

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the Full Council held on Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.30 pm at Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey

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

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

Recording: DS2500107.DS2

F41/17. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Butcher (prior engagement), Cllr Mrs Windle (Work), Cllr Garratt (no reason)

F42/17 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 F61/17

- Approval of confidential minute from 8th February 2017
- Opening of Tenders – Solicitors costs
- Grosvenor House – AM/ED/DM
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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

F43/17 Police matters including CCTV Report

Whittlesey Town Council Report – February Update – Whittlesey Policing Team

During the month of February there has been issues of Anti-Social Behaviour in the Avenues area. High Visibility Patrols and Community surveys has resulted in a decrease of Anti-Social Behaviour. Behaviour Orders have also been issued to youth's.

A Prolific Offender has been arrested and charged on 3 counts of Criminal damage.

Parking enforcement has continued especially in The High Causeway area with PCSO FromentT issuing tickets.

The local team continue to work in partnership with local schools and care homes with some very positive intervention, particularly with the primary schools providing a collage of pictures for the local library display.

We are currently experiencing no issues of crime trends in Whittlesey.

As always, any issues and problems not included in this report that you feel you need an answer to please do not hesitate to contact us on the contact details provided.

End

Cllr Curtis advised there have been numerous issues of ASB on St Mary's street, including damage to vehicles, the Clerk will report this to the policing team, members also noted that they email the

team and do not always receive a response, the Clerk to see if their rota can be obtained and passed to Cllrs only.

F44/17 – Presentation by Dawn Sadler – Senior Environmental Health Officer - Fenland District Council (10 Mins)

The environmental health team are now involved with licensing compliance, housing enforcement and environmental health issues.

There are some worrying ASB trends in some areas of Whittlesey, recently FDC have had a successful prosecution. FDC are working with Peterborough on the youth issues as there seems to be a crossover between Whittlesey and Peterborough youth.

Cllr Mrs Laws explained of a new initiative in Liverpool whereby if members of the public witness fly tipping and photo and video evidence which leads to prosecution, the member of the public is offered 1 year free of paying council tax.

Cllr Mrs Laws – Ice-cream van in the coop car park at 8pm on Sunday nights and there have been questions as to why it is there. Mrs Sadler will investigate.

Cllr Whitwell asked if Mrs Sadler could speak to Peterborough regarding the amount of fly tipping in the Fengate area, Cllr Dorling advised he has emailed Peterborough City Council who are pursuing it.

Cllr Curtis advised members the area between Feldale Garages and Feldale Close continues to attract attention, the garages are not property secured and are constantly being broken into. Cllr Curtis requested that the garages are properly secured or bull dozed. Mrs Sadler advised that the Street Scene officers prevent the issues during the day, however there are no patrols in the evening, it is just down to the PCSO's if they are on duty.

F45/17 Street Scene Officer Report

Cllr Bristow – Dog fouling on Mill Road and New Road, the Clerk to notify the street scene officer. Cllr Mrs Mayor asked if the highways could deal with the tree that fell opposite the council houses March Road, Coates.

F46/17 To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 8th February 2017

Ratified: The Minutes were approved

F47/17 Public Forum

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

Two members of the public were present.

F48/17 Information Only.

- War Memorials Trust Bulletin (available at the meeting)

F49/17 Invitations.

- Commonwealth flag raising at 9.45 on Monday 13th March 2017 at the Memorial.
- Charter Night 7th May 2017 – The Clerk to send information to all members

F50/17 Consultation

- The Council made the following announcement.

In pursuance of new premises for Whittlesey Town Council

It was announced in the minutes (F37/17) of a Full Council meeting held on 8th February 2017 that Whittlesey Town Council is purchasing a property to house the Town Clerk, Council Offices and meeting rooms.

Negotiations are well advanced, with surveys and reports on suitability already conducted. The Town Council would be happy to hear the views of residents in respect of this endeavour and ask they put any comments in writing to Mrs Susan Piergianni, Town Clerk at Whittlesey Town Council, Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey, PE7 1AQ, or via email: whittleseytowncouncil@btconnect.com Although the precise details may not be disclosed at this stage because they are commercially sensitive, some facts may be helpful:

After 20 years, the property being considered would then be a wholly owned asset of Whittlesey Town Council and its residents. Currently WTC pay a rent of £9,600 p.a. for a Full repairing lease that also ties the Council in to an insurance agreement. (approximately £1000.00 per year) WTC has no other significant fixed assets.

