

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held on Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 7.30 pm at Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey

Present: Cllr Miscandlon, Mason, Boden, Whitwell, Mrs Laws, Wicks, Dorling, Mrs Jolley, Mrs Mayor, Bristow

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

Recording: DS2500112.DS2

F62/17. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Curtis (holiday), Cllr Garratt

F63/17 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 F82/17

- Approval of confidential minute from 8th March 2017
- New Council Office Purchase – ED

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

Councillor Eamonn Dorling declared he is an Independent Financial Advisor

F64/17 Police matters including CCTV Report

Due to PCSO Green and Froment being unable to attend, members received the following update.

6 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts have been issued to help monitor 6 separate youth's behaviours in the area of Whittlesey after experiencing a high volume of Anti-Social Behaviour especially in the area of the Avenue's.

1 Community Behaviour Order has been issued to a youth that has been causing lots of issues in the area.

Due to the conditions which have been put on youths, Anti-Social Behaviour in the area is currently consider as low.

Community Engagements are still ongoing in the Library and are held on a weekly basis.

There are currently no crime trends in the area that we need to be worried about.

PCSO Shane Green & PCSO Michael Froment

End.

Members asked if confirmation could be obtained as to which of the avenues had some issues and if in future could they be more specific over areas and not generalise.

The report mentions that there is no trend, however Cllr Laws has advised that residents are reporting an increase in car crime



F65/17 Street Scene Officer Report

Due to illness these reports will be forwarded by Fenland District Council within several days.

F66/17 To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 8th March 2017

Ratified: The minutes were approved.

F67/17 Public Forum

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

7 Members of the public present.

Mr Bernard Grey–Esson – Eastrea – voiced his concern about the quantity of large vehicles passing through the village there was an incident approximately 18 months ago where a vehicle that that turned from the A605 onto Wype Road and knocked down the restriction sign, this has still not been replaced, if the sign is put back, it may not stop it but may help prevent it.

Mr Roy Gerstner – concerned about the three toilets that are out of operation behind The George only the disabled toilet is working – Can there be an update.

Mr Roy Gerstner – there seems to be a vagrant around the town and the police had not taken any action until he was contacted by PCSO Green with an update this afternoon. Cllr Mrs Mayor will respond in the ward matters section of the meeting.

F68/17 Information Only.

There was no information for circulation

F69/17 Invitations.

There were no invitations

F70/17 Consultation

- A47 upgrade proposal – Members to individually complete the online survey.

F71/17 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on Monday 20th March 2017

Ratified: The Minutes were approved.

One amendment Page 2 F/26 delivery should be delivered

F72/17 To report the financial documents

- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments – There were no payments or uncashed payments for approval
- To report the year to date figures (2016/2017) and Bank reconciliation- Members were advised the Clerk was working on the year end and all will be presented for approval at the May meeting including the Annual Return. This was proposed by Cllr Dorling, and seconded by Cllr Boden unanimous vote in favour.

F73/17 To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 5th April 2017.



Ratified: The Minutes were approved with one amendment.

Change Tesco Landfill to Tesco Groundwork page 3.

Cllr Whitwell in the absence of Cllr Garrett proposed the additional cost for the installation of the notice board for Turves, (£250.00), this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.

F74/17 To receive the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 20 March 2017 and to report the draft minutes from the 5th April 2017.

Ratified: The minutes were approved.

F75/17 To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.

Cllr Mrs Laws – Easter Treasure Hunt – Whittlesea Railway Station – This was supported by parents and children alike, it gave everyone who attended the opportunity to see the poor condition of the station.

Cllr Whitwell – Mud Walls meeting – The group have just finished surveying all the mud walls, despite being advised the mud walls were reducing in number, they have found mud walls that were previously not known. They are going to produce a document showing all details and current locations of all the walls. Cllr Whitwell advised members that the group will be conducting walks around the town on Civic Day.

Cllr Mason – Pubwatch – Members were advised that all pub watch members have agreed to join the national database for pubwatch.

Cllr Mason – Whittlesey Allotment Society – the main issue discussed was the safety of the paths between the allotments. These need to be marked to enable a contractor to undertake the repairs. The Community Projects team will attend the site and mark the areas.

Cllr Mason – Whittlesey Business Forum – Members were advised that the Forum are organising an Expo Trade Fair at Sir Harry Smith Community College on 8th October 2017. Further information will be available later.

Cllr Mason – Pride of Fenland – Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid were announced as the winner of Outstanding Achievement awards section. Members of the council congratulated Cllr Mason and the team on this fantastic achievement.

Cllr Mrs Windle – Whittlesey Festival – the festival will be opened this year by the Mayor and the Citizen of the Year.

Cllr Mrs Laws – suggested that any information about the mud walls, trade fair, awards we have received or given out should be promoted on the website.

F76/17. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including:-

To receive the list of planning application decisions.

F77/17. Agenda items for Discussion.

- **Community Road Watch / SIDD / Traffic Calming** – Cllr Miscandlon advised neither he or Cllr Bristow had received any further updates, Stonald Ward has not received any monitoring due to the development that is taking place.

