

How

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 13th JANUARY 2016
AT 7.30 AT GROSVENOR HOUSE, GROSVENOR ROAD, WHITTLESEY.**

Present: Cllr Miscandlon, Bristow, Garratt, Mrs Mayor, Mrs Jolley, Dorling, Wicks, Cllr Mrs Dee Laws, Whitwell, Mason, Boden, Butcher, Curtis

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Sue Evans – Town Clerk & RFO

Recording: DS2500.44.DS2

F1/16 To receive apologies from absent Members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Mrs Windle (holiday)

F2/16. Declaration of Members Pecuniary Interests, on items to be discussed later in the agenda and the Council to decide which items are to be discussed as confidential under agenda item number F18/16.

- Town Council Tenants
- WTC Grosvenor House

Councillors Mrs Laws and Miscandlon as members of FDC Planning Committee advised that should planning applications be discussed they may comment, but reserve the right to change their minds should more information become available at a later date.

F3/16 Police matters including CCTV Report.

The CCTV report was reviewed however there was no Police presence, or police report. The Clerk to request that the police attend the next meeting.

F4/16 Street Scene Officer Report

Members reviewed the Street Scene Officer report no comments were forthcoming. Cllr Garratt wished to express his thanks to the team who had secured two prosecutions for fly tipping.

F5/16 To confirm and sign the Minutes from the meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 9th December 2015.

F189/15. – Paragraph 7 - Sir Graham Bright – PCC, Cllr Bristow advised he had commented that there was an increase of 6 officers and not 10, last paragraph Cllr Bristow advise that he had said that Sir Graham Bright had stated that more officers would be seen on the street.

Ratified: The Minutes were approved.

F6/16 Public Forum

To allow any member of the public to address the council. Time allowed 15 minutes in total.

10 Members of the public.

Steve Robertson – Delph Ward

Mr Robertson has read the proposed document to go to Fenland from Whittlesey Town Council and would like to suggest the wording is change from 'concerned' to 'opposed' regarding the car parking charges

Bernard Gray Esson - Eastrea Ward

As it's the Queens 90th Birthday year the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign is changing its name to 'Clean for the Queen' and all local groups are being asked to get involved, the Whittlesey Street

HWH

Pride group will be supporting this and have elected to do this on Saturday 5th March at 10.30, they are endeavouring to produce a banner that will be displayed near the Buttercross to bring attention to this event. Mr Gray-Esson advised that various members of the town council who support Street Pride, but is asking is anyone could help on this day they will be really grateful.

Bill Gibson – St Andrews Ward

Admin for Whittlesey Discussion Group - he would like to make three points.

- Can we get clarification that WTC will vehemently defend the 'no parking charges'?
- Sainsbury – Will Whittlesey Town Council try to push for an enquiry
- They had become aware that there would be no Christmas Lights in Whittlesey next year if no action was taken for find more funding, they have now raised £1900.00 which will be handed over to David Wright. They have also arranged a few other events for the year to raise funds for the Christmas lights, he would like information with regards whether the town council support the lights.

F7/16 Information Only.

There was no information

F8/16 Invitations.

There were no invitations

F9/16 To receive the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 25th November 2015.

The Minutes were received.

F10/16. To receive the minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 25th November 2015.


- The Minutes were approved. Cllr Garratt advised that at the Full Council meeting on the 9th December it was agreed to proceed with the purchase of a new notice board at the allotments, Cllr Mrs Mayor had received tender which had been discussed and members had agreed to proceed with the tender for the local contractor, once this tender had been received in writing. Cllr Mrs Mayor has now received the written quote that was verbally given in December. The notice board will be unique and installed for £425.00, which was over less than half of the other quotations that had been received. The location of the board will be discussed with the allotment society at their AGM in February.
- Cllr Garratt advised members that the SAG paperwork had been submitted for the first music event on the market place (Sunday 12th June at 2pm). Cllr Garratt will keep members posted on the developments.

F11/16. To receive the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 23rd November 2015.

The Minutes were received.

F12/16. To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.

