

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Full Council

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 2017 at 7.30pm at Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey.

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

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

Recording: DS25 .DS2

F168/17. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Mrs Mayor (holiday), Garratt (work), Bristow (illness)

F169/17. 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 F189/17.

- Approval of Confidential Minute F167/17 from September meeting.
- Land Ownership

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.

F170/17. Police matters including CCTV Report

Report from PCSO Mike Froment

Criminal damage – Criminal damage reports are the lowest I have seen them in a long time in Whittlesey. I have recently been made aware though that some members of the public are still not reporting incidents to us. Our main areas of concentration at the moment is the station Rd area and Manor leisure centre and also Yarwells headland. We have been patrolling this area more recently and speaking to any groups we see. Please can I ask though that we persuade the victims of these incidents to report it to us. The knowledge of an incident can be put on as intelligence but a crime with a victim can be fully investigated.

ASB - Since the weather has turned calls for service have dropped. However, they are not non-existent. There are 2 locations that have been flagged to us recently. Sycamore Road and Debdale Court area, there is a garage block where we are working with street scene after concerns over groups of people being loud and breaking bottles in the area into the evening. The other being the Manor and Station Road area. The park on Station Road has been raised to us as a concern however on patrols there has not been groups in the area. These patrols will continue.

Burglaries – There has been 2 dwelling burglaries. Neither are linked or in the same location and no business burglaries have been reported.

Robbery – There has been 1 reported robbery. This is currently a live investigation and therefore further information will follow in due course.

Road traffic collisions have taken a dramatic increase over the last month. If there is any concern for road conditions, for example increased amounts of mud on the road or oil or diesel spills. Calling the concern in could save someone's life.

We are also looking to organise more Speed watch style events with the schools around Whittlesey in the up and coming term. We found this was very impactful and I believe other schools could benefit.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask and if I can answer I will.
Thank you for your time.
Michael.

Street scene breakdown of fly tipping in the villages.

Representation at the CCTV meeting Cllr Butcher and Whitwell will attend the next CCTV meeting.

F172/17. Street Scene Officer Report

The report on fly tipping identifies Fly tipping in Whittlesey, however there is no breakdown for the villages which show a figure of 74. The Clerk to ask for a breakdown of the figures and enquire if they can do a trend graph. The Clerk to also chase if there is a list of prosecutions.

Members noted there had been some complaints about Kingdom, members would like FDC to advise when Kingdom are in town.

The Clerk advised members they should email the generic Street Scene email and not individual email addresses.

F173/17. Presentation from Mr Jonathan Digby – CEO – The Aspire Trust.

Mr Digby advised there had been concerns from the public about school places in Whittlesey and the villages due to the increase in residential properties.

Capacity and Availability.

Park Lane 60 (60 reception and 55 year 6)
New Road 30* (20 reception and 9 year 6)
AJS 90 (88 reception and 81 year 6)
Coates 30 (30 reception and 26 in year 6)

There is physically no space in Park Lane or Alderman Jacobs, there is no space to build a new primary school in Whittlesey. The local authority agreed to develop New Road School to double the capacity and be ready for 2020, the local authority have guaranteed the money and the project is out to tender.

New Road will also have a purpose built preschool on the site to support the early years.

The Children's centre that is currently based in New Road, will be moving out to Scaldgate.

The Local Authority have set aside 5M extension for SHS, allowing SHS to increase from 180 to 210, however the primary places are 240, leaving a shortfall of 30. The LA will be in discussions with Mr Digby regarding this. The last thing Mr Digby wants if for the shortfall of 30 to be that Coates school children as they are the furthest away go to Wisbech or March.

Mr Digby confirmed there are approximately 30 children going to SHS outside of the area.

Cllr Curtis expressed concern about the future needs and the section 106 pooling arrangements for 5 named projects, there are limitations on what the schools can ask for and what they will receive. If the LA have based their planning on what developments are being built, they may have asked for

contributions and not received them. Cllr Boden explained that WTC did not need to be concerned about the S106 contribution, it is Cambridgeshire County Council that have a legal liability to provide the school places that are required.

Members were advised the Early Years will cater for 30 pupils.

Mr Digby confirmed there will continue to be adequate parking at SHS.

LAC – Looked after Children were discussed, members were advised they can be from all over the UK.

Cllr Mrs Laws asked what percentage of all the children are special needs, and stated, they may not all qualify for the health plan, therefore putting further pressure on the school. The figures were not available at the meeting.

