

# WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

## FULL COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Full Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30pm at Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey, PE7 1AQ

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

**Officer in Attendance:** Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

**Recording:** DS25

#### **F63/18. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.**

Cllr Mrs Mayor (personal), Cllr Whitwell (holiday), Cllr Mrs Windle (personal), Cllr Garratt (work)

#### **F64/18 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 F82/18**

- Land Ownership – Cllr Boden requested this stay on the agenda, but there was no update for this meeting.

Cllr Mrs Laws and Miscandlon as members of Fenland District Council Planning, they may make comment, but reserve the right to change their minds should further information be available later.

#### **F65/18 Police matters including CCTV Report**

Report from PCSO Green who was unable to attend.

Local officers were working in the fenland area yesterday in relation to recent burglaries and offering prevention advice for vulnerable areas. None of the areas around Whittlesey have been victim to any trends or patterns in relation to Burglaries and the advice and prevention strategy was needed more in Wisbech, Chatteris & March. This does not mean burglaries haven't occurred it just means they were slightly more sporadic.

Also, whilst on the topic Local Officers done a day of action last month in relation to theft from motor vehicles, going around targeting unlocked vans throughout the day in the area of fenland including Whittlesey! Many tradesmen were educated and shown how easy it would have been to have taken their prized possessions throughout the day.

Local Officers have been tackling a rise in Anti-Social Behaviour in the area of High Causeway. Patrols in the area were upped in an attempt to stamp out this behaviour. Names were retrieved from local links with shops and words of advice given. Also an assembly was held at Sir Harry Smith for education on laws and legislations to lots of small horrified faces!!!

Whilst on the topic of High Causeway we have been monitoring closely the misuse of the causeway with vehicles down there during the day. With a few tickets being issued when necessary and also drivers being educated to keep the public safe on the pedestrian area.

Community Engagements continue in the Whittlesey Library which are advertised on our Facebook Pages and also with posters in the library. These have been a very successful way for us to engage with the local community to address local issues and to also gain some intelligence.

PCSO FROMENT will be departing next month in his new venture to become a Police Officer and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him well in his next challenge.

We are aware of Parking complaints and we try and get these incorporated into a patrol plan and get these issues dealt with although we do have to prioritise around priorities such as Domestic Abuse, Child Sex Exploitation, Serious Sexual Offences , Drugs, Vulnerable People , Dwelling Burglary and Anti Social Behaviour. So although we may not be able to get to the issue straight away we do try our best to get this incorporated to a patrol plan.

Work continues with local care homes which has become a very strong link since we took over the patch around 18 months ago. This comes into action very well when we have missing from homes from the care homes, using local knowledge and sharing that with our colleagues we have been able to find these children and help to safeguard them. We pop in frequently to sit down and just simply chat with staff and residents.

As the summer months draw in we will be looking to continue engagements with schools such as Speed watch type events which were very successful last summer with Coates Primary School.

Finally I would like to draw attention to OP BARON this is in relation to FRAUD being committed in the area where persons are acting as Police Officers and asking persons to draw a certain amount of money out of there bank account and to not tell anyone about the phone call being made by Police as this could affect them. This has led to vulnerable people going to the bank drawing out large sums of cash and offenders coming to collect this. In the Northern Area alone this has resulted in thousands of pounds being lost due to this scam.

If we could all provide advice to elderly/vulnerable people in our area to help prevent any further issues this would be brilliant. Please just highlight the Police would never request bank details!

The Clerk was asked to obtain the hours the PCSO's spend in Whittlesey and the villages and ask if they could carry out a drop-in session in the villages, the same as at the library in Whittlesey.

Cllr Mrs Laws thanked the Police for attending the issues on the B1040 when a car travelled along the road that was closed due to flooding, even though this has wasted time when they when they could have dealing with more pressing issues.

The Clerk was asked to write to Les Middleton Highways Supervisor and his Manager Chris Hughes, giving our thanks to Les who despite being on holiday arranged for a crane to reinstate the gates immediately the warning of imminent flooding was issued.

### **F66/18 Street Scene Officer Report**

Members commented on the report and asked why it took Environmental Health team five months to advise residents that a local take away had fallen from a 5 start to a 1 Star. The Clerk to email the Environmental Health Department at FDC for reasons for the delay.

Green Ribbon Campaign – Cllr Mrs Laws requested this be discussed at the May meeting.

### **F67/18. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

**Ratified:** The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

### **F68/18 Public Forum**

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

8 members of the public present.

A member of Street pride highlighted the issues with Kings Dyke, being the excrement on the bank and bottles of urine without lids they have cleared up recently but may have to cease clearing the area. The Mayor advised this would be discussed by Councillors later in the meeting.