Cllr Mrs Mayor representing WTC on the Hereward Community Rail Partnership – Last year the town council were asked to support by letter that the HCRP be nationally designated, Cllr Mrs Mayor was advised just prior to Christmas that this has now been nationally designated. Cllr Mrs Mayor advised there will be an announcement in June about the new Anglia Franchise. There is going to be a clear up day on Friday 4th March, this is the day before 'Clean for the Queen'. Cllr Mrs Mayor has visited the station with representatives from Network Rail and Abellio Greater



Anglia, there are representatives coming to help with the clear up. The area they want to tidy is the platform heading Eastbound. Cllr Mrs Mayor cannot see the point in clearing up the platform when the area surrounding it is very untidy. They have been advised that digging cannot take place due to underground cables, however they will be able to install some raised beds. There are feasibility bids in to ascertain what funding is required to improve both Whittlesey and Manea Stations. There have been attractions over the past couple of months, one being the Santa train, there will be an Easter Bunny event at Manea at Easter which will not only involve the train station but the local school and there is a proposal to run a Harry Potter themed event at the Manor Leisure centre, both of these events are to encourage young people to be involved with the station, the new services. Cllr Bristow who had attended a meeting on behalf of Cllr Mayor advised they also want to contact the Straw Bear committee for next year to see if they can arrange specific trains for the Straw Bear. Cllr Bristow advised the bid amount was for £360,000 to undertake the feasibility. The original idea was to put a bid in for £6 million for Manea and Whittlesey stations, however Whittlesey has a higher priority than Manea, so the bids may go in separately. Cllr Mrs Mayor will keep members updated.

Cllr Curtis suggested that the station lacks rail information and needs to have an electronic timetable, he also requested that information relating to any works at the station are clearly advertised. Cllr Mrs Mayor advised that any improvements to the station cannot be advertised until the funding is secured. Cllr Bristow asked if a joint venture could be undertaken with Street Scene, Cllr Mrs Mayor to speak with Wendy Otter at FDC to try and coordinate this venture.

Cllr Butcher – attended the CCC committee meeting and advised that after discussions it had been agreed that the street lights are only switched off between 2am and 6am and not from midnight. Cllr Butcher and Miscandlon have attended the new discoveries at Must Farm. All the artefacts will eventually be displayed at Flag Fen, they would like to see some artefacts in Whittlesey, however the preservation involved is very costly and there currently is no suitable location. If after the preservation of the wood is completed which could take 4 to 5 years and the wood plasticised, it may be possibly to have one of these on display in Whittlesey. Cllr Butcher also advised that on Friday will be attending a project board meeting regarding Kings Dyke.

Cllr Curtis advised this is the third significant find from Must Farm and he is disappointed that everything disappears to Flag Fen, if it were possible to have something in Whittlesey it would be a fantastic draw to the town, however Flag Fen is the second best option.

Cllr Mrs Laws asked if we could look into a lottery grant to set up a scheme to look after some of the artefacts.

Cllr Mrs Laws advised members that as soon as notices are received regarding flooding they are forwarded to all Cllrs and also posted on the website. Currently the Northbank remains closed. A drop down sign on the post near Kelly Vision is locked, CCC are going to have a look at the sign. Cllr Mrs Laws is still pursuing the mobile information boards, she is going to both CCC and Peterborough City Council to see if they would provide funding for these, which if purchased could be moved around to ensure the correct information is displayed.

F13/16. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including:- (these are applications that fall outside the normal meeting).

A copy of the planning decisions taken by Fenland District Council is attached – White Sheet

F/YR15/1073/F – Erection of 2 x 2 storey 3 bed dwellings – Land East of 12/14 Falcon Lane, Whittlesey.

The Town Council recommend refusal on the grounds that the application is not compliant with the current policy as the ruling is for 2 parking spaces for these size houses
Cllr Miscandlon and Cllr Mrs Laws took no part in the discussion or vote.

F/YR15/1085/TRCA – Fell 2no Silver Birch Trees within a conservation area – 27 Woolpack Lane, Whittlesey.

