

WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council
Held at 19:00 on Wednesday 13 May 2026

Present:

Councillor T Munro (Chair)
Councillor D Munro

Councillor K Austin
Councillor F Raspin

Councillor H Green
Councillor J Raspin

P C A Podam

County Cllr R Hallett

1. Election of Chairman

One nomination was received and seconded, that of Cllr T Munro. Cllr T Munro was duly elected as Chairman.

2. To Receive and Accept Apologies and Reasons for Absence – Apologies and reason for absence were accepted from Councillor S Maiden and Councillor J Paget.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman - One nomination was received and seconded, that of Cllr F Raspin. Cllr F Raspin was duly elected as Vice Chairman.

4. Declaration of Councillors' and Chairman's Acceptance of Office and Agreement to Abide by the Code

The Chairman signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the Proper Officer and agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct.

5. Election to Other Groups/Bodies – It was **resolved** to remain with memberships as follows: -

Footpaths/Hedgerows – All Councillors

Internal Audit Committee – Cllr K Austin, Cllr S Maiden and Cllr T Munro

Playscheme Committee – Cllr H Green, Cllr J Paget and Cllr J Raspin

Website Monitors /General I.T. Working Group – Cllr K Austin, Cllr S Maiden, and Cllr F Raspin

Joint Cemetery Management Committee – Cllr S Maiden, Cllr T Munro, Cllr J Paget and Cllr F Raspin + 2 Cllrs from H&BPC

Initiatives/Funding Working Group – All Councillors

Allotments Working Group – Cllr H Green, Cllr D Munro, Cllr T Munro, Cllr J Paget and Cllr F Raspin

Climate Action Working Group – All Councillors (at least 3 to be in attendance)

Whitwell Community Centre Management Committee – All Councillors

Whitwell Community Centre Site Advisory Group – All Councillors

Staffing Committee – All Councillors

Whitwell Quarry Liaison Committee Representative - Cllr T Munro (Cllr F Raspin reserve)

Parish Council Liaison Meeting with BDC - Cllr T Munro and Clerk

Community Rail Partnership – Cllr T Munro

6. To record declarations of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests from members on any items to be discussed – None.

7. To receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (forms to be completed before the meeting) – None.

8. Public Participation Session – to allow members of the public to speak to the meeting (no decisions can be made on any items raised in this session) – No Members of Public were present.

8.1. Members of the Parish Council and public to raise matters of importance with the Police

PC Podam gave the crime figures totalling 23, which is normal, mainly keyless car thefts, shop thefts at the Co-op, damage to another shop window and 1 dog bite, with the dog later being destroyed. The following issues were raised: -

- Illegal use of trials bikes on the pit tip. Cllr T Munro has spoken to one owner on Holmefield Road

- Cars speeding through the village, especially Bakestone Moor and Station Road
- Use of quad bike with no helmet on Holmefield Road
- Cllr J Raspin has alerted the CAN Rangers of upcoming Whitwell Common equipment installation. Residents to also be notified.

P C Podam left at 19:15

8.2. Members of the Parish Council and the public to raise matters of importance with the **County Councillor**

Cllr Hallett reported on upcoming roadworks. He also reported on completing his first year of office and that DCC now has a new head and there have been some staff changes. He will not be able to attend all WPC meetings as most of his DCC meetings are on a Wednesday. The following issues were raised: -

- Cllr T Munro had enquired on DCC's portal about converting some grass verges to concrete on Station Road which were being ruined by cars parking on them to avoid road traffic incidents but had been informed that it is not high priority due to no accidents being reported. Cllr Hallett has been investigating highway issues in Hodthorpe & Belp, which will affect Whitwell from the Station Road Bridge, and has written a report and will meet with Highways about the issues raised. Cllr K Austin reported that extending the 30mph and making the rest 40mph along to the A60 is the intention in the outline plan when Welbeck Estates develop the former Whitwell colliery site, but that could do with being brought forward.
- Parking issues on Southfield Lane, with drives being blocked. Cllr Hallett was asked to speak to senior Highways Officers regarding an improvement scheme.
- Highway improvements on High Street have not been completed, as the 40mph sign and dragon's teeth to make the gateway into the village 30mph have not yet been installed. Clerk to copy the last email correspondence to Cllr R Hallett cc S Dungworth, to investigate.
- Poor quality of pothole repairs. Cllr Hallett advised that a new material of recycled lorry tyres was being used which does not require sealing.