### **F69/18 Information Only.**

- Cambridgeshire Regiment Cadets Wartime Membership – A plaque will be put in the Methodist Church along with a book of remembrance. A further plaque will be erected in St Marys' Church.

### **The Mayor suspended standing orders.**

Mr Brian Smith of the Army Cadet Association advised it was formed in 1992 with a few local people, to many all over the UK and on foreign soil.

### **F70/18 Invitations.**

- There are no invitations

### **F71/18 Consultation**

- There were no consultations.

### **F72/18 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Ratified:** The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

### **F73/18 To report the financial documents**

- To report the bank reconciliation – The bank reconciliation was received.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments – The payments were approved by members.
- To report the year to date figures (2017/2018). The Chairman advised an underspend of approximately 30K, the precept has been set the same as 2017/18, our precept is 2.7% lower per household.
- There are some areas of overspend e.g. Sundry Parish Maintenance, this was for £1600.00 for the new notice boards with the additional costs being for the installation. The photocopying was 50% overspent, the Clerk has asked Councillors to consider if they need to print all the large documents. Cllr Mrs Laws suggested going paperless, Cllr Curtis suggested that it should be a mix of paperless and paper working. Cllr Bristow suggested that further discussion take place on this.

- To approve the donation requests: -

Whittlesey Food Aid – Donation request £222.00 proposed Cllr Curtis, seconded Cllr Miscandlon, unanimous vote in favour, Cllr Mason abstained.

Summer Reading Challenge £500.00 proposed Cllr Dorling seconded Cllr Butcher, unanimous vote in favour.

### **F74/18 To receive the minutes from the Planning Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and report the minutes from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

**Ratified:** The minutes from the 19<sup>th</sup> March were signed and approve as a true record, and the minutes of Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were received.

### **F75/18 To report the draft minutes from Community Projects on the Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

The Minutes from the Community Projects meeting were received.



**F76/18 To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.**

**Cllr Mason -**

Cllr Mason advised that he and other Councillors had attended the Business Forum meeting about Saxon Pit, however he wasn't sure what they had achieved as they were not really addressing the current issues but advising of their future plans for the site.

Pubwatch meeting – This was well received.

**Cllr Dorling**

The business fair is on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and will be held at the Manor Leisure Centre between 10 – 4 with free admission, further information is on the forum website [www.whittleseybusiness.co.uk](http://www.whittleseybusiness.co.uk).

**F77/18. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including:-**

To receive the list of planning application decisions.

**F78/18. Agenda items for Discussion.**

**Must Farm – Cllr Mason**

Cllr Mason expressed the concerns of Whittlesey Town Council that the consultants for Project B were not reflecting the importance of Whittlesey's diverse history, particularly its connections to the discoveries at Must Farm and safeguarding the interests of Whittlesey.

The alternative location at Bradley Fen was raised by the consultants and agreed by the group that the consultants will be informed not to pursue this further.

To get a sense of the uniqueness of the site and understand more about it, GB has taken advice from others, including Kasia Gdaniec (Senior Archaeologist).

The site is an exceptional nature reserve with national and international significance, home to an enormous number of wildlife and plant species, some rare and unique to this location.

The site is not currently designated SSSI, however, it is a possibility that this could be applied for to prevent a development within the nature reserve meaning that funding is unlikely to be agreed.

Kasia's advice was that a multifunctional building at the top of the site, could be a viable option to apply for a capital build bid with the HLF of £2-3m. Creating an exceptional visitor/education centre designed to represent its links to Must Farm. This could have the characteristics of a round house. This centre would tell the story across the history and prehistory of the site, making links to Must Farm, Flag Fen and Peterborough Museum and be the first 'pearl' in the string that brings it together.

All agreed that a visitor/education centre was preferred as an option that complements the historical, industrial and environmental importance of the site and that Fourth Street should be directed towards this.

**Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Mrs Laws**

The NHP Group have written to Chris Seaton and James Palmer, focusing on developing a new questionnaire specialising in planning, this will enable the NHP to move forward.

**Property working group update – Cllr Miscandlon**

Planning application has been submitted to FDC, WTC advised that it is classed as three applications, the cost is £693.00 this includes the discount that is given to councils.

### **Community Rail Partnership – Cllr Bristow**

26<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Liaison meeting at Fenland District Council. Cllr Bristow confirmed he has attended the Community Rail Partnership meeting on a regular basis. The short-term priority for lighting has been delayed due to inaccurate information stating that an additional electrical supply needed to be put into the station. There is a lack of commitment from National Rail. The Clerk to email Wendy Otter FDC and Alan Neville to confirm if either or both can attend the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

### **Syrian Refugees – Cllr Mason**

This is moving forward with FDC

### **Masterplan – Cllr Mason**

Cllr Mason suggested a separate meeting to discuss this.