Alon

Cllr Mason declared a personal interest so will not vote or recommend approval or refusal, he however has advised members that the trees were large and resting on a building, and had been poorly managed in recent years. Cllr Garratt has looked at the trees, he is not a tree surgeon, however is concerned that the town is losing so many of its trees, surely these could be pollarded and not cut down.

The Town Council have agreed that they cannot make an informed decision due to insufficient information. The Clerk to email Graham Causey and request he view the trees and submit a report to FDC and WTC, this will be forwarded to Cllr Mason, Garratt and Mrs Jolley for their comment. Cllr Miscandlon and Cllr Mrs Laws took no part in the discussion or vote.

F/2010/15/CC - Development of a single carriageway road south of the existing A605 (Peterborough Rd) from a point 480m west to 435m east of the current King's Dyke level crossing passing south of the commercial properties taking the new A605 road over the rail line on a bridge, also including two new 3 arm roundabout junctions (one with Funtham's Lane and one with the brickworks access), two underpasses maintaining private access requirements, a footway along the full length of the link road, two surface water drainage balancing/ soakage ponds, a surface water attenuation ditch, street lighting, safety fencing, signage, landscaping/ planting, a site compound and a temporary access to the brickworks. - Land to the South of the A605 (Peterborough Road) from a point 480 metres west to 435 metres east of the Kings Dyke level cross.

Cllr Boden will not take any part in this as he may be on the Committee at CCC when this is further discussed.

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval, Cllr Boden abstained, the remaining Cllrs voted unanimously in favour of this application.

Cllr Miscandlon and Cllr Mrs Laws took no part in the discussion or vote.

APP/DO515/W/15/3137775 -F/YR15/0307/F – Land West of Lazy Acre Farm Crease Bank Whittlesey – Change of use of land to form 3 x caravan pitches (retrospective) with associated parking and erection of a utility block.

Members discussed this appeal and requested that the Clerk send the same information to the Planning Inspectorate that has already been sent to Fenland District Council.

Cllr Miscandlon and Cllr Mrs Laws took no part in the discussion or vote.

F14/16. Agenda items for Discussion.

Budget and Precept for 2016/2015 Presentation by Cllr Dorling F & P Chairman

- Cllr Dorling referred members to the budget information and summary sheet giving details for the proposed budget and Precept for 2016/17. Cllr Dorling thanked the Committee and the Clerk for their work on the budget. The overall precept will be increased by 6.7%, which equates to approximately 4p per week based on a band D property, the town council have pruned back where possible and endeavoured to keep costs to a minimum. Cllr Boden was keen to stress that we should not take responsibility for items that other authorities should be looking after. Cllr Boden requested that the 20K that has been earmarked for accommodation contingency is not expenditure and shouldn't be shown as that, his suggestion is that we allow 20K of the funds that are being received to be held back for a potential use, this just needs to be shown as a difference between the expenditure and income and not as listed expenditure. Cllr Curtis stressed that WTC have increased by 6.7% to cover potential services that may no longer be undertaken by the District and County Council and could fall to the town council. Cllr Dorling proposed that the budget is accepted and that the precept of £158682 be requested from Fenland District Council. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.

Notice board update –Cllr Mrs Mayor.

- This item has discussed under the Community Project section earlier in the meeting.

Mason

Bus update – Cllr Mason reported as follows:

- The only provider of regular services to Following the survey carried out in the late summer and autumn on bus services between Peterborough and the district of Whittlesey many residents came forward with their views, all of which were passed on to Cambridgeshire County Council and Fenland District Council for consideration.

Since that time I have been negotiating not only with the local authorities but also have written to various bus companies, Peterborough City Council and enlisted the wholehearted support of Whittlesey Town Council. Unfortunately, the current news is not good.

The only provider of regular bus services in the Whittlesey area, Stagecoach, have refused to consider the provision of late night transport or the revision of certain routes within Whittlesey. This despite the Whittlesey Town Council being willing to consider funding a three-month trial.

