

## FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016 AT 7.30 AT GROSVENOR HOUSE, GROSVENOR ROAD, WHITTLESEY.

**Present:** Cllr Miscandlon, Butcher, Boden, Bristow (19.50), Curtis, Dorling, Mrs Laws, Mason, Mrs Mayor, Whitwell, Wicks, Mrs Windle

**Officer in Attendance:**

Mrs Sue Evans – Town Clerk.

**Recording:** DS2500.48 DS2

**F38/16 To receive apologies from absent Members and the reason for the apology.**

Cllr Mrs Jolley (unwell), Cllr Garratt no apologies received.

**F39/16. Declaration of Members 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 F56/16.**

Cllr Miscandlon & Cllr Mrs Laws FDC Planning

- Grosvenor House - update
- Opening of Tenders for Grass Cutting, Hedge Maintenance and Hanging basket maintenance.

**F40/16 Police matters including CCTV Report**

Cllr Mrs Laws advised that there had been a severe parking incident at Sir Harry Smith School who had been hosting the parking for a charity fishing event, the police attended the site twice during the event as people were parking on the A605 close to the crossing and around the local roads causing problems to residents. Cllr Mrs Laws asked if a letter be sent to SHS asking them to advise anyone hiring of the facility of the parking arrangements that were available on the school premises at the front and to the rear. Cllr Dorling advised that on the day in question there was another organisation hiring part of SHS who were using the parking at the rear hence why it was unavailable. Cllr Mrs Laws understands this, but feels that some better organisation will be required if events like this are going to be accommodated at the school, Whittlesey certainly does not want to turn visitors away.

**F41/16 Street Scene Officer Report**

Cllr Mrs Laws advised that the new bin had been installed in the lay by at Goosetree; Fenland District Council installed this within seven days.

**F42/16 Presentation Donna Barnes Youth & Community Co-ordinator (Fenland).**

Mrs Barnes was not in attendance and no reasons for the non-attendance had been received.

**F43/16 Presentation Bruce Smith Whitacre Management – Sainsbury & Country Park.**

This is the text from Mr Smith's presentation.

First of all I would like to thank Whittlesey Town Council for its support during the last five years.

Where are we now?

I have never been in a contractual position to force Sainsbury's to build a store, my contract with Sainsbury's was to buy the land and jointly deliver the infrastructure and country park.

I am presently pursuing Sainsbury's for completion of my contract, I have one of the top five leading planning QC,s opinion Timothy Straker that Sainsburys are clearly in breach of my contract.

I have this opinion reinforced by a senior planning consultant who specialises in commercial planning and my lawyer. My solicitors Clarke Wilmot are of the same opinion have served notice on Sainsburys to complete, they have 28 days from 19 February 2016

So that is where we are with Sainbury's, however the idea that I conceived was not that of Sainsbury's, they were the catalyst that could bring the project forward the idea was mine.

Accepting that Sainsburys have gone and parking the legal battle to one side, this does not mean that the project dies, the planning permission belongs to the land, there is nothing to stop another retailer coming forward if Sainsbury's decides not want to honour their obligations.

Within the contract I have step in rights to provide the infrastructure should Sainsbury's fail to do so, this will be at their cost. We still have much interest in the business park, which will generate further income. Yes, Sainsbury's may have gone, but the land is still there, the planning permission is still there, Sainsbury's absence does not mean the end.

I promised that I would deliver this scheme to Whittlesey and that is what I will do.

I am disappointed Stephen Barclay MP did not show the support for Whittlesey that he demonstrated for the Chatteris out of Town Food Store.

I understand that Fenland District Council did not sanction an Inquiry.

I brought to this town a project that most towns the size of Whittlesey would die for and five years later despite the support of many good people it has not happened. It begs the question Why ?

My understanding is that Whittlesey Town Council wanted an inquiry and approached Fenland District Council. Following this refusal - I have decided to finance an independent inquiry and have already started the process. As you can appreciate, the scheme has been disrupted.

I am not driven by financial gain but by achievement and I would like to add that the project I started for the Parish of Whittlesey is not dead.

Finally, The Whitwell brothers and I have been watching with interest the developments at Must Farm, I understand that this Archaeological discovery has been designated as a National Treasure, the Bronze Age equivalent of Pompeii.

We believe, as I am sure you do that the finds made in Whittlesey must stay in Whittlesey, we could easily accommodate a Heritage Centre/Museum on the country park, or on the business park to create a visitors complex, which will certainly generate a wealth of tourism.

We are prepared to gift and donate the land needed within the scheme to the Parish of Whittlesey in order to make sure Must Farm artefacts stay in Whittlesey for future generations. This is an opportunity to put Whittlesey on the map and this opportunity must not be lost

Thank you for listening to me.  
End

Cllr Mrs Laws asked what 'step in rights' were there, Mr Smith advised that within the contract he can still provide the infrastructure for example the roundabout without the store being built.

Cllr Boden is grateful about the comments regarding Must Farm and would hope that this could be moved forward. He asked about the independent enquiry the Mr Smith is proposing and hope that WTC would support this, but what is more important is to gain support from Fenland District Council, Mr Smith advised he has commenced discussions with FDC but they are yet to move forward.

Cllr Curtis feels that the enquiry should be truly independent and would discuss this further with Mr Smith. Cllr Curtis has also discussed Must Farm with Vicki Whittingstall at FDC the possibility of obtaining some funding to try to house some of the artefacts from Must Farm these discussions are ongoing. Cllr Curtis has heard that there is already a deal in place with vivacity over some of these artefacts going to Peterborough. He would like the Chief Executive of Vivacity to attend the April Full Council Meeting. Cllr Curtis did add that he has no problem with the artefacts initially going to Flag Fen to be preserved, however in the long term and would like some of them brought back to Whittlesey for display for the people. Cllr Butcher agreed with Cllr Curtis and further asked Mr Smith if there would be a building ready by end July when the dig finishes.

Cllr Mrs Laws asked if there is some sort of loan process that happens between museums or Heritage Centre whereby finds are loaned between organisations, if Whittlesey did manage to obtain purpose built building Whittlesey if there is a purpose built building which is accreted to house these finds.

**F44/16 To confirm and sign the Minutes from the meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**Ratified:** The Minutes were approved.

**F45/16 Public Forum**

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

Eight members of the public present.

Bernard Gray- Esson – thanked the council who were involved with the allocation of the Tesco Grants funding and thanked Councillor Dorling for presenting their cheque. The Clean for the Queen campaign was last weekend and was well supported by their team, however only one councillor turned out which was disappointing. Mr Gray-Esson advised members that there appears to be an increase in fly tipping, FDC are quick to respond to clear the fly tipping, however, however FDC do not seem to want to track the culprits down. Recently they undertook a litter pick at Mortons Leam, there is a sign saying that CCTV cameras are in operation and fly tippers will be fined £5000.00, however no evidence of the cameras, he feels that when they find items to which give the evidence of the Fly Tippers, FDC are not following this up.

Mr Robert Boddington – Advised members that he has reported three lots of fly tipping over the past few weeks.

**F46/16 Information Only.**

- War Memorials Bulletin
- Letter from Sir Harry Smith (Cllr Curtis and Bristow declared an interest in this item)

**F47/16 Invitations.**

- Cllr Mrs Mayor advised that the 'Hereward Community Partnership' meeting will be held at Fenland District Council on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 6pm-8pm and is open to everyone. Cllr Mrs Mayor also advised members that the recent clean up event at Whittlesey Station was a

success, however had only been supported by Street Pride with no members of the public or councillors present.

- Cllr Mrs Mayor advised that on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 9.45 she is hosting the 'Raising of the Commonwealth Flag' at Fenland District and all Councillors are welcome to attend

**F48/16 To receive the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

The Minutes were received.

**F49/16 To receive the minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

The Minutes were received

Cllr Mrs Mayor presented the council with the Whittlesey Allotment Rejuvenation Award from Britain in Bloom (Anglia in Bloom).