Cllr Boden expressed concern over how CCC produce the calculation to determine the increase of places, it is not only the building that affects this but also that demographics change and can affect these figures.

Cllr Wicks was very concerned that children from Coates would have to go elsewhere.

Mr Digby meeting with the authority in the next couple of weeks and he will then feedback with any update.

F174/17. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 13th September 2017.

Ratified: The Minutes were signed as approved.

F175/17 Public Forum

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

5 members of the public were present.

F176/17 Information Only.

- Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid update

F177/17 Invitations.

- The Rotary Club of Whittlesey

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F178/17 Consultation

- There are no consultations

F179/17 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on Monday 18th September 2017

The draft minutes were reported.

F180/17 To report the financial documents

- To report the bank reconciliation – Members accepted the Bank Reconciliation to the 10th October 2017. The Chairman reported that we are 52.6% through the year and 33.8% spent On the budget, this will leave a surplus at the end of the year that can go into reserves.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments – Members received the list of draft payments, the Clerk advised there were two uncashed payments, this was due to an issue with the bank and was being resolved

- To report the year to date figures (2017/2018) – the Figures were reported
- To approve donations for: -
Royal British Legion £1000.00 proposed by Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Miscandlon, unanimous vote in favour

Whittlesey in Bloom £500.00 proposed by Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Mason, unanimous vote in favour

Whittlesey Christmas Lights – members discussed the donation, Cllr Mrs Laws proposed the £3000.00, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jolley, members asked the Clerk for more clarification on exactly what the funds will be spent on.
- To adopt the 'Grant Application & Terms and Conditions – Members requested that in point 1, the words 'operating in the parish area' were removed, with this change members voted unanimously to adopt the new policy.

F181/17 To receive the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 18th September 2017 and the to report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 4th October 2017.

Ratified: The Minutes from the 18th September were approved, the minutes from 4th October were received.

F182/17 To receive the minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Tuesday 12th September and to report the draft minutes from Community Projects on the 4th October 2017.

The draft minutes were reported.

F183/17 To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.

Cllr Boden – Citizens Advice Bureau.

They are expressing significant concern about the prospect in this substantial increase in workload when universal credit commences. Fenland will come onto universal credit in May 2018.

Cllr Wicks – Burnt House Community Fund

Seven applications tailored to meet the funds available, Whittlesey did benefit from a grant to the Whittlesey Museum and Whittlesey Transport. Criteria is organisations who have an income of less than 5k per year and do not have charity status

Cllr Dorling – Whittlesey Business Forum

They wish to put on a community Fayre, they are looking at Mayday for this and are in discussion with traders to ascertain the interest, venues are also being considered.

F184/17. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including: -

To receive the list of planning application decisions.

F185/17. Agenda items for Discussion.

- Community Road Watch / SIDD / Traffic Calming – Cllr Miscandlon nothing to report, however the SIDD part of this will be discussed will be discussed under the LHI.
- Kings Dyke Crossing – Cllr Butcher advised the Kier contract is not fully in place and they are working under a 'letter of intent', they are working on the designs, some of the issues

regarding the contract are to do LGSS Law. There should be some action on site within the next six weeks, the project is 16.9 million, the current funds available are 13.6 million, the balance will be obtained. There are some issues with timescales with Network Rail, Star Pit needs additional banking. The program will start June 2018 and will be completed Autumn 2019.

- Must Farm - AM/ED/DM – Cllr Miscandlon advised they have received a confirmed date for the Project B meeting - 27th October 2017.
- Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Laws advised there are three workshops are on Friday 13th at the Christian Church. Cllr Mrs Laws advised that the FOC Housing needs assessment has been received. Cllr Mrs Laws further advised that WTC are eligible for a FOC site specific plan and a Masterplan.
- Community Rail Partnership – (transport conference 12th October – Cllr Mason will attend this and report back)
- Property Working Party Update – Cllr Mason

Having now acquired detailed drawings of the former police station in Queen Street which had been acquired by Whittlesey Town Council during the summer with the intention of conversion to council offices, the Property Working Party have now met to discuss proposals to set before the Full Council.

Looking at the building from the front elevation it is suggested that the former police station offices on the ground floor to the right of the archway be used as the working area for the Town Clerk. This can be achieved with a minimum of disruption with costs, mainly by way of redecoration and furnishings.

The first-floor offices immediately above the proposed clerk's office to be retained as additional meeting rooms for councillors with the flexibility of being hired out to outside bodies if required. Again, a certain amount of redecoration will be necessary.

Looking at the building on the ground floor to the left of the archway the existing garage area to be completely rebuilt as a Council Chamber with the provision of an extension to the rear to accommodate reception and waiting areas for the public on council occasions.

Immediately above the proposed council chamber on the first and second floors exist former living accommodations that in recent years have been converted to interview rooms and offices for police purposes. It is proposed by the working group that these areas revert to living accommodation as two, three-bedroom flats.

Local estimates for accommodation of this type in the centre of town suggest that they could realise rent of between £600 and £800 per month and would provide valuable revenue for the council. It is generally felt that whilst there is little demand for commercial lettings in Whittlesey there is indeed a demand for domestic lettings. The added advantage of domestic letting would be improved security of the building by way of constant occupation.

To progress the proposals mentioned the working party would need the services of a professional architect and therefore costings would be sought from three organisations who have expressed an interest in this regard.

In the meantime, the working party will continue to remove all redundant equipment from site and take such measures as are deemed necessary to secure the premises.

A spreadsheet of ongoing costs has been produced by the Town Clerk and will be updated for circulation at each monthly council meeting.

In summary we respectfully request approval to approach a professional body to draw up a scheme to incorporate new facilities for the efficient use of the building by Whittlesey Town

Council linked with a scheme to reinstate domestic accommodation for private letting purposes as described above.

- Local Highway Improvements – the council are proposing four projects.
 - o Yarwells Headland Junction – WTC supports the 20% (Cllr Whitwell)
 - o Camera System giving speed readings – 3k per unit per two poles, one unit for Coates, one for Eastrea and four poles (Cllr Miscandlon)
 - o Windmill Street – parking scheme Cllr Boden
 - o Leisure Centre pedestrian crossing on Station Road at the Manor Leisure Centre Cllr Connor.
- CCTV update – covered earlier in the meeting.
- Tidy Fenland Campaign and Enforcement Patrols 2017 – The Clerk to forward the email to all members
- Community Governance Review – Cllr Boden advised WTC had previously agreed to submit a request to FDC for a Community Governance review, so a more rational approach is in place for the 2019 elections. Cllr Boden was hoping this would be brought before FDC before the end of 2017, FDC are unable to do this, FDC have worked back from the election date of 2019 and ascertained the latest date they can do the review, this meaning it wouldn't go to FDC until July 2018. They have contacted the LGBC who would not give any indication as to whether they would consider any amendments, if the document was not approved by FDC until July 2018, there is a possibility that it may not be submitted to the LGBC before the elections in 2019. Cllr Boden to draft a letter through the Clerk to the Chief executive.

F186/17 Ward Matters

Cllr Curtis – Evening Bus Fest.

This event could not take place as the organisers were informed by CCC that the road couldn't be closed as they could only authorise one Closure a year. Cllr Curtis to send the information to the Clerk who will then write to CCC.

Cllr Whitwell - Anti Terrorism training at the Showground if anyone wants to attend it, Cllr Mason confirmed he already registered to attend.

Cllr Mrs Laws – The remedial works to the Millennium Bridge have been carried out, the vegetation will be cut back on the 28th October.

Cllr Mrs Laws – Yarwells Headland – Anti social behaviour, Cllr Mrs Laws reported to 101, the police were on site within 8 minutes.

Cllr Wicks – asked CCC regarding about the traffic survey strips, CCC have confirmed they are unlicensed and will investigate.

Cllr Dorling – advised there are 128 commercial properties within his ward, only 8 are vacant.

Cllr Mrs Windle been in touch with Steven Mcgee – CCC regarding the wooden footbridge over the bower and confirmed it will be closed in November as the slats are all being replaced and a disabled ramp on the side with the step.

Cllr Mrs Windle wished to express her thanks to Mr Alan Hobbs and his team who repainted all the seats along The Bower.

Cllr Mrs Jolley – Teal and Grebe continue to experience inconsiderate parking, this has been reported to the police.

Cllr Mrs Jolley – Overgrown Hedge – Arnolds Lane – Cllr Mrs Mayor dealing with this.

F187/17. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 8th November 2017

F188/17. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F189/17. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F169/17.

Meeting Closed: 22.00

R. Bucher
8th Nov 2017 .

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Cllr Ralph Bucher
Mayor of Whittlesey