No local bus company has shown any interest in providing an alternative service to Stagecoach although, Tower Transit an Australian company who purchased Whippet Coaches of St Ives last year have promised to further monitor the situation in the coming months.

Peterborough City Council do not subsidise Stagecoach at all so have no influence on persuading that particular bus company to extend their services from Park Farm or Cardea into Whittlesey.

FACT Community Transport operated through Fenland District Council have given me a costing for providing a 16 seater minibus but even if the bus was filled for every journey a minimum of £13 per journey would be required to break even which obviously is not practicable.

Whilst this news is disappointing I will continue to negotiate with local bus companies in the hope that one will eventually come forward to replace the now defunct Judd's Transport but the signs are not encouraging at the present time. End

- Cllr Miscandlon expressed his thanks on behalf of the council to Cllr Mason for his efforts so far. Cllr Boden asked if it is worth investigating other avenues, i.e. large taxi's that have a licence that could take no more than nine, Cllr Mrs Mayor advised it would be a 'Private Hire', Cllr Butcher is concerned that this would be working in opposition to FACT who currently run the service. Cllr Mrs Laws felt there is a niche in the market for a Thursday when it is late night shopping in Peterborough. Cllr Curtis advised members that stagecoach have never enhanced or sold their services to people to make it better, the did a few years ago lay on a later bus service which was generated when buses were reduced to every 20 minutes from 15 minutes. This service was fund for a short period, but was not well advertised by Stagecoach, so finally the service was pulled, but the frequency of the day buses was not put back to every 15 minutes. Cllr Curtis and members agreed that Cllr Mason continue to see if there are any other operators that would be interested in putting additional services on.

Showfield update

- Cllr Boden has been in communication with members of the Showfield group and the other ward Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor, Cllr Boden advised this is the last realistic opportunity that WTC have to try and prevent the Showfield being developed. Members agreed to send a letter to the DCLG, this is the best way forward without risking a huge amount of funds to go to JR, which could prove dangerous for the council. Cllr Miscandlon and Mrs Laws abstained, however all remaining Cllrs voted in favour of the letter. The letter will be dual signed by Cllr Mason and Cllr Mrs Jolley.

AKK

Letter from Whittlesey Town Council to Kevin White, Planning Casework Officer, National Planning Casework Unit, Department for Communities and Local Government, 5 St Philip's Place, Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2PW (also for email to Kevin White at kevin.white@communities.gsi.gov.uk, to his Manager Karen.rose@communities.gsi.gov.uk, to the new head of Planning at FDC (as a matter of courtesy) and to our MP.

Fenland District Council Planning Application F/YR15/0134/O

Whittlesey Town Council requests that the Secretary of State re-considers calling-in Fenland District Council Planning Application F/YR15/0134/O and/or that he considers instructing Fenland District Council to re-determine this application in accordance with National Policy Planning Guidelines.

Planning Application F/YR15/0134/O was a Hybrid Planning Application consisting of an outline application for the erection of 220 dwellings (max) with access, public open space and associated works/infrastructure, together with a full application for the engineering works associated with the formation of the vehicular access road off B1040 East Delph. The application related to land north of Whittlesey and east of East Delph in Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire.

This planning application was approved by Fenland District Council's Planning Committee on July 22nd 2015 although, as at the date of this letter, no consent notice had yet been issued by Fenland District Council in relation to this planning application.

The Secretary of State was sufficiently concerned about this planning application that he issued a notice to Fenland District Council advising that, if the planning committee should be minded to approve the application, the Secretary of State would wish to consider the application for Call-in. However, the documentation supplied to the Secretary of State by Fenland District Council failed to include or sufficient emphasise several material facts, was incomplete and was misleading. So when the Secretary of State did consider this application after it was approved by the Fenland District Council Planning Committee, he did so without having sight of all of the material facts associated with this application. Those additional material facts are outlined in this letter and Whittlesey Town Council requests that the Secretary of State reconsiders his evaluation of this planning application in the light of these additional material facts. Whittlesey Town Council would appreciate acknowledgement of your receipt of this request.