- **Kings Dyke Crossing** – Cllr Butcher advised the next project board is in May as the last was cancelled, the tenders went out today to six contractors. There are still some discussions with the landowners over the procurement of the land, there are also CPO's running at the same time as these discussions. Cllr Butcher confirmed the funding is in place for the project despite the recent article in the Cambs Times.
- **Market Place Cycle Racks** – Cllr Mrs Windle met with Les Middleton CCC and Layna Warren FDC regarding the location of the cycle racks on the Station Road side of the Buttercross. The Showman's Guild who operate the fair have complained as they have had problems getting the rides onto the Buttercross even though the cycle racks have been in place since July 2013. The cost to move them is approximately £4500.00 which is cost prohibitive. Members agreed that the bike racks should remain in the current location as they are well used by residents. The Clerk to send a letter to Layna Warren at FDC advising they do not want the cycle racks removed.
- **CCVS** – Cllr Wicks attended a meeting with CCVS, the organisation helps many different types of groups with ascertaining where they can get funding and the completion of the forms to apply for these grants. The cost of membership is £60.00 which would be an initial step in assisting us to obtain funding: This was proposed by Cllr Wicks, seconded Cllr Mrs Mayor for 1 year only membership, unanimous vote in favour.
- **Route 63 Speed Cushions** – Cllr Whitwell advised at the Full Council in December, it was agreed to install speed cushions on the road leading to the Field of Dreams. (the continuation of Stonald Road), the amount agreed at the council was £1450.00, this will only cover the supply and not the install. The easiest solution is for the CCC to supply and complete the install at a cost of £2000.00, this is an additional £500.00. Cllr Whitwell proposed that CCC complete the works at the cost of £2000.00, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mayor, unanimous vote in favour.
- **CAB donation** – Cllr Dorling advised that Dr Batul Dunganwalla CEO of Rural CAB had at the last F & P meeting presented her case for a donation, Cllr Dorling advised members that there is a reduction in the funding from FDC, WTC have three options they could consider, Cllr Dorling advised the reduction in other support services would mean an increase in the demands on the CAB.
 - o Option A - Zero donation would mean no service whatsoever in Whittlesey
 - o Option B - £1500.00 would give one volunteer a month, however the volunteer is not a fully trained professional and would need to still refer everything back to the main office.
 - o Option C - £5500.00 per year would give a weekly service with a fully trained CAB employee. The donation could be paid quarterly and would be subject to the paid quarterly, subject to a quarterly breakdown which includes numbers of visits, postcode and category of enquiry, along with a Service Level agreement.
- Members discussed the CAB request in depth, and were advised that FDC used to give them 90K per year, four years ago it was reduced to 81K. Many people have visited the CAB and continue to do so particularly about debt problems. This will further increase with introduction of the Universal Credit, whereby recipients are given all the benefit at the beginning of the month and may not be able to budget to ensure they funds carry them through until the next payment. Members agreed to request quarterly figures from the CAB prior to each payment being made, these figures should include the category of enquiry and area where the resident is from. The above would be for one year with an SLA in place. Cllr Dorling proposed option C seconded by Cllr Whitwell, 2 abstentions (Mrs Mayor, Mrs Laws,) all other councillors in favour. Cllr Dorling to meet with CAB to layout the criteria that surrounds the donation that will be offered and produce the SLA between Whittlesey Town Council and the CAB.

- **Must Farm** – Cllr Mason update members as follows:-
- On Friday 10 March 2017 the Whittlesey Town Mayor, Cllr Alex Miscandlon, accompanied by Cllrs David Mason and Eamonn Dorling, attended a consortium meeting at the Key Theatre, Peterborough to discuss the future of Bronze Age artefacts recovered from the area in Whittlesey known as Must Farm.
- The meeting was chaired by Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive of Peterborough City and Cambridgeshire County Councils and amongst those present were representatives from Fenland District Council, Peterborough Vivacity, Peterborough Museum, Historic England, Cambridge Archaeological Society and the British Museum together with the appointed consultants engaged with appropriate funding for the project.
- The objective of the meeting was to elicit opinion from all parties with a view to applying successfully for National Heritage funding by the end of 2017 to enable a purpose built Heritage Centre to be established to house not only artefacts already discovered but to accommodate future finds of a similar nature.
- The initial discussions revolved around enhancing the current Bronze Age site at Flag Fen but as the meeting progressed it became apparent that due to the location and lack of suitable access to Flag Fen this was not an ideal situation, which was acknowledged by the majority of those present.
- The Whittlesey Councillors promoted a possible site adjacent to the A605 trunk road and in close proximity to the site of the original findings. This suggestion was endorsed by the Fenland District Council representation and the general consensus was that educational value was of primary importance involving a personal experience in a Fenland landscape.
- Whittlesey Town Council is currently undertaking enquiries to secure a suitable site within the Whittlesey boundaries on which to build a Heritage Centre which is recognised as not only being of regional importance but of interest internationally and vital to the future prosperity of our town.
- Further news will be reported as this project is progressed.
- **Community Rail Partnership** – Tea Party - Cllr Bristow has attended two meetings, one was the tea party, one of the issues is if they advertised it too well, they would have too many people attend and it would then it be negative publicity, on the whole this was a success and the feedback was very positive. A thank you was offered to all involved with this event.
- **Community Rail Partnership Meeting**
Cllr Bristow advised members that ticket machines will be installed by April 2018, there will be one ticket machine for the station. The five bar gate was unlocked by Greater Anglia, however the warehouse owners locked it again with their own padlock, Greater Anglia did deliberate removing the gate, however they were worried about people setting up camp on the land. They are now meeting the factory owner again and telling them that the padlock must be removed and the gate must remain open. If this fails a barrier will be erected with the barrier being locked open during passenger services. There will be a decision on the lighting by the middle of the year approximately June / July and they are looking at putting lighting in with a footpath or lighting without a footpath. The three part feasibility study is moving forward, part 1 is completed, part 2 is expected to be completed soon, part 3 by the end of 2017 or the Spring of 2018, there will be public consultation meetings and Cllr Bristow thinks, there may be an approach made to WTC for some funding. other bit. There has been an approach to LEP for funding and also the new body that has been formed, the bids are not just for Whittlesey but also for Manea and March, the bid is for about 4.5 million they are waiting for an answer on this.



