It was agreed that the available dates would be discussed with the landlords of the public house to establish a suitable date. The agreed date, time and location would then be confirmed with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service trainer.

Once confirmed, the training session would be publicised through the Parish Council's social media channels, with all members of the community invited to attend alongside Parish Councillors. Refreshments would be provided for attendees.

Action: Councillor White to liaise with the landlords of the George & Dragon to agree a suitable date and subsequently confirm the arrangements with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service trainer. Councillors to publicise the event once arrangements are confirmed.

7.6 Notice Board near Silver Street: Councillor White reminded councillors of the proposal to replace the existing notice board at the corner of Doncaster Road (A19) and Silver Street. The cost of a replacement notice board, like that recently installed at Templar

Close, was reported as being in the region of £1,200. It was confirmed that the cost would be met from the specific reserve established from donations received.

It was resolved that the proposed notice board be ordered, with the delivery address to be confirmed.

Action: The Clerk to place the order and confirm the appropriate delivery address.

7.7 Gale Common Ash Extraction: Councillor White provided an update on a recent visit by himself and Councillor Walton to the Gale Common Ash Extraction Project site. The visit was hosted by the new team from the Eggborough Power Group of Companies responsible for progressing implementation of the approved development.

The project team advised that they were working towards commencement of ash extraction, although at a significantly reduced scale from that originally proposed in the planning application. It is currently anticipated that approximately 200,000 tonnes of ash would be removed, resulting in an estimated 20 to 30 HGV movements to and from the site each day.

The previously proposed highways works were also being revisited, with two phases identified: improvements and straightening of Whitefield Lane, followed by widening of the access onto the A19. The project team is in discussions with North Yorkshire Council regarding implementation and has committed to engaging with the Parish Council as the programme progresses. It was confirmed that no HGV movements from the site had commenced at the time of the visit.

Councillors discussed the proposed arrangements for public access to areas of the Gale Common site that have already been reclaimed. The original planning application had envisaged these areas being made available for community access and recreation. Concern was expressed regarding the potential conflict between public access and ongoing commercial ash extraction activities, including the operation of HGVs and industrial plant, and the need to ensure public safety.

Possible alternatives to unrestricted public access were discussed, including organised open days or restricting public access altogether, with the latter potentially being accompanied by financial contributions to the local community, for example towards the provision of a parish hall.

The project team indicated that they were keen to engage with the local community and welcomed ideas and aspirations regarding the future use and management of the site.

Action: The Parish Council to maintain dialogue with the project team and contribute to discussions regarding community access, safety and potential community benefits as the project progresses.

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 Sarah Ward PC providing an update on local crime & Anti Social Behaviour within the village covering the month of June 2026.

- Social media: Cllr Humphrey provided an update on activity on the Parish Council's social media pages.

Concerns were expressed about the state of the Underpass at the end of Learning Lane with a particular request from a resident seeking to establish to whom complaints about the condition of the underpass should be addressed.

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 ZG2026/0495/PIP: Land Adjacent The Firs Doncaster Road. Permission in principle for up to 4 residential dwellings. The application had been approved in principle, subject to the submission and consideration of detailed plans and the requisite reports and consultation responses associated with the proposed development.

Councillors noted the Planning Officer's recommendation, which clearly identified the requirement for a 50% affordable housing provision in relation to development on Grey Belt land. However, an exception to this requirement had been accepted on the basis of the limited number of dwellings proposed.

Councillors considered that the key point arising from the decision was the recognition that, as a general principle, development on Grey Belt land should provide 50% affordable housing, notwithstanding the concession made in this particular case due to the scale of the development.

9.2 SELZG2025/1035/FULM: for land at E456060 N421899, Doncaster Road, Whitley, relating to the proposed erection of 85 residential dwellings.

The Clerk reported on the recent submission of further documentation to the planning portal, including amended plans and additional reports addressing drainage, transport and other matters raised by statutory consultees. It was noted that, whilst a number of revisions had been made, several were considered largely cosmetic and did not address the substantive concerns raised by consultees, particularly those relating to Yorkshire Water and North Yorkshire Council's Affordable Housing Department.

The Clerk presented a draft response to the Planning Officer for consideration by councillors.

Action: Councillors to review the draft response and provide any comments to the Clerk prior to its submission to North Yorkshire Council's Planning Department

10.0 Council Finance & Administration:

10.1 RFO Report as at 14/07/2026:

Bank/Account	Income since 1 st April 2026	Expenditure since 1 st April 2026		Current Balance	Notes/Comment
Santander Deposit	33.34			15,743.14	Interest paid monthly
Santander Current Account	8,350.00	6,328.78		14,750.37	No interest
Total Bank Balances				30,493.51	
Less following funds:					

Allocated Funds		Surplus from Crossing	1,798.71	
		Drainage Daffodil Field	8,000.00	
		Notice Board for Templar Close	518.74	
		CIL – Larth Close	7,067.46	
		Eggborough Power Fund	743.00	
		Power Minerals Ltd	1,600.00	
Total Allocated funds			19,727.91	
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.	10,765.60	
VAT due for reclaim			5,980.01	
Total Unallocated Parish Funds			16,745.61	

The Clerk presented a cash flow summary, detailing actual receipts and payments up to July 2026 for the new financial year. Based on budget expectations and planned expenditure, the estimated year-end balance was noted to be £15,229.93 subject to the accuracy of ongoing budget assumptions. Councillors reviewed the anticipated expenditure for the forthcoming year.

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

Cheque No.	Payable to:	Amount: £
22692	G H Fillingham Ltd	1,800.00

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

- 11.1..1 Parks & Playground Maintenance:** Councillors considered the overall condition of Daffodil Park and noted that the park was looking generally smart. Some sections of broken perimeter fencing required attention, including the fencing around the gas tank compound, where there was also overgrown vegetation.

It was agreed that quotations should be obtained from local handyman contractors to undertake the necessary maintenance works.

The condition of the public paths was also discussed, with councillors noting that their edges were becoming poorly defined. The Community Payback team had attended on several Sundays and had undertaken valuable clearance and maintenance work, including cutting back hedges around the entrances, vegetation along the perimeter adjacent to Whitley Farm Close and hedging in the vicinity of the playground. Work had also commenced on cutting back the hedge at the top of the park near the information board. It was noted that there remained a significant amount of tidying and vegetation clearance work that could be undertaken by the team in the future.

Councillors also considered the condition of the area occupied by Yorkshire Water's pumping station, where tree and hedge growth was encroaching onto the public footpath. The Clerk advised that attempts had been made to contact Yorkshire Water's Estates Team to discuss the matter and seek appropriate remedial action.

Action: Councillor White to obtain quotations from handyman contractors for the required fencing and vegetation maintenance.

Councillors discussed the potential for further investment in Daffodil Park, noting that approximately £20,000 was available in the Recreational Open Space Reserve from grants and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies received for this purpose. The potential to utilise these funds to improve the park and its facilities was considered.

11.1..2 Community Payback: Councillors noted the effectiveness of the work undertaken by the Community Payback Team and expressed their appreciation for the contribution being made to the community. The team remains committed to supporting local projects and undertaking further work as its time and resources permit.

11.1..3 Verge Cutting: Councillors noted that the village-wide verge cutting programme was being progressed. They recognised the Parish Council's specific commitments under its bespoke verge-cutting arrangement with North Yorkshire Council's Highways Department and emphasised the importance of ensuring that all areas included within the agreed cutting schedule were completed.

Action: The Clerk to monitor progress and ensure that all areas included within the Parish Council's agreed verge-cutting schedule are completed.

11.2 Other issues or matters to report: Councillors expressed their thanks and appreciation to Councillor Paley for her work in maintaining and managing the community planters.

12.0 A19 Safety: Councillors enquired about the response from North Yorkshire Council's Highways Department to the Clerk's report regarding the poor condition of the carriageway at the northern entrance to the village and the request for the affected section to be considered for resurfacing.

The Clerk advised that a response remained outstanding and required further follow-up.

Action: The Clerk to chase North Yorkshire Council's Highways Department for a response and update councillors accordingly

13.0 A.O.B:

- 13.1 Council White sought an update on the feedback from Northern Powergrid following the recent power outages. The Clerk advised that the matter remained to be followed up.

Action: The Clerk to seek an update from Northern Powergrid and report back to councillors.

- 13.2 Councillors discussed arrangements for a Parish Council social evening, including a meal at the George and Dragon. A suitable date was to be agreed.

Action: A date for the social evening to be agreed and arrangements subsequently confirmed.

- 13.3 Councillor White referenced an article in the Selby Times regarding new grant funding available through North Yorkshire Council for voluntary and community groups, with grants of up to £30,000 available for projects including sports, youth provision and mental health support.

Councillors recognised that funding opportunities were available but that pursuing applications would require a commitment of time and resources from councillors to develop and manage suitable projects.

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

Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 7pm at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

Closure of meeting: 09:00 pm