This planning application relates to land in and immediately adjacent to areas within flood zone 3b – the local functional flood plain known as "The Whittlesey Washes", which makes up a significant portion of the River Nene flood defences, protecting the City of Peterborough and dozens of smaller towns and villages in a wide area falling within several local authorities. The incorrect determination of this planning application by Fenland District Council sets a dangerous precedent for permitting development within Flood Zone 3b without seeking to satisfy the Sequential Test and the Exception Test as required in Paragraphs 100-104 of the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) and in Planning Practice Guidance 7 (PPG7). Not only would such development threaten additional flooding problems in the immediate area, but all of the local authorities in the area of this flood plain, and others around the country, could be subject to unnecessary additional risk of flooding of residential and other development if the precedent set by Fenland District Council in this planning application were to be followed elsewhere in Fenland or in other local authorities. Failure to follow the clearly defined rules in the NPPF and in PPG7 as to when development may be permitted in the functional floodplain is a fundamental threat to the effectiveness of National Policy to manage flood risk and in the opinion of Whittlesey Town Council justifies the intervention, at this stage, of the Secretary of State. This failure also breaches Fenland District Council's Local Plan Policy LP14 [Responding to Climate Change and Managing the Risk of Flooding in Fenland]. Part (B) [Flood Risk and Drainage] of LP14 states that all development proposals should adopt a sequential approach to flood risk from all forms of flooding. Development in areas known to be at risk from any form of flooding will be subject to demonstrating development will not have an adverse effect on risk of flooding.

ASHA

In addition to the blatant failure of Fenland District Council to follow the requirements of PPG7 and LP14 when considering this application to permit development within flood zone 3b, Fenland District Council, in voting to approve this application, is seeking to give permission to an unsustainable development for 220 dwellings – a scheme which is unsustainable because:

a) Neither of the two vehicular access roads to and from the residential development is wholly above the 5 metre AOD contour line, thus clearly creating a significant risk that this residential development will be dangerously cut off in times of flooding.

b) There is a significant and recent history of major flooding on the B1040 at the main proposed access point to this residential development which was not adequately referred to in the documentation prepared for and presented to the Fenland District Council Planning Committee which considered this application. Atkins Limited, acting on behalf of Cambridgeshire Highways, have confirmed that this route was closed for a total of 55 days across ten separate occasions over the 12 month period between 1st April 2012 and 1st April 2013.

c) There is a secondary access road to and from the proposed development, but this is inadequate given the size of the proposed development, the need to breach the 5 metre AOD contour line when using this secondary access road, and the nature of the existing residential road network which this secondary access/exit road would have to use each time the main access road junction floods.

d) The extensive flood alleviation measures for internal road access through flood zone 3b within the development reduces the economic viability of the whole development to such an extent as to substantially reduce, or even eliminate, the ability to seek section 106 contributions for necessary support for community infrastructure.

e) No consideration has been given as to whether overland flow routes from the existing neighbouring residential developments can be maintained to avoid additional risk to the existing developments and to avoid creating potential risk to the new development, contrary to the National Policy Planning Framework and Statements. This failure was highlighted by the Council's own drainage consultant, Peter Brett Associates (final paragraph of page 2 of their report) where they state "The other issue raised by residents and the Council's expert on the previous application was whether overland flow routes from the existing [development] can be maintained to avoid additional risk to the existing development and creating potential risk to the new development. This has not been considered in either the FRA or drainage report. JPP [on behalf of the applicants] interpret this issue as being the exceedence risk in the new drainage system. It is not. JPP are failing to consider all flood risks as required by NPPG". The Council's report from Peter Brett Associates can be found at: http://www.fenland.gov.uk/publicaccess/files/C75780F0440DC8FD1D8640CA5FF055BD/pdf/F_YR_15_0134_O-FDC_DRAINAGE_CONSULTANT-186154.pdf

Proposed development within Flood Zone 3b – failure by Fenland District Council to follow PPG7

The NPPF and PPG7 quite clearly state that areas within Flood Zone 3 are deemed for the purposes of determining planning applications to be areas at risk of flooding. Paragraph 103 of the NPPF states:

"When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure flood risk is not increased elsewhere and only consider development appropriate in areas at risk of flooding where, informed by a site-specific flood risk assessment following the Sequential Test, and if required the Exception Test, it can be demonstrated that:

.....