There is meeting w/c 8th May on marketing and tourism, Cllr Bristow is unable to attend so Cllr Mrs Mayor will attend. At the full partnership meeting that was attended by Cllr Bristow and Cllr Mrs Mayor where health and safety issues were pointed out, Network Rail have been advised to tidy up the station, failure to do with will result in them being reported to the health and safety executive. There are other issues which have been reported to Wendy Otter at FDC. Cllr Bristow also raised the issue of the debris around the factory and in the wooded areas that has been deposited by Network Rail.

- **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Mrs Laws updated members as follows.
- One of the first tasks in creating a Neighbourhood Plan that sits inside the existing planning legislation is to seek the views of residents within the parish, a survey was created on the basis that it would be easy to engage with and elicit responses that could help shape the final proposal for residents to consider.
- Printing of 10,000 surveys was completed on 3rd March 2017 followed by delivery between 6th – 14th March 2017 hand delivered to 7,454 properties throughout the Parish of Whittlesey, and a further 2,5000 were delivered to Grosvenor House for collection by residents.
- An on-line survey was also launched on Whittlesey Town Council web site for those residents that prefer to use on line facilities.
- In response to requests for clarification and to assist with the completion of surveys four public meetings were arranged throughout the parish: Coates Village Hall, Eastrea Village Hall, the Christian Church Whittlesey plus a Councillors Surgery at Grosvenor House, each meeting was manned by members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group.
- All schools in the parish responded by completing variants of the survey that were more appropriate to the age range within Primary or Secondary school. The response from each school was exceptional. In total almost 1,000 were returned from Primary Schools and over 1,000 from Sir Harry Smith's Community College.
- Members were advised that a good response to such a survey might be 3% - 5%, however, in his parish the response has been closer to 13% with two days to go!
- Currently members are inputting paper documents on to a programme that will assist in the analysis of responses. Probably the first results will be the various schools, the aim is to deliver a presentation back to schools in response to the enthusiastic response that the children gave the project.
- Conservation Officer Katie McAndrew has been very helpful advising members on issues connected with conservation areas and other heritage issues, the phrasing of questions and statements and assisting in the development of protection within the parish.
- The next stage is to secure funding from central government to cover the cost of work completed to date and future work on this important project.
- A full progress chart with time scale is being prepared with the help of Cllr Martin Curtis.

F78/17 Ward Matters

Cllr Mason – Advised he would chase the toilets behind the George, Cllrs Mrs Laws will also contact FDC.

Cllr Mrs Laws – parking issues, Windmill street / Stonald Road, red vehicle parking virtually on the junction. Congestion round Morris Close and Harvester Way, lack of visibility when exiting the junction.



Cllr Mrs Mayor – issues with HGV's in Eastrea, they are also going though Whittlesey and using Queen Street to get onto the A605. A dog grooming parlour has opened on Grosvenor House as yet no planning application has been received, Cllr Mrs Mayor to report to FDC enforcement.

Cllr Bristow – Maintenance problems in Quinnion Close, one of the issues is mildew, Roddons have been contacted and Cllr Bristow will follow this up.

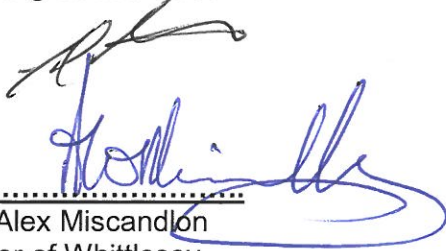
Cllr Bristow – More dog fouling, Millfield Way, Mill Road, New Road. – The Clerk to email Street Scene at FDC

F79/17. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7pm, this will be the Annual Town Meeting, this will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Council at 7.30

F80/17. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F81/17. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F63/17

Meeting closed 10.00

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alex Miscandlon', is written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cllr Alex Miscandlon
Mayor of Whittlesey.