Council has accumulated reserves since the current arrangement commenced and is now able to commit a substantial deposit towards a suitable building. The balance may be funded by a favourable loan arrangement designed to be used in such circumstances by central government. The cost of repayment would approximate the current rent and maintenance budget – therefore no additional burden on tax payers.

Existing facilities are neither energy efficient or convenient for those working in or visiting the Council. The main meeting room is currently on the first floor with poor access arrangements for those with difficulty moving or are visually impaired. Disabled access to washroom facilities, cannot be described as satisfactory.

The proposed site is likely to feature ground floor access for Councillors and members of the public. The location will be central to the town with ample parking close by. The building has potential for considerably higher levels of insulation, greater energy efficiency and provision of a community asset. The office accommodation for the Town Clerk will be a secure office, with additional areas for public and visitors. It is the intention to provide value for money and improved facilities.

A full cash flow projection has been presented to Councillors, advice in respect of energy efficiency and adherence to current legislation and best practice will be accessed through established professional advice facilities utilising local trades where possible.

F51/17 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on Monday 20th February 2017

The draft minutes were reported.

F52/17 To report the financial documents

- To report the bank reconciliation – Members approved the bank reconciliation.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments. The Clerk had inadvertently paid the duck race from the current account and not the Mayors account and would organise a transfer to reimburse the council.
- To report the year to date figures – The Chairman advised members that WTC are 70% spend against 91% of the year.

F53/17 To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 1st March 2017.

The draft minutes were reported. Cllr Whitwell advised members that the hanging baskets were collected and needed replacing, the existing baskets are over ten years old. The contractor has

offered new baskets at cost price, this being £239.00 plus VAT. Cllr Curtis proposed the expenditure, seconded by Cllr Bristow, unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Boden joined the meeting 8.15

Cllr Dorling asked if any progress had been made on replacement tree plants. Cllr Whitwell asked for this to be added to the agenda of the next Community Projects meeting.

F54/17 To receive the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 20th February 2017 and to report the draft minutes from the 1st March 2017.

Ratified: The Minutes from 20th February 2017 were approved and the draft minutes were presented.

Cllr Mrs Jolley advised a letter had been sent to Nick Harding regarding paperless plans, the Clerk confirmed to date, no response had been received.

F55/17 To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.

Cllr Bristow attended the Burnthouse Farm – 25K was distributed which left a balance of £343.00 until the next tranche of money is received in October. Only one application did not receive funding. A parish council was allocated 5K for a footpath to extend their cemetery. Therefore, WTC could apply for funding providing it is for the benefit of the community. One village received £11.5K of funding for three projects.

Cllr Bristow advised there are two funds that will benefit the residents of Whittlesey a health fund which has 75K per year for physical and mental health. There is another fund that is given by Larkfleet which could benefit Defibrillators for All or NPNG UK.

Cllr Bristow advised the next Hereward Community Full partnership meeting is 27th March at 6pm at Fenland District Council.

Cllr Wicks – Advised members he had attended a C CVS funding meeting and ‘The big lottery fund’ is available for community activities, the council can also make application for these funds. Cllr Wicks has arranged a further meeting with C CVS.

Cllr Mason – advised members the Business Forum Meeting are having a trade fair in Whittlesey on 8th October 2017, and will be named ‘Whittlesey Business Expo’, this will be held at Sir Harry Smith.

F56/17. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including: -

To receive the list of planning application decisions.

F57/17. Agenda items for Discussion.

- Community Road Watch / SIDD / Traffic Calming – Update AM/AB – Cllr Miscandlon advised he has received a copy of a letter that was sent to a local company the response has been received and drivers will be spoken to regarding their speed and other issues. Cllr Miscandlon is still trying to organise a meeting with the Police Inspector to provide evidence that Whittlesey and the villages do have a speeding problem. Cllr Mrs Laws advised members that Stonald Road has not yet been monitored as there is still a great deal of construction traffic.
- Whittlesey Neighbourhood Plan update

A survey has been produced to obtain opinions and comments from all residents in the parish of Whittlesey so that a Neighbourhood plan can be designed based on views from residents.