- Development is appropriately flood resilient and resistant, including safe access and escape routes where required, and that any residual risk can be safely managed, including by emergency planning; and it gives priority to the use of sustainable draining systems."

In Planning Application F/YR15/0134/O a full application is made for "engineering works associated with the formation of the vehicular access road off the B1040". These works, and this access road, lie well within Flood Zone 3b. Any development within Flood Zone 3b (apart from the

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very minor exceptions listed in paragraph 46 of PPG7, which are not relevant in this case) should be subject to the Sequential Test. No Sequential Test has been undertaken in respect of this proposed development, nor has the area of the development been subject to any Sequential Test evaluation as part of the Local Plan.

Table 2 of PPG7 (paragraph 66) clearly states that, as part of the flood risk classification process, "essential infrastructure" is defined as including mass evacuation routes which have to cross the area at risk. Table 3 of PPG7 (paragraph 67) maps development as classified in Table 2 against the different flood zones to indicate where development is "appropriate" and where it should not be permitted. Table 3 clearly states that essential infrastructure should be subject to the Exception Test, and that it "should be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood". No Exception Test has been conducted in respect of the development within Flood Zone 3b included in this Planning Application. Moreover, had any Exception Test been carried out, it is demonstrably the case that it would have failed because this "vehicular access road off the B1040" would be unusable in times of flood when the B1040 is itself underwater at the site of the junction with this proposed vehicular access road.

In fact, the whole development of 220 dwellings completely fails the requirement within PPG7 (paragraph 57) that "safe access and egress should be maintained for the lifetime of the development". Paragraph 103 of the NPPF states that development should be "appropriately flood resilient and resistant, including safe access and escape routes where required, and that any residual risk can be safely managed, including by emergency planning". Paragraph 57 of PPG7 emphasises the importance of the "adequacy of evacuation routes" and "sufficiently detailed and up to date evacuation plans being in place for the locality". However, in this case, with both of the entry/exit roads to the proposed development being under the 5 metre AOD contour line, there is clearly a significant danger that residents in this development would be unable to evacuate when the floodplain floods. This would have emerged if a full site-specific Flood Risk Assessment had been carried out in accordance with PPG7 – however, the assessment produced on behalf of the applicant astonishingly failed to mention the potential access problems for the whole development when the flood plain floods given that both of the vehicular access routes to and from the whole development include sections which beneath the 5 metre AOD contour line.

The failure in this planning application to conduct a Sequential Test, an Exception Test and an adequate site-specific Flood Risk Assessment for this planning application, despite the significant development within Flood Zone 3b, is a flagrant breach of both PPG7 and of the NPPF. If the decision to approve this planning application is allowed to proceed unchallenged, it is the opinion of Whittlesey Town Council, and of many concerned local residents, that we will see an unsustainable housing estate developed in a very unsafe location without adequate emergency safeguards leading to the real possibility of a danger not only to property but also to human life.

We have all seen in recent months and years the devastating effect that flooding can have on residential communities around the country. In the opinion of Whittlesey Town Council it would be irresponsible madness to create a new community of 220 homes which would be so clearly at risk of becoming inaccessible because of a known flooding risk. We enclose a copy of a recent publication, "Whittlesey in Flood", to show how flooding affects the Whittlesey Washes. In a recent Planning Appeal Hearing against a previous refusal for development on this site, the Planning Inspector found this booklet to be illustrative and informative.

As a matter of national public policy, and to protect the interests of residents and other property owners in other local authorities which share riparian interests in maintaining the effectiveness of this flood plain, Whittlesey Town Council believes that the Secretary of State should intervene in this planning application to ensure that it is determined in accordance with both the National Policy Planning Framework and the relevant sections of Planning Practice Guidance.

End.

Hereward Community Rail Partnership – Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor - This item was dealt with earlier in the agenda

Tour of Cambridge Survey – Cllr Whitwell

- Cllr Whitwell advised that a leaflet drop of 8000 will be produced and will be distributed to all households, each household can respond via the survey form to the office or use the link on the website, name and address are mandatory fields on this form, if these are not completed, the response will be disregarded. Cllr Whitwell will check to ensure that only one application is received from each household. Cllr Whitwell will be in the office on Friday to commence the printing of these documents. Cllr Garratt requested that this be put on the social media sites as well, Cllr Curtis offered to put this on. The document was proposed by Cllr Whitwell, seconded Cllr Butcher with a unanimous vote in favour of this action.

Car Parking charges – Cllr Boden

- FDC have conducted a comprehensive spending review to ensure comply with the statutory requirements to have a balanced budget in the year ahead, one of their proposals was to convert the car parks owned by FDC to paid parking and not free parking. Such a proposal would generate a large amount of revenue, however the harm that could be done to Whittlesey would be disproportionate and could not only affect businesses, but also general footfall. There is no decision as yet and further conversations are taking place at FDC. Cllr Boden proposed that a resolution be passed today and sent to Cllr John Clark, Leader, Fenland District Council opposing the introduction of paid parking. Proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Whitwell, unanimous, however Cllr Butcher abstained as he has to keep an open mind, Cllr Mrs Mayor advised members that she was voting as a WTC Cllr and not a Fenland Cllr. Cllr Curtis has heard that a decision has been made by FDC not to introduce paid parking. Cllr Curtis advised that FDC is here to serve the people of fenland and the reality is it should not be implementing things to collect revenue for itself and car parking charges should never have been brought up. Cllr Butcher this is the third time since he has been a Cllr that car parking has been looked at and he ideally doesn't want there to be charge, however he does feel that our car parks are abused. Members voted in favour of the submission that had been proposed by Cllr Boden, there was one abstention from the vote.

Submission:

Whittlesey Town Council notes the suggestion raised within FDC to introduce charges for parking in FDC car parks. WTC further notes that this suggestion is being raised by FDC purely for financial reasons, not to finance any improvements in or extension to car parking provision.

WTC is concerned that the introduction of paid parking in Whittlesey could materially damage the Town Centre's economic viability, which is currently less than robust. **WTC therefore opposes the introduction of paid parking in Whittlesey.** Unlike the other three market towns in Fenland, Whittlesey has no edge-of-town supermarket with its own substantial parking provision - business lost from Whittlesey Town Centre would be lost from Whittlesey completely.

WTC requests that, before resolving to introduce paid parking in Whittlesey, Fenland District Council should:

- a. consult fully with those affected in Whittlesey to ensure that the introduction of car park charges would not cause disproportionate harm to be suffered by town centre businesses.
- b. commission an independent technical review of off street and on street car parking provision in Whittlesey to model the likely wider effects that the introduction of paid car parking in Whittlesey's FDC car parks would produce, including the impact on residential roads within five minutes walk of the Town Centre and the likely reduction in footfall in Whittlesey Town Centre.
- c. carefully evaluate, in the light of a and b above, whether there would be any, or any significant, net community benefit in imposing charges for FDC car parks in Whittlesey.

Enc.

F15/16. Ward Matters

- Cllr Curtis – expressed concern regarding the increase in minor car vandalism, he advised that members of the public are also concerned about this issue – The Clerk to Email Sgt Ben Di Meo. Cllr Butcher advised there had been two break ins on Coates Road in day light.
- Cllr Boden – concerned that Balfour Beatty are stating that no agreement had ever been in place with regards to not taking away lights that were needed. Cllr Mrs Laws advised that at the meeting with BB notes were taken as the Town Clerk was not present. Cllr Mrs Laws advised that she and Cllr Mrs Mayor had carried out an in depth survey of their ward and were advised at this meeting with BB that lights would be replaced like for like and not removed and areas not left in the dark, especially at junctions. Cllr Mrs Laws is still trying to have the light reinstated outside numbers 23/25 Yarwells Headlands.
- Cllr Mason advised their newsletter has been delivered to all their residents and he recommends that all other Cllrs produce their newsletters as soon as possible. Cllr Mason also advised members that it was the first AGM for the Whittlesey Business Forum next week 20th January and encouraged as many Cllrs as possible to attend.
- Cllr Mrs Laws Advised members that the first Councillor surgery at Grosvenor House would be Saturday 9th January and she and Cllr Wicks were in attendance, four residents had attended and their issues would be passed to the Ward Cllr, the next surgery is Saturday 23rd June 2016 at 9.30 and will be attended by Cllrs Boden and Dorling.
- Cllr Mrs Jolley had attended the last Neighbourhood watch meeting and had been made aware of some burglaries within the wards.
- Cllr Mrs Mayor advised members that CCC highway contractors have reinstated the verge at end of High Causeway and Junction of A605.
- Cllr Bristow has received complaints regarding the footpaths in Mill Road as they are uneven and have really bad potholes, Cllr Bristow will email Cllr Butcher with the details.
- Cllr Bristow asked if there had been any update on the Taylor Wimpey application – Cllr Curtis has advised that the developer is currently looking at the viability of the planning application.
- Cllr Bristow advised he is very disappointed about the Sainsbury situation. Cllr Curtis has tried to make contact with some other providers to see if they would be interested in coming to Whittlesey and will continue to work on this.
- Cllr Curtis has done some research into this and feels that only way the residents will be happy with the conduct of Fenland District Council will be for an independent enquiry to be undertaken. Information has revealed that FDC advised that external legal advice was taken from the start of the process, when in fact this was not true the legal advice was only taken when the FDC planning committee illegally overturned the initial approval of Sainsbury. Why had it taken over one year to agree the Section 106? Did they have a lack of responsiveness to questions asked of them? If this decision had been made quicker by FDC, there is a possibility that the supermarket may have been built. Cllr Curtis feels that the way forward with this is now about making sure lessons are learnt from this, for example FDC would have received a significant business rate increase from the supermarket in Whittlesey. In the recent commons review, there have been changes to planning for example fees based on individual applications and the ability for an applicant to

ask for a planning application to be processed by an approved person and not just the local authority, this basically puts competition into the way planning works.

- Cllr Curtis would like a letter be sent from Whittlesey Town Council asking for an independent review to be undertaken to look at everything that has gone on from the beginning, not just the Sainsbury Tesco issue, but the first proposal which was for Tesco on the land behind the new Queen Street Doctors surgery on the A605. Cllr Boden agreed about processes that have been approved that have not been accurate, he advised that he has some degree of confidence about the new arrangements that are in place within planning and Peterborough City Council, giving better access to very experienced Officers and Planners. Cllr Boden advised he is not in favour of a letter being sent from discussions at the meeting tonight and feels that the scope of a letter like this should be discussed further. Cllr Boden suggested this be an agenda item for the next FC meeting, this will enable people to consider the scope that will be included in the letter. Cllr Mason asked if it is appropriate for fenland to investigate their own conduct? Cllr Bristow felt that the enquiry should have the confidence of the general public and it must be transparent, he doesn't see how you can have a transparent inquiry, it needs to be open. Cllr Boden stated the difficulty with this would be cost and it could run to a five figure sum. Members agreed to defer this item until the February meeting.

F16/16. Approval of Bank reconciliation and Council payments.

Members approved the bank reconciliation, year to date figures and council payments.

F17/16. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

Resolved that in respect of the following item of business, the public, including the press, will be excluded from the meeting, because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, publication of which would be prejudicial to the public interest.

F18/16. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F2/16

- Town Council Tenants
- Whittlesey Town Council – Grosvenor House

F19/16. Date of next full Council meeting – Wednesday 10th February 2016 at 7.30 at Grosvenor House.

Meeting Closed: 10.05

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Cllr Miscandlon
Mayor of Whittlesey