

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held on Wednesday 9th November 2016 at 7.30 pm at Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey

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

F185/16. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Bristow (holiday)

Officer in Attendance - Mrs S Piergianni – Town Clerk

Recording DS2500.0084DS

F186/16. 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 F/204/16

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.

F187/16 Police matters including CCTV Report

Cllr Mrs Mayor reported that Vipenta house has been subject to vandalism, stones have been thrown at windows, groups have been seen hanging around the front of the building. Cllr Mrs Mayor is following this up.

F188/16 Street Scene Officer Report

Cllr Mrs Laws reported that there is fly tipping on Route 63, members of the public have been taking pictures and then contacting FDC to enable the rapid response unit to attend.

F189/16 Presentation from Mr Tim Watkins CCC – Kings Dyke Crossing

(Time allowed 15 minutes for presentation plus 15 minutes for Q & A)

Mr Watkins offered the following update: March 2016 planning permission was approved for the project. Works have been undertaken to move project forward – pricing from six contractors will be obtained, however they all require the ground investigation report be undertaken prior to them pricing for the contract. Just over 50% of the ground investigation works have been completed. Some of the ground investigation work needs to be carried out on private land. Cambridgeshire County Council to access this land have rights under highway powers as CCC are the highway authority, but the right has been challenged by opposing residents. Twice the County Council have served notice, but to gain the land through an enforcement process, the County Council have to demonstrate to the courts 'reasonableness in their approach to secure land entry. The County Council now consider they have been reasonable in their approach and that the next step would be to take legal action and serve notice.

Whatever decision is made by the board on the 8th December 2016, wait for land entry, force land entry or just go with the 50% ground investigation the project will progress.

They have also been negotiating with Network Rail to agree an asset agreement for the bridge, they have now agreed the length, width, etc.

Cllr Boden expressed concern about obstructive landowner preventing the ground investigation – the land could be achieved through a land agreement, however if this cannot be agreed a compulsory purchase order would be put in place.

Cllr Butcher – asked that when Mr Watkins has the three options could they be emailed to all board members who are working on this prior to their meeting on the 8th December 2016.

Cllr Curtis – if the landowner has prevented access to the land, can the CCC claim costs against the land owner. – this would come in with the CPO or land agreement.

Cllr Whitwell – how would the contractors feel if only 50% of the ground investigation had been completed, Mr Watkins advised that the contractors would have to be give an assumption of what the land is likely to be. They could however draw their conclusions from the ground investigation that have been completed on the 50% and work with this.

Cllr Wicks – Have the timelines been affected – Cllr Wicks was advised it has been delayed by two months

Cllr Curtis – could they update members with regular updates – Mr Watkins to send these to the Clerk.

Cllr Mrs Laws – How much land is involved in the CPO – Mr Watkins advised it is just short of 1 km.

Cllr Boden asked for assurance that construction will start in 2017 – Mr Watkins confirmed that the dates are all on the timeline.

F190/16 To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 12th October 2016

Ratified: The Minutes were approved.

F191/16 Public Forum

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

6 members of the public present.

Mr Stephen Hodson – Concerned about the Vipenta House criminal damage, they are an international firm and he is concerned that the CCTV did not pick that up.

Members agreed that if the building is being targeted, the Police need to be contacted – Letter to Chief Inspector Mike Hills to request an investigation into this.

F192/16 Information Only.

- Whittlesey Extravaganza – Friday 9th December – 5pm on the Market Place
- Remembrance Parade – 1.45 at the Ivy Leaf.

F193/16 Invitations.

There were no invitations

F194/16 Consultation

There are no consultations

F195/16 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 26th October 2016

The draft minutes were reported.

F196/16 To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 26th October 2016.

The draft minutes were reported

Members discussed the notice boards in each of the villages – the locations will be discussed at the Projects Meeting.

F197/16 To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting Monday 24th September 2016

- 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
- To present the draft budget proposals for 2017/18.

- To discuss the cost of the Christmas Roundel installation – This item was not discussed at the F & P meeting due to the Clerk being absent. Cllr Dorling proposed the cost of the roundel £100.00, this was seconded by Cllr Curtis with a unanimous vote in favour.

- Projector – Cllr Dorling advised members that it may be better practice to purchase a large TV with all the relevant ports instead of a projector, a TV would be more versatile. Cllr Dorling has found a 55" TV for £299.00 plus the cost of a licence. Cllr Curtis proposed the expenditure, seconded by Cllr Dorling with a unanimous vote in favour. Members further agreed a total expenditure of £600.00 to cover the bracket and installation. This was agreed unanimously.

- Cllr Dorling – will present the draft budget to the F & P committee in November, this will be disseminated to all members for consideration and comment and will go forward following F & P for approval at the December Full Council meeting. Cllr Dorling will circulate all proposed budget details to members for consideration and comment.

- Cllr Dorling advised members that at the last Community Projects meeting a quotation had been received for the new notice boards in the villages Cllr Garratt proposed £400.00 per notice board totalling £1600.00, this was seconded Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.

F198/16 To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.

Cllr Mason – Whittlesey and District Business Forum advised they have 60 paid members.

Cllr Mason – Whittlesey IDB meeting, there are a few issues, but they will be resolved.

Cllr Whitwell – The mud wall meetings continue and new walls are still being found.

Cllr Garratt – Middle Level Commissioners meeting – he raised the issue of erosion on the Bower towpath. The engineers will be investigating. Cllr Garratt has spoken to the unpaid work team and they will cut the grass from the start of the wood to the lock keepers cottage. Cllr Garratt asked why there was so many reeds in the rivers, he was advised it is due to the farmers using phostrogen on their fields, this washes into the rivers and causes the reeds to grow. Cllr Garratt explained to members that a survey has been carried out on eels, the survey shows that as there is so much weed, when the eels are migrating, and they come to large lump of weed, they turn around and go back as they think it is block, further investigations will be carried out on the eel population. Eels in the drains are very few and far between the season is now limited March to June.

Cllr Mrs Mayor – 18th October Whittlesea Station meeting – the Ipswich to Peterborough service will begin hourly from December 2019, this will operate seven days a week. Long discussions took place about the gate and the weeds at the station. Cllr Mrs Mayor was asked to identify the two areas that need attention. The franchise is also looking at changing the five-bar gate to a barrier that only allows entrance / exit of cars. Cllr Mrs Mayor to formulate the letter and ask what they are going to do to make the area safe at the station.

Cllr Miscandlon – Rural Cambs CAB AGM – All financial information from CAB is with the Clerk.

F199/16. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including: -

All planning applications have been moved to a separate meeting.

8.38 – Cllr Garratt left the meeting.

F200/16. Agenda items for Discussion.

- LHI 2016/17 – Cllr Whitwell and Miscandlon to complete the paperwork with the Clerk for the following two schemes that were approved at the October Full Council Meeting. A605 permanent 40mph speed limit at Gravel House Corner and the footpath from the allotments to amenity site on New Road. Cllr Boden suggested that he put in a third application as the CCC Councillor for yellow lines within 10 metres at the following junctions; Windmill Street / Oldfield Gardens, Windmill Street / Gracious Street and Windmill Street/Stonald Road – Stonald Road /Northgate, this proposal would cost £1800.00 the contribution from the council would be £300.00, this was seconded by Cllr Whitwell with a unanimous vote in favour.
- Community Road Watch – Cllr Miscandlon advised members that information from Cl Hills explained the organisation does not access to the DVLA database. Cllr Curtis advised there are other Parish councils are very happy with Road Watch. Members agreed the only way forward was to engage with Road Watch for three sites (New Road, the A605 through Coates and Stonald Road, this was proposed by Cllr Curtis, seconded Cllr Mrs Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.
- Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Mrs Laws advised members that invitations have been send out to businesses, local organisations and all other groups that are involved with planning to a meeting 22nd November at the Whittlesey Christian Church, there is a draft questionnaire that can be completed. The senior and primary schools are also being asked to fill in the questionnaires. The draft plan will hopefully be approved in December 2016. Article in local magazines advising householders that they will be receiving a questionnaire in mid January 2017.
Cllr Boden asked who will be delivering these and was advised a tracked delivery service will be used
- Kings Dyke Crossing – Mr Tim Watkins presented earlier in the meeting.
- Must Farm – Cllr Mason, Miscandlon and Dorling very positive meeting with Gillian Beasley – Gillian to chair a consortium of all interested parties. Whittlesey will have their say at all meetings, the next meeting has been scheduled before Christmas. The object of the consortium is to put together evidence to enable them to apply for a heritage grant. Cllr Dorling advised members that if a heritage centre was established in this area. Cllr Dorling added that if a heritage centre was to be established in the area, it was felt that if a lottery grant was being applied for a bank account and constitution is required, it was muted that in Whittlesey we already have an organisation with an empty bank account 'Whittlesey Country Park', if there was a heritage centre set up, it could be adjacent to a country park if it could be bolted onto this in the future. Cllr Curtis advised members that at the recent presentation on Must Farm at SHS, he had suggested that they do a display

or such like at the Straw Bear. He was advised that they had tried last year, but had been turned down by the Straw Bear.

- Whittlesey Station – Cllr Mrs Mayor had updated members under outside meetings.
- Crossing by the Coop – Cllr Boden contacted CCC and explained the nature of the problem and potential danger – he is not received a response, so will chase.
- Submission to the Boundary Commission for England re the Parliamentary Boundary Review – Cllr Boden circulated his proposal for the response to members. Members approved the response and requested the Clerk submit the response. This was proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Curtis unanimous vote in favour.
- Request to FDC to initiate a Corporate Governance Review for Whittlesey Town. Cllr Boden suggested that an Interim proposal be submitted which may split St Andrews Ward in two depending on the county council boundary. Cllr Boden to circulate information to all members of the council to enable it to be discussed at the next meeting.
- Additional Planning meetings – Cllr Miscandlon suggested that the Chairs of each committee discuss the meeting dates and bring their proposals to December meeting.

F201/16. Ward Matters

- Cllr Curtis – requested that the ditch that runs along the western side of Feldale field, between Feldale and the avenues be cleaned out. Cllr Curtis requested that FDC identify who is responsible for this area, the Clerk to contact both FDC and Mr Russell Wright from the Feldale drainage board.
- Cllr Whitwell – Route 63 Cycle path, new gate installed first week in December. Advert in local magazines advising people that the gate will be locked from Mid December, if people think they have a right to a key, they need to apply to the Clerk at Whittlesey Town Council.
- Cllr Mrs Laws – the flood gates will be back in place within the next two weeks.
- Parking issues Crescent Road – Crescent Close – Cllr Mrs Rita Jolley – Community letter

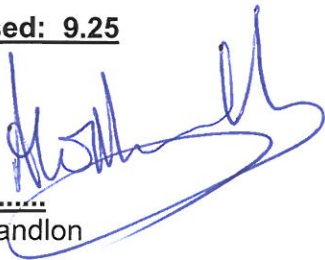
F202/16. Date of next full Council meeting – Wednesday 14th December 2016 at 7.30 at Grosvenor House.

F203/16. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F204/16. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F186/16

There were no items for discussion

Meeting Closed: 9.25



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Cllr Alex Miscandlon
Chairman