Printing of 10,000 surveys has been commissioned, 7,500 to be hand delivered to all residents of the parish by a professional distribution company using GPS tracking to ensure maximum control over effective distribution, w/c 6th March 2017 – 17th March 2017.

The remaining copies will be held at Grosvenor House for collection by anyone requesting an additional copy. Further copies may be produced if required. All surveys have FSC certification.

1200 to be delivered to SHSCC for all pupils to complete together with an additional questionnaire designed especially for the age groups that attend that college.

Additionally, all 4 Primary Schools will help all pupils complete a simplified survey designed specifically for their age ranges.

Residents will be notified via Discovering Whittlesey and The Fens magazines, social media, notice boards and flyers.

There will be three public meetings held to explain, answer questions and assist in completion of the survey:

Wednesday 22nd March 16:00 – 19:00 Coates village Hall

Thursday 23rd March 16:00 – 18:30 Eastrea village Hall

Saturday 25th March 10:00 – 15:00 Christian Church, Whittlesey

An additional 'mop up' session will take place on Saturday 1st April at Grosvenor House as an extension to the planned Councillor Surgery – 9:30 – 11:30.

For the public meetings map's will be produced to facilitate conversations relating to locations of features such as housing, green spaces, flood plains and conservation areas. These maps will be retained for future use.

Web Site:

The full survey will also be available on Whittlesey Town Council web site. The on-line survey is considered the primary method of completion because this will save significant time in processing the data.

The Web site has also been enhanced by an additional tab that draws attention to 39 points of interest, based on an existing Whittlesey Guide. This is a starting point for further publicity to help promote tourism in this parish.

Post Office closure, WTC web site also alerts residents about the impending closure for just over 2 weeks in March when the Post Office counter will be re sited, and again in April when the host premises closes for a refurbishment programme. Councillors have requested alternative arrangements for residents, however, the Post Office have been unable to provide any assurances other than highlighting alternative Post Office counters in Coates, Stanground, Farcet and Ramsey St Mary's, specifically a mobile unit was requested but the company maintain there are none available.

If WTC become aware of any alterations to the arrangements they will be posted on the WTC web site, it is with regret that the Post Office web site provides no such updates. According to Post Office Customer Care – there is a customer consultation process going on although it cannot be located on their web site or in the branch.

- Post Office: - The Town Council website gives details of the closure for two weeks and also when the host premise closes for refurbishment. The Post Office have not been able to offer alternative arrangements on site, but have just given the details of alternative post offices eg Coates, Stanground, Facet and Ramsey St Marys. The mobile unit was requested but WTC have been advised it was not available. Any updates will be

on WTC website, unfortunately the Post office are in the process of carrying out a large consultant and as such are unable to publish any of this information on their website. If there are any changes, they will put a notice in the closed post office! Members were advised that the post office works have been stated early as they need to commence the work during the current financial year. Cllr Dorling suggested a letter be sent to the Post Office requesting an improvement in the service for the month of April, there is no criticism of the Nisa store and their works as they are being undertaken to meet customer demand/.

- Kings Dyke Crossing – RB – Cllr Butcher was not present and update will be received at the next meeting.
- Crossing by the Co – Op – Cllr Boden advised members that the response from Garry Edwards advised he did not want his email put in the public domain, but would allow the key points to be used. Cllr Boden to draft a document and the Clerk to send to Garry Edwards to ensure he is happy with the text we wish to use.
- Commonwealth Day – AM (13th March 2017) – 9.45 at the memorial.

Cllr Curtis left the meeting 9.01pm

F58/17 Ward Matters

Cllr Boden – increased parking in Richardson Way. The straight is highways, however the spurs are maintained by Roddons.

Cllr Mason – the location of the xtravaganza meeting is at the Falcon Hotel.

Cllr Mason – Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) – for yellow lines on Church Street – Cllr Mason advised members that following a meeting with CCC the approximate cost would be £1000.00, there is also another TRO required for Parkinson's Lane, Cllr Mason has been advised that he can put both items on one TRO, the cost for the works would only increase by £100.00. The total cost would be £1100.00 for Church Street and Parkinson's Lane. Cllