

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 9th
DECEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 AT GROSVENOR HOUSE, GROSVENOR ROAD,
WHITTLESEY.**

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

Officer in attendance: Mrs S Evans – Town Clerk & RFO

Recording: DS2500.41.ds2

F187/15 To receive apologies from absent Members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Butcher (will be arriving late) - Arrived 19.35.

F188/15. 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 F205/15.

- **Confidential Minute from 11th November 2015 F185/15.**

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.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow for a presentation to the winner of the 'Best Kept Allotment' for 2015. The Chairman asked Cllr Garratt, Chairman of the Projects Committee to present this award, Cllr Garratt advised members that three inspections had been made to ascertain the winner, during the inspections approximately 6 allotments had remained excellent throughout this process. In light of this it was agreed to ask an independent judge to choose the winner who was not connected with the council. The Winner Mr Tom Owen was then presented with the shield for second year and congratulated by all Cllrs.

F189/15 Police matters including CCTV Report

There was no local Police present, however Emily Gutteridge from the Police & Crime Commissioners Office gave a short presentation advising on the activities in the area.

They are presenting at play to years 7 and 8 on sexual exploitation at Sir Harry Smith on Monday the feedback from this is good as it has encouraged children to contact the police and feel at ease speaking to them.

Emily will be attending the neighbourhood watch meeting in the new year.

If we have any events that would benefit either Emily or the Police Crime commissioner, Emily has asked members to contact her.

Farmers are being contacted by individuals and asked to store waste for large sum of money, with the perpetrators advising that they are waiting for an export licence, however they don't turn up, this is now a problem and the Environmental Health officers.

She has spoken to the estates manager at Police HQ who has confirmed there is nothing definite to say that the police station in Whittlesey is closing, however the estates department are looking at all stations.

Cllr Bristow attended a meeting with Cllr Mrs Windle recently and was advised by the PCC Jim Price that there had been an increase of 10 officers on the front line. Emily was not aware of this, but advised there were always peaks and troughs which may be reflective of this, however Emily did confirm that this area had not been subject to any decrease in frontline officers.

Cllr Bristow advised he had been advised that more officers have been seen on the street than before. Emily advised that they are trying to increase visibility. Emily advised there is more visibility however due to some serious crimes and human trafficking officers have been taken away to deal with these, but as the time moves on, officers are now all trained on their tablets so should not need to go back to the station and can be out working at all times in the community.

Cllr Mrs Laws advised we haven't in Whittlesey been made aware of human trafficking so as this is not prevalent in Whittlesey surely we should see more officers in Whittlesey. Emily advised that the police officers that cover Whittlesey also cover the Fenland area.

Cllr Curtis raised an issue regarding the crime figures, one item stated that CCTV monitored a group of youths at the Manor Leisure centre using illegal substance, Police control were notified, but all officers were busy at other jobs and unable to attend, Cllr Curtis personally finds this very frustrating as the police should have resources to be able to attend incidents like this, Cllr Mrs Mayor advised that at the Manor WTC paid to update the camera to an infrared camera to try and combat these issues. Emily advised that she would investigate whether any footage was obtained from the camera and would update the Clerk. Cllr Garratt has previously raised with the police the drug issues that seem to be occurring within the town, some of these drug issues could contribute to the petty thefts that are happening within the town.

Cllr Wicks asked if there are any drug initiatives or drug awareness presentations being done in the schools, Emily will follow this up and contact the relevant authorities to try and get something going regarding this. Emily could look at presentations in the evenings and possibly other times to try and accommodate parents.

Cllr Mrs Mayor advised members about the Rotary Club and the Life education quiz which has been running for 19 years and benefits all the schools, Emily advised she would like to find out more about this and will contact Stephen Hodson. The Clerk to email Emily.

F190/15 Street Scene Officer Report

Sally Mitchell was unable to attend.

F191/15 – Mrs Dawn Sadler – Senior Environmental Health Officer for Whittlesey area

Advised that some businesses have closed due to their food standard not meeting the criteria, however they are trying to help these businesses out. There is no law in England to make businesses disclose their rating.

Dawn advised they have been involved heavily regarding a major dust issue on Aaron Road Industrial Area, FDC and all other partner agencies (Cambs Fire and Rescue, CCC, EA and FDC) are working on this to try and rectify the issue but it is proving problematic. Cllr Butcher advised that the EA were looking at licencing this company and issuing a full permit, Dawn advised that the EA have contacted FDC requesting they comment on the permit that they are looking to issue. Cllr Butcher advised that it looks as though the licence will be granted, Dawn advised that local businesses are very concerned and some are intimidated they may move out of Whittlesey. Dawn has confirmed it is very difficult to take action when they are not the enforcing authority.

There are a lot of pest problems in the town and they are now working with Roddons, a young family with a very small baby are having to be rehomed due to a severe rat problem, some of these problems are to do with damaged drainage systems.

Cllr Curtis – asked if on the list on FDC website could it show which premises have achieved and continue to retain their rating of a 5. Cllr Mrs Laws asked why its isn't law for food establishments to display these notices, Dawn advised that it is in Scotland and Wales, but not in England due to local businesses complaining about displaying the sign.

F192/15 To confirm and sign the Minutes from the meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 11th November 2015.

Ratified: The Minutes were approved.

F193/15 Public Forum

9 Members of the public were present.

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

Mr Hodson – thanked members for the donation to the Life Education Quiz, it was well attended and raised over £2000.00. The Life education classroom is visiting Whittlesey next year and it would be good for Cllrs to attend.

Mr Gerstner – Thanked the Christmas Lights Committee and the council for the Christmas lights they get better each year.

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

F194/15 Information Only.

- There is no information

F195/15 Invitations.

- There are no invitations

F196/15 To confirm and sign the minutes from the meeting of the Planning Committee on Wednesday 28th October 2015.

Ratified: The Minutes were received

F197/15. To confirm and sign the minutes from the meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee on Monday 26th October 2015.

Ratified: The Minutes were received.

F198/15. To confirm and sign the minutes from the Community Projects Committee on Wednesday 28th October 2015

Ratified: The Minutes were received.

F199/15. To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.

Cllr Boden – advised he had represented Whittlesey at the LHI initiative meeting and he could pretty much confirm that the Commons Road will be approved, he is also quite confident that the extension for the footpath on Redbarn Turves will also be passed. Cllr Boden further advised that the Eastrea Village Trust had requested a Real time bus indicator this will not go ahead as the bus company has advised that there is no RF signal in Eastrea.

Cllr Mason asked as many members as possible to attend the Business Forum AGM on the 20th January 2015.

Cllr Wicks – had attended the Fenland Consultation meeting at London Brick and advised that number 2 Kiln has now been brought on line to cope with the demand this has resulted in recruitment for additional drivers, administration and other roles within the organisation. Cllr Curtis advised that this is great news for the area. Cllr Wicks advised that London Brick are now under new owners 'Fortera'.

Cllr Miscandlon advised that he and several Cllrs had attended the planning training at FDC and there will be further training on specific subjects that have now been identified.

F200/15. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including.

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

All planning has been moved to a separate meeting – Wednesday 16th December at 10.30am

F201/15. Agenda items for Discussion.

- The Community Projects team require ratification of the notice board costs for the Allotments and villages. Cllr Mrs Mayor advised that the CP Committee are waiting for a written quote from a local supplier and will chase this, she has already received one quotation from another supplier.
- Bus update – Cllr Mason advised members that stagecoach had been approached for a better service, ie increase in the service hours and possibly alternative routes, Cllr Mason advised that to date we are still waiting for costings for these amendments and therefore cannot make an informed decision as to whether this could be funded on a trial basis for three months. Cllr Mason has written to Decker

Buses and Whippet Coaches asking for their interest in running this service in the evening and is currently waiting for a response. Cllr Butcher advised members that he would ascertain how the costs were arrived at with regards to FACT transport which was an item that had been discussed at the last meeting.

- Whittlesey Town Council Website – Cllr Dorling along with Cllr Wicks and Mrs Laws and additional information from the Clerk had worked on the new website with the contractor this will be live by the end of December. Cllr Dorling advised members that they can view the website as it is not yet live to the public, Cllr Dorling has asked that Cllrs look at the site and pass any comments onto him. Cllr Garratt thanked the team for their efforts.
- Showfield Update - Cllr Mason advised that at the public meeting on the 8th September, it was agreed to take advice from Martin Edwards – Cornerstone Barristers. The advice given was that although a number of issues had been raised by WTC the chances of a JR were rated less than 10% as there was no evidence of a glaring legal error and it would futile to continue with the JR with such a small chance of success and possibly a very costly bill. The best approach would be to refer the matter back to the Secretary of State and concentrate on the issues of procedure who would then refer the matter back to FDC for reconsideration. This procedure will cost nothing.
- Cllr Boden advised the secretary will not be interested in the process that was used, however would only be interested in the results, and could they be defended under national policy. If we went to the Secretary of State there is no cost to WTC or FDC, providing the referral is submitted to the secretary of state prior to a decision notice being granted by FDC. Cllr Boden suggested that a submission is made to the Secretary of state and it be based on five grounds.
 1. Development has no vehicular access without breaching the 5m AOD contour line
 2. The Sequential test was not conducted
 3. There is significant history of flooding at the main access point of the development
 4. There is insufficient secondary vehicle access when main access is closed due to flooding.
 5. Expense of developing at this site, reduces the economic viability, therefore would reduce the S106

The Secretary of State would only need to use one of these, however it would be good if the council expand on these points prior to submission.

This was proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Mason, Cllr Boden to formulate a response and send to all members to read prior to approval at the January 2016 Full Council Meeting, this was a unanimous vote in favour, with Cllr Mrs Laws and Miscandlon abstaining.

F202/15. Ward Matters

Cllr Mrs Laws – At the Junction of Headlands Way there are new white lines, however people forget about Fallowfields and pull out right and forgot about the other developments that access onto this road. The street light that was on the corner was removed and relocated on Oxford Gardens – the light was taken from outside 23 Yarwells Headlands and it highlights this junction. Cllr Mrs Laws advised that since the removal of the street light there have been several vehicles broken into. The Chairman advised he will send two letters one to request reinstatement of this light and the second to request the dog fouling signs.

Cllr Wicks – When will the lights on the new Lark Fleet roundabout/A605 be switched on – Cllr Butcher to investigate.

Cllr Wicks advised members that after his meeting with London Brick he would be happy to arrange a site visit to the Must Farm, all members were in favour of attending this event.

Cllr Mrs Windle advised she is very disappointed that the 'Certificate of Lawful use' for 6 Manor View has been approved today under delegated approval, this was refused by WTC and 8 letters of complaint were sent to FDC. Cllr Miscandlon will be investigating as to why this was dealt with under delegated powers when there have been 8 letters of objection submitted to FDC.

Cllr Mrs Mayor – has been dealing with horrendous mess (grass verge) on the South Side of the A605, near to the crossing at the top of High Causeway, two vehicles are using it as parking area, these vehicles also cross from the A605 and drive over the footpath to get onto this land. The Police and CCC are in communication.

ASA

Cllr Bristow advised that following up from the last meeting, Cllr Butcher had been to New Road to look at the road surface, he has reported it to CCC but has been advised that this is not on their 3 year plan, however they did advise they would look at it.

F203/15. Approval of Bank reconciliation and Council payments.

The bank reconciliation at the 30th November 2015 was approved along with list of the council payments list.

F204/15. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

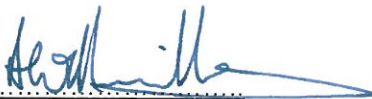
Resolved that in respect of the following item of business, the public, including the press, will be excluded from the meeting, because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, publication of which would be prejudicial to the public interest.

F205/15. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F188/15

- **Confidential Minute from 11th November 2015 F185/15.** – The confidential minute was approved.

F206/15. Date of next full Council meeting – Wednesday 13th January 2016 at 7.30 at Grosvenor House,

Meeting Closed 21.04.



Cllr Alex Miscandlon
Mayor of Whittlesey