### **Kings Dyke Crossing – Cllr Butcher.**

The next meeting has been arranged for the 22nd May 2018 as there are a number of activities taking place during April so it will be more valuable for the Project Board so they can report on the progress of these activities.

#### **Programme**

- Stage 1 detailed design planned completion late Autumn
- Planned Committee decision to continue to stage 2 (Construction) in September
- Target cost from Kier expected 1st August
- Planned road opening Spring 2020

#### **Land parcels**

- 1 - Contract Exchanged
  - 2 - Contracts ready to exchange, but there is a desire to exchange and complete at the same time
  - 3 - Following a meeting on 19th February 2018 Heads of Terms were agreed. However, some insurance and access issues still have to be agreed with advice from LGSS Law Limited and the owner.
  - 4 - Contracts drafted ready to be sent to their solicitors, Terms to be agreed by their board
- Network Rail - Air Rights agreed in principal, Over-Bridge Agreement is being reviewed by LGSS and CCC Insurance and Risk Manager

#### **Design**

- Revised underpass and 4th arm at western roundabout agreed with planners
- Revised horizontal and vertical alignment are being considered to reflect these

#### **Changes**

- Site clearance complete
- Ecological Survey commenced today – results due back WC 30th April 2018.
- Trial Hole Surveys and associated Traffic Management – Road space booked for WC 9th April for 4 days (Amended, work will commence on Monday 16th between the hours of 20.00 and 06.00, The road will not be closed
- GI Survey – Proposed 16th April 2016 – results due back WC 14th May 2018
- Approval in Principle (AIP) design submitted to Network Rail.

Cllr Boden advised the road was closed for approximately two hours on Monday as the contractor was on site to drill the trial holes, however they have now advised they can undertake the works at night, it will be from 8pm to 6am, the road will not be closed, traffic management will be in place.

## **F79/80 Ward Matters**

### **Cllr Curtis – Kings Delph**

There is a partnership meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April to discuss this issue. A Letter to go from WTC, supporting Street pride, Cllr Curtis requested the letter contained the following line 'Doing nothing is not an option', letter to be sent to Graham Hughes, copied in to Sharon Piper, Paul Medd and Stephen Barclay MP.

### **Cllr Mason – Church Street**

The yellow lines are now in place outside Park House on Church Street and are enforceable, however the Police do not have the manpower to carry out ticketing, Cllr Mrs Windle has spoken to Jason Ablewhite who has suggested that yellow lines are decriminalised. Cllr Boden suggested that letter be sent to Sgt Lugg requesting as these are new lines, they be enforced so people would realise they cannot park there.

### **Cllr Boden – Drought Road damage repair scheme**

30<sup>th</sup> April - Milk and Water Drove B1095 total resurface – this may be carried out overnight for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. Hearne Road, Ramsey will follow and will take approximately one month

St Mary's Road, Ramsey - 2/ 3 weeks with full closure – this will be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

B1040 Whittlesey will then be started and will take one month. The hauliers on this road have advised this would cause difficulty, the scheme has now been split, Whittlesey to the hauliers is the first scheme and the Hauliers to Pondersbridge the second scheme.

Benwick Road will be closed most of August for repairs.

### **Cllr Dorling – Commercial properties**

Only five empty premises in the town.

### **Cllr Dorling – Electric Charging Point**

Cllr Dorling advised members there is an ever-increasing number of cars requiring an electric charging point, Whittlesey does not have any and perhaps with the refurbishment of the police station one could be installed.

### **Cllr Mrs Jolley – Crescent Road**

Irresponsible parking – The Clerk to email March NPT

### **Cllr Bristow – Road Crossing**

A resident has complained to Cllr Bristow about the lack of crossings on the A605, the resident had advised the only crossing is outside of Sir Harry Smith and this goes into Lattersey Ward.

### **Cllr Mrs Laws – Flood Wardens.**

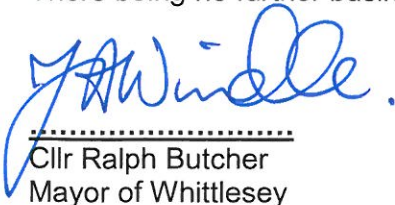
Cllr Mrs Laws express her and the Councils thanks to the Flood Wardens who are all volunteers and had worked exceptionally hard over the past few days-

## **F80/18. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

## **F81/18. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.**

## **F82/18. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F64/18.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.25

  
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Cllr Ralph Butcher  
Mayor of Whittlesey