Cllr R Hallett left at 19:35

8.3. Members of the public to raise matters of importance with the **Councillors** present

Bolsover District Council (BDC) - Cllr T Munro reported on the upcoming AGM and that all except one portfolio holder was still in place. It is expected that Cllr J Raspin will take up a new role of Cabinet Member Without Specific Portfolio. He reported that BDC are working hard on the Pleasley Vale Business Park project. Cllr J Raspin reported that BDC, in partnership with the Woodland Trust, has chosen 3 sites including part of Quarry Hill in Whitwell to trial 'No Mow May' and will monitor the effect on nature and increasing biodiversity.

8.3.1 Cllr K Austin praised BDC for funding Bolsover in Business, which is an excellent service supporting local businesses and will have a positive effect on the district.

Whitwell Parish Council (WPC) – No matters

9. **To consider for approval the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 April 2026**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 8 April 2026 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

10. **To consider any matters arising (for information only) from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 April 2026**

Item 4.3.1. – Cllr J Raspin met with an officer at Wildes and inspected the footpath, which was not obstructed. They also looked at where the building material had been dumped. The officer thought it must have been dumped there for a purpose by arrangement, and it is now completely overgrown, having been there for a few years.

Item 4.3.2 – The fly-tipped bags on Portland Street were removed. A fridge-freezer was dumped on Malthouse Row, accompanied a couple of days later by a sofa, which was later removed. The fridge-freezer was moved to outside no. 19 Malthouse Row and has now been removed.

Item 6 – BDC are working through the main mowing routes and closed church yards throughout the district and will programme Whitwell Orchard as soon as they can.

Item 9 – The Tarmac funding agreement requires a second signature and was signed by the Chair. A start date of 1 June has been given by the contractor to install the new play equipment at Whitwell Common. Cllr T Munro reported that he has enquired at BDC about funding for parishes who do not have BDC funded play areas.

Item 10 – Two large Yuccas have been removed and planting commenced at the WCC garden. A letter of thanks to be sent to the volunteer.

Item 11 – Cllr D Munro enquired about the community governance petition. Some signatures have already been collected at the Community Centre and more are expected after the Spring newsletter has been distributed.

Item 16 – BDC's Conservation Officer is happy to meet with councillors and would like an idea of issues/topics to be discussed. Availability from councillors was requested so that a meeting could be scheduled.

Item 20.1 – A draft management plan was shared with BDC and would be acceptable to them, which would be a working document reflected in the lease.

A response has been received from the Planning Department regarding grit bin removal and bench/plinth installation on the Village Green. Quotes would be required.

11. **Accounts for Approval and Payment** – It was **resolved** to approve the following accounts for payment. Cllr J Raspin signed the invoices: -

Direct Bank Payments to be Authorised			
Payee	Goods/Services	Amount	Budget
Bolsover District Council	Annual Rent, Whitwell Common	5.00	65
Spheracon Ltd	Skate Park Repairs deposit (paid)	1716.00	63
Spheracon Ltd	Skate Park Repairs balance	6864.00	63
Thorpes Building Supplies	Repairs inv 43678-43680	35.14	63
Thorpes Building Supplies	Repairs inv 43382	22.86	63
Local Auth. Technology CIC	Parish Online (Geosphere) website	468.00	45
The Nat. Allotment Society	Membership	84	30
Civic Pride UK Ltd	Lamppost Testing (baskets/lights)	592.20	56
Life Publications	Newsletter Distribution	151.20	33
Whitwell Forward	Grant for Music Festival	1000	71
	TOTAL	10938.40	

12. **Financial Reports and Bank Reconciliation**

It was **resolved** to accept the Financial Reports. Cllr D Munro signed the April bank reconciliation.

13. **To pass a resolution to reaffirm the council's eligibility to use the General Power of Competence**

It was **resolved** to re-affirm the Council's eligibility to use the General Power of Competence.

14. **To review the council's financial risk assessment** - the following adjustments were **resolved**: -

To enquire about increasing fidelity guarantee to £575,000. Cemetery – Loss of adequate space probability to be increased to 3. Loss of service contractor probability decreased to 2 and impact 3. Payroll probability 1, impact 4.

15. **To review the council's fixed asset register**

The fixed asset register was reviewed, with no amendments.

Council was informed that the parish clock winder had reach 30 years' service. A letter of thanks for their service to the parish would be sent. Cllr T Munro advised that BDC has a new asset manager, if future advice was required.

16. **To approve the schedule of regular direct payments for 2026-27**

It was **resolved** approve the schedule of regular direct payments for 2026-27, which was signed by Cllrs K Austin and H Green.

17. **To consider participating in DCC's Minor Maintenance Scheme 2026-27**

It was **resolved** to continue to participate in DCC's Minor Maintenance Scheme in 2026-27.

18. **Correspondence**

It was **resolved** to deal with correspondence as follows: -

18.1. DALC April & May Newsletters – Noted.

18.2. Resident – Village Green – WPC are working to a pre-agreed management plan. No evidence of a petition has been provided.

- 18.3. BDC – Orchard Draft Management Plan – noted.
- 18.4. Clowne East Resident – re: 26/00020/FUL, representations filed with BDC – noted.
- 18.5. BDC – No Mow May, Southfield Lane – Whitwell Primary School to be contacted for involvement in promoting green and wild places.
- 18.6. Resident – Village Green – noted.

Correspondence not listed: -

- 18.7. Resident – Mill Lane Allotment site – it was noted that a response had been sent by Cllr T Munro to inform the resident of the upcoming plot inspections. However, it was raised that due to the awful, threatening communication it did not warrant any response.

19. Planning Matters

Cllr T Munro declared an interest and took no part in decision making.

It was **resolved** to deal with planning as follows: -

- 19.1. 26/00116/FUL – Installation of new external marquee tent to side of existing Public House, measuring 6.0m x 12.0m x 3.0m high – No objections.
- 19.2. 26/00109/FUL – Replacement windows, doors, installation of fascias, CCTV cameras, path, steps & door canopy, High Hill View, Portland Street S80 4RJ – No objections, subject to strategic placement of CCTV.
- 19.3. 26/00025/FUL – Small annex in front (east) garden, 35 Southfield Lane S80 4NS – No comment.

20. Progress Reports

- 20.1. Garden at Whitwell Community Centre – to approve a budget up to £150 for purchase of a crab apple tree and compost. It was **resolved** to grant a budget up to £150.00.

20.2. Allotment Inspections

Cllr D Munro reported on allotment inspections carried out on 29 April.

Some suggestions were made for the Mill Lane site, being organisation of a scrap metal collection by a licensed merchant; arranging a skip; identifying abandoned plots; sending non-cultivation letters.

The Station Road site had 3 well maintained plots, and the abandoned plots require further consideration. Handymen to continue to keep plot 9 tidy.

At the Bakestone Moor site, a non-cultivation letter was required for one plot.

General suggestions were - obtaining consent for people to stay on the waiting list; offering half plots; advertising vacant plots not taken; taking a deposit; increasing fees.

It was noted that the link to the information on hens on the NSALG site is not accessible for non-members.

Cllr D Munro was thanked for her report.

- 21. **Date of Next Meeting** - The next meeting on Wednesday 10 June 2026 at 7.00 pm.

- 22. **Fifteen-minute public session for members of the public to comment on items discussed at this meeting (no decisions can be made on any items raised in this session)** – none.

- 23. **To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the public and press from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

Cllr K Austin praised BDC on their Extreme Wheels provision, as they attended a Notts Scouts meeting and provided stage activity, trikes, BMX, KMX and other activities and are doing a great job.

It was then noted that they do not get a lot of attendees at Whitwell and that the school should be informed of future sessions and posters displayed.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:40

Signed (Chairman)

Date

List of Resolutions

014/2026-27 It was **resolved** to elect Cllr T Munro as Chairman

015/2026-27 It was **resolved** to elect Cllr F Raspin as Vice-Chairman

016/2026-27 It was **resolved** to elect Councillors to Other Groups/Bodies

017/2026-27 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 8 April 2026 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

018/2026-27 It was **resolved** to approve the accounts for payment. Cllr J Raspin signed the invoices.

019/2026-27 It was **resolved** to accept the Financial Reports. Cllr D Munro signed the April bank reconciliation.

020/2026-27 It was **resolved** to re-affirm the Council's eligibility to use the General Power of Competence.

021/2026-27 It was **resolved** to make the following adjustments to the Financial Risk Assessment - To enquire about increasing fidelity guarantee to £575,000. Cemetery – Loss of adequate space probability to be increased to 3. Loss of service contractor probability decreased to 2 and impact 3. Payroll probability 1, impact 4.

022/2026-27 It was **resolved** to approve the schedule of regular direct payments for 2026-27

023/2026-27 It was **resolved** to continue to participate in DCC's Minor Maintenance Scheme in 2026-27

024/2026-27 It was **resolved** to deal with correspondence

025/2026-27 It was **resolved** to deal with planning matters

026/2026-27 It was **resolved** to approve a budget up to £150 for purchase of a crab apple tree and compost.