

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Handwritten signature/initials in blue ink.

Minutes of the Full Council held on Wednesday 8th February 2017 at 7.30 pm at Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey

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

Officer in Attendance:

Mrs Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

Recording: DS2500102.DS2

F20/17. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Mrs Windle (Holiday)

F21/17 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 F40/17

- Approval of confidential minute from 11th January 2017
- Grosvenor House – AM/ED/DM
- Neighbourhood Plan - ED

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

F22/17 Police matters including CCTV Report

PCSO Shane Green was unable to attend, but sent the following update.

Anti-Social Behaviour in Whittlesey has been a minor issue through January especially in the area of coronation avenue and Feldale Place.

Intervention is in place with known youth nominals and currently we are seeing the progress of this.

Speed initiatives are in place with local schools to help tackle the issue, this is in the early stages.

I am aware a few of you have emailed in relation to complaints, they have all been noted and added to the patrol plan and I will get around to providing individuals on updates with issues.

End.

F23/17 Street Scene Officer Report

Cllr Garratt advised there had been an article on social media regarding dog fouling in the town centre, Cllr Bristow commented that the dog fouling on New Road was particularly bad, Members suggested an article be put into the local magazines encouraging dog owners to pick up after their dogs etc. Cllr Miscandlon to write the article on dog fouling.

Cllr Mrs Laws advised there had been Fly tipping at end of West Delph on numerous occasions over the past few weeks, bags of rubbish and furniture had been thrown into Morton's Leam. Cllr Mrs Laws asked if a surveillance camera could be installed, the Clerk to contact Sally Mitchell, Street Scene Officer at Fenland District Council.

F24/17 Kings Dyke update, Mr Tim Watkins, Project Manager – CCC. (15 mins)

This was the press release that had been issued by CCC regarding the Kings Dyke Crossing.

Handwritten initials/signature

Cambridgeshire County Council continues work to replace King's Dyke level crossing. The plan to replace the crossing with a bridge and bypass to the south was overwhelmingly popular with the public, local businesses and Councillors. The bypass will connect to the A605 with roundabouts at Funthams Lane and the brick works access road.

Planning permission for the bridge and bypass was granted in Spring 2016 and preparations have continued behind the scenes at the County Council over the last eight months of the year. Officers started on-site in early January to carry out land surveys, ground investigations and negotiations with landowners. The surveys will provide information about soil conditions, which is crucial for construction design.

A tender inviting company to bid for this multi-million-pound project is planned to go out in March 2017. After a 10-week period, officers will evaluate the bids and then make an announcement when a contractor is chosen. The successful bidder will work with County Council officers to draw up detailed engineering designs for the bridge and bypass prior to the start of works.

The Compulsory Purchase Orders necessary to buy the land needed for the scheme are also being prepared and these orders will go out soon. The Orders will advertise the County Council's intentions to buy the land for the statutory notification period.

A presentation on the scheme was given to Fenland District Councillors at their Full Council meeting in November and County Council Officers are regularly liaising Whittlesey Council Councillors on scheme progress. The Project Manager, Tim Watkins, also recently updated Whittlesey Town Council on developments.

Officers anticipate that works may start on site at King's Dyke by Autumn 2017, subject to CPO objections and Network Rail permissions.

The latest information about the project is available on the County Council website at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/kings-dyke.

End

In addition to the above, CCC have met with the land owner to discuss if agreement can be reached to avoid progressing with the CPO. CCC has further meetings arranged with all the landowners e.g. Network Rail and others to discuss any objections they may have and to mitigate the risk

Cllr Wicks asked – Would Compulsory Purchase delay the scheme? Mr Watkins advised this is a last resort and they would like to try and avoid this.

Cllr Bristow – Why do we have to wait until July to make the announcement of who will be awarded the contract, this is due to the election on 4th May, therefore the committees will not be in place until June at the earliest, it is the intention to award the contract in June and the contractor would be announced in July. Cllr Boden has suggested that he contact the leader of CCC and request an interim announcement is made as soon as practically possible.

Cllr Boden asked that if any drainage issues are discovered during the preliminary works the information is notified to the local IDB. Cllr Boden also asked what if any further agreements are required from Network Rail. Mr Watkins advised that Network Rail are the biggest risk as CCC must give permission for a closure and they usually request three points of closure to mitigate any risk, e.g. high winds which would prevent the bridge being lowered into place. Network rail have an agreement in principle with CCC for the design of the bridge. CCC must agree the purchase of the air rights, e.g. they must purchase the air over the line to be able to operate over a live railway line, this is standard procedure for any construction that occurs over Network Rail property.

Mr Watkins advised when the period of construction commences, traffic notices will be issued, the public will be notified advising of potential delays and what will be going on. A publicity event will be held to advise the public of the delays and how the route will work. The Town Council would like to be included in any notifications that are issued to enable the information to be published on the councils webstie.

Cllr Butcher advised that he has attended every project board meeting and Network Rail have in the majority not turned up for these meetings. Mr Watkins advised the new person at Network Rail is the CCC point of contact and will be up to speed with Kings Dyke when it commences as he is working on a similar project in Ely.

F25/17 To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 11th January 2017



Ratified: The Minutes were approved with one amendment

Item F/09/17 – Insert the word ‘Not’ dogs excluded.

F26/17 Public Forum

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

Two members of the public were present.

Mr Bernard – Esson-Gray – Street Pride asked by Cllr Mrs Windle to do some remedial work on the benches along the bower, this was completed, however it was identified that there was another concrete plinth with no bench present. Street pride had a bench donated to them and they asked if they could install this on the Bower. The concrete has been replaced and the bench will be installed.

This year is Street Prides 10year anniversary, they are discussing doing something more for the 10th anniversary. They have met with Garry Edwards from FDC and will be looking at taking over the grassed area on the corner of Grosvenor Road/Eastgate, they potentially may put flowers there, but have been donated a beet cutter which they may use as a focal point and work round it. Mr Esson Gray has now received a phone call to advise that there are no objections to Street pride looking after this piece of land, they are just waiting for confirmation that they can commence work on the land

Mr Esson Gray referred members to the Street Scene report where there have been 8 incidences of fly tipping in the town, however 52 in the villages. Could the Town Council ensure that FDC are on top of this.

Cambridgeshire Regiment – Mr Esson Grey advised there will be a remembrance on the 15th February at the Cambridge Guildhall at 5pm

Mr David Lewis – commented that Whittlesey has lost of great has lost a great deal of large trees in the town and perhaps the council could look at a tree planting scheme.

F27/17 Information Only.

- Thank you letter form Whittlesey Christian Church for the donation – Neighbourhood Plan.

F28/17 Invitations.

Partnership Event – Lattersey Nature Reserve Sunday 28th May 2017 – KM – The Clerk to email Rachel Price asking when the time and venue of the meeting.

F29/17 Consultation

There were no consultants

F30/17 To receive the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 16th January 2017 and to report the draft minutes from the 1st February 2017.

The Minutes were approved and reported respectively.

F31/17 To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 1st February 2017

The Minutes were reported – Cllr Garratt proposed the purchase of the bin from FDC at a cost of £153.80 installed, seconded Cllr Curtis, unanimous vote in favour. Members did agree that Cllr Wicks would investigate if the bin could be located on the existing pole, if not a new pole would need to be installed and this may incur further costs. Cllr Wicks to contact CCC or FDC and report back to the Clerk who can then order the bin if it can be fitted on the existing post.

F32/17 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on Monday 16th January 2017

The Minutes were reported.

Item FP05/ 17 -from F & P Minutes on 16th January for the additional costs on the Turves LHI, this additional cost was proposed by Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Boden with a unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Boden asked about the term on our invested funds, Cllr Dorling advised that the term was for 1 year, and we could withdraw the funds, we would obtain the full capital and lose a small amount of the interest in the investment.

Cllr Boden asked that when the first part of the 2017/18 was received could we invest a further 70K this would obviously depend on the cashflow.

Cllr Curtis asked members why the historic holding balances of the S106 are still being shown as available, when if not spend a developer could reclaim them. The Mayor was asked to investigate and report back to the next meeting.

F33/17 To report the financial documents

The Chairman advised we are 85% through the year with a 65% spend, if this continues there should be a further 40K that could be put into reserves.

- To report the bank reconciliation
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments
- To report the year to date figures

Members approved bank reconciliation, the list of payments and uncashed payments and year to date figures.

F34/17 To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.

Cllr Butcher – Local Highway Improvements - advised the three submissions from Whittlesey scored quite well.

Cllr Mason – Had attended the Business Forum AGM and subsequent meeting that had been attended by Steve Barclay which had gone very well.

Cllr Mason – Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid – they are going to launch a poster campaign to give it more publicity, they will also contact local farmers to ascertain what happens with any surplus food.

Cllr Mason – Whittlesey IDB – they now have purchased some telemetry to link up the various pump stations which enables this to be monitored from one location and the operative does not have to visit all locations.

Cllr Mason – Pubwatch meeting - the members of pub watch are very disillusioned with the lack of communication from the licensing department, they have also received some not very nice letters from PC Phil Richardson, they are not members of the main scheme but they do conform to all the rules.

Cllr Boden – Whittlesey IDB – technically outside the area of WTC, this was remarked by the Chairman advising that one of the large farms at Facet Fen has been purchased by a large Spanish Mining company, it will remain as a farm for the foreseeable future.

Cllr Garratt left the meeting 9.02.

Cllr Mrs Laws – advised members that she and Ray attended residents meeting at Grosvenor House regarding Snowley Park that had been organised by Glen Moore at FDC. Could we send a letter from WTC to FDC to thank Mr Glen Moore Enforcement Officer for all his hard work and for being proactive and having a great working relationship with residents and Ward Cllrs.

Cllr Mrs Mayor & Mrs Laws – Had attended the North Level Drainage board meeting.

Cllr Bristow will be attending the Burnthouse farm funding meeting on the 7th March.

F35/17. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including:-

To receive the list of planning application decisions.

F36/17. Agenda items for Discussion.

- Community Road Watch / SID – Update AM/AB – both Cllr Miscandlon and Bristow had attended at their own locations. Cllr Bristow felt the times that were attended on Station Road were wrong, however speeding vehicles were logged. Polite letters have been sent to the companies of the speeding vehicles. (8 – 8.50 and approximately 4pm) Cllr Bristow feels the worst time for speeding is 7am in the morning when there is light traffic on the road. They have recommended a SID (Speed Indicative Devices), the cost is £5 k to £6K for both, permission for the installation would have to be obtained from Balfour Beatty, CCC and the police. Cllr Miscandlon was in the layby as you leave Coates school at both the start and end of the school day. Highest recorded speed for a vehicle coming into Coates in the afternoon session was 49mph. Cllr Miscandlon to speak to the Sector Inspector and request a meeting as we now have the evidence to show there is a speeding problem at both Station Road and Coates Road. Cllr Miscandlon advised that 33% vehicles at that point in Coates were over the speed limit.
Cllr Mrs Laws advised they had postponed Stonald Road, but she will contact them when the planning issues have ceased. Cllr Boden suggested that perhaps CCC could put a speed measurement strip across the road near the school to monitor the speed and the times. Cllr Wicks suggested that perhaps in the future an additional strip be located further in the village.
- Neighbourhood Plan – DL – This was being discussed under confidential items.
- Kings Dyke Crossing (Tim Watkins CCC) – Cllr Boden proposed, seconded Cllr Mrs Mayor, unanimous vote in favour
- Crossing by the Co – Op – Councillor Boden checked that members had read the document that had been received from Garry Edwards, this had been circulated by the Clerk. Members advised they had read the report. Cllr Boden requested the following actions be taken :
 - A. That the Clerk seeks permission from the Grosvenor Road reporting author, Garry Edwards, to circulate his report as follows:
 1. On the Town Council website
 2. To the local police, requesting that they take appropriate enforcement action at the location
 3. To the Co-Op and to the local taxi office on Grosvenor Road, advising that we have asked the police to take appropriate enforcement action.
 - B. That we monitor the situation on Grosvenor Road with a view to considering this project for inclusion in the next years LHI programme.
 - C. That the Clerk advise Simon King, Executive Member for transport of this resolution.

Items A (1,2 & 3), B and C were proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mayor with unanimous vote in favour.

- Route 63 Cycle Way – one of the locks has been replaced, however the services can open one gate and get through, we do have two new locks.
- Whittlesey Conservation Area – RW – Chase letter that went to Mr Rob Bridge FDC regarding the Whittlesey Conservation report, Cllr Wicks advised members the conservation report for Coates was at the final stage before being presented and approved at FDC
- Fenland Transport Strategy – Cllr Boden has no response to his email, he will chase this when he is at Shire Hall in the next few weeks.
- Commonwealth Day – AM – Members agreed to proceed with this,
- Community Rail Partnership – AB – Cllrs Bristow advised following the site meeting the lock has been removed from the five-bar gate. Photos have been taken of the debris and these have been sent to Network Rail. Two contractors have been to site to discuss the lighting, there is no reason why low energy bulbs could be used and additional lighting could be installed, Network rail will be discussing this and will report back on the 27th March 2017. Cllr Bristow advised members that a Feasibility study will be completed on all three stations to ascertain why people don't use the railway stations.

- Proposed building purchase for the Town Council – ED – Members have agreed to proceed with the potential purchase of a suitable building to house the council offices of the Clerk, and meeting rooms. The council would then own this property rather than paying rent therefore creating an asset. There is no additional cost to the public via the precept Members have been asked to agree the proposed announcement. The Chairman and the Town Clerk will commence the paperwork to apply for a Public Works Load from the DCLG. This was proposed by Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Mason, unanimous vote in favour.
- Mayors Charity Account – Cllr Dorling advised members that as Lloyds Bank is closing we will move the Mayors Charity account to Barclays.

F37/17 Ward Matters

- Cllr Curtis – Drain at Fieldale – Cllr Boden to chase the ownership issue at CCC.
- Cllr Curtis – Tourism in the Fens – If a film is going to be made, could WTC put some funding towards it to ensure it is a good film.
- Cllr Mason – Business Forum – received letter advising that the Whittlesey Xtravaganza committee will not be running the event in 2017. Cllr Mason will be attending a meeting to discuss this further on behalf of the Business Forum on Wednesday 15th March at the Town Hall at 7.30pm, Cllr Bristow will represent the Council and ask if Steve can attend.
- Cllr Mason – LHI – Road calming at the Letter B, there would be yellow lines outside Park House, these were not installed at the time as the road safety team intervened and felt that this wasn't a road safety issue and the lines would not be installed. A subsequent meeting has been held with the Highways Supervisor who has suggested that WTC pay and CCC would install. Cllr Mason to obtain the costs for the yellow lines.

Cllr Miscandlon suspended standing orders at 10.00pm

- Cllr Whitwell - hope work will recommence on Monday on Commons Road
- Cllr Mrs Laws – continues to chase for the return of the gates.
- Cllr Mrs Mayor – advised street lights have been repaired on Stonald Road
- Cllr Bristow – More pots holes in evidence on New Road.
- Cllr Bristow – there are vacancies in the primary schools, it is tight in reception classes in all the schools. New Road will be expanding by another class in the summer therefore giving an additional 30 places.

F38/17. Date of next full Council meeting – Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.30 at Grosvenor House.

F39/17. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F40/17. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F21/17

Meeting Closed at 10.45



.....
Cllr Alex Miscandlon
Mayor of Whittlesey