**F50/16 To receive the minutes from the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

The Minutes were received.

- To approve the donation of £3500.00 for the Whittlesey Festival – Proposed by Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour. The cheque to be written for this payment after the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016
- To approve the donation of £1000.00 for the Rural Cambs Citizens Advice Bureau - Cllr Boden proposed £1000,00 this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour
- To approve the purchase of a new Shredder – Cllr Dorling advised members that the Clerk had requested the purchase of a new shredder due to the quantity of personal information that passes through the office. Cllr Dorling had requested some prices were obtained for suitable machines; the Clerk had obtained three prices for a Rexal Auto+ High Security Automatic Shredder, the best price was from Peterborough Office Supplies at £448.79. Cllr Dorling also advised members that with this machine you could load it with up to 300 sheets and it would just do the job, therefore saving time for the Clerk. Members voted unanimously to purchase the machines and requested the Clerk order it immediately.

**F51/16 To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.**

Cllr Butcher and Miscandlon attended a site meeting today at Kings Dyke, the plans go before CCC tomorrow and Cllr Butcher will be speaking on this application. During the period, they were on site the crossing gates closed at Kings Dyke closed eight times.

Cllr Mason, Dorling and Mrs Mayor had attended the latest meeting of the Whittlesey Business Forum, Cllr Mason advised that they now they now have 77 interested parties in and around Whittlesey, 30 of these have paid a full year's subscription.

**F52/16. 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 plans will be dealt with outside of this meeting due to the quantity received.

## F53/16. Agenda items for Discussion.

- Bus update – Cllr Mason advised that he had previously spoken to a contractor who was very keen to provide this service. The vehicles to be used have to be DDA compliant, which basically means low floors, the contractor only has one vehicle that meets this criteria and would need to purchase two additional vehicles, the cost of this would be approximately £55,000, the contractor is not really happy about this cost as this project is a trial. Cllr Mason has written to Paul Nelson at CCC to see if there were any other options. Cllr Curtis suggested that perhaps Section 106 funding could be used towards the project. Cllr Mrs Laws advised that as Snowley Park has commenced there may be funding from there, also 148 Stonald Road has started and again there may be funding for transport. Cllr Butcher advised that the Section 106 agreement must be in place and the allocation of funding agreed before the commencement of the build so this may not be available.
- Hereward Community Rail Partnership – This was dealt with earlier in the agenda.
- Tour of Cambridgeshire Survey update – Cllr Whitwell advised that every ward in Whittlesey was in favour, the results being 72% in favour and 28% against. The Town Clerk will retain all the surveys and summery information in the office. Cllr Whitwell proposed that the Tour of Cambridgeshire are asked to route through Whittlesey, he also added that there should be announcements on the website and Discovering Whittlesea and to also advise this is for 2017 and not 2016 as some residents believed it was for this year, this was seconded by Cllr Boden with a unanimous vote in favour. Cllr Boden thanked Cllr Whitwell on behalf of the council for his work on this project. Members suggested that the Mayor contact Tom Caldwell from the Tour of Cambridgeshire and advise that we would welcome the route coming through Whittlesey and the villages.
- Independent Inquiry letter and response - FDC/Sainsbury – Cllr Curtis asked for both of these to be put on WTC's website. Cllr Curtis advised members he was disappointed with the response from FDC, they show no willingness to improve with the way they deal with planning applications, and the response from FDC does not deal with any of the questions that were asked by WTC in the letter.
- Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Mrs Laws advised she is putting some information together for the interested parties who attended the first meeting. She is waiting for a specialist who is going to come and present free of charge advice that will help us to work with partnerships, she is also negotiating with another specialist who has worked on FDC Planning Policies and is going to be able to work with us to move the Neighbourhood Plan forward. Cllr Boden asked that when the dates for these meetings are known all members of the council are invited to attend.
- Request for Funding FDC Golden Age team – Eastrea – Cllr Miscandlon advised members that the cost will be £12.00 per hour, Cllr Miscandlon proposed, seconded Cllr Wicks all other members in favour. Cllr Miscandlon to notify the Golden Age Team that WTC will fund the event.
- Citizen of the Year committee – Cllr Mrs Mayor, Cllr Mrs Laws and Cllr Bristow were selected to judge the Citizen and Young Citizen of the year.
- Tesco Fund – Cllr Dorling advised that he and the Clerk had produced a document that would go in Discovering Whittlesey giving all the details.
- Councillor Surgery – Cllr Bristow advised members that he and Cllr Garratt attended the last councillor surgery and no members of the public came and asked how useful is the service if people don't use it. Cllr Boden suggested that we persevere with the surgery; it could be advertised in the councillor's newsletters and notice boards in the town and villages. Cllr Mrs

Laws and Cllr Wicks were inundated with people and want to continue with it. Cllr Curtis advised that we do have a history of trying to do this and people not turning up, however he wishes for it to continue. Cllr Whitwell advised that this year we have had four sessions and three had been attended. Cllr Mrs Laws asked if we could invite the MP to one of the surgeries, the Mayor confirmed he would send letters. Cllr Mason advised three people had attended the surgery, Cllr Mason asked members to look at the Street Scene report page 3, where it described how the street scene team had attended the Manor field and collected 38 piles of dog waste, the request for them to attend the Manor had come from the surgery, Cllr Mason feels that it is useful to continue. Cllr Boden requested that the Clerk send an email to the Cambs Times, Peterborough Telegraph advertising the surgeries

#### **F54/16. Ward Matters**

Cllr Boden – has received official confirmation that both schemes for the LHI have been approved. he would like to suggest that contrary to the current advice that only two applications are permitted, we could submit additional applications. Cllr Butcher advised that the Town Council usually make one submission and the villages make a separate submission, this needs to be completed by an individual councillor. Cllr Butcher went on to advise that the one in Turves is being allocated £11,000.00, however this won't complete the path due to drainage issues. Cllr Butcher has asked for this scheme to be put to F & P for consideration then to Full Council for ratification for WTC to approve a payment of £3000.00, this will enable the path to be completed.

Cllr Whitwell advised that WTC did have three schemes for submission and had a pre meeting with the engineers who looked at the propositions to decide which was the best option and more likely to succeed.

Cllr Mrs Laws advised that FDC had recently prosecuted people for fly tipping, the officers at FDC have been reactive and feel that prosecutions are being pursued. The details of the prosecution were connected to a woman from Doddington who was fined a large amount of money.

Cllr Mrs Windle reported that there is now a dog bin in Briggate West.

Cllr Mrs Mayor had received a complaint about the large fir tree on Grosvenor Road; Cllr Mrs Mayor has subsequently been in contact with the tree officer at FDC and the property owner. The tree officer has recommended some works to the tree; these recommendations have been passed to the property owner for consideration.

#### **F55/16. Approval of Bank reconciliation and Council payments.**

Cllr Boden advised members he was very disappointed that we still have not received the election costs invoice so this may end up as an accrual.

Cllr Wicks finds it disturbing that FDC are not collecting fees, this effects everyone when they should be the drivers on debt collection. Cllr Miscandlon to chase Fenland for the election costs invoice.

Members unanimously approved the payments

Cllr Curtis left the meeting 21.00

#### **F56/16. 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.

#### **F57/16. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F39/16**

*[Handwritten signature]*

- Opening of Tenders for Grass Cutting, Hedge Maintenance and Hanging basket maintenance.

Allotment Hedge Maintenance: - Clarification of work schedule, Tender A was accepted at a cost of £350.00. Unanimous Vote in favour

Hanging basket Maintenance – Tender B £4800.00 was selected with a unanimous vote in favour.

Grass Cutting – Tender A £1600.00 was selected with a unanimous vote in favour.

**F58/16. Date of next full Council meeting – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30 at Grosvenor House.**

Meeting Closed: 9.45.

*[Handwritten signature]*

.....  
Cllr Alex Miscandlon  
Mayor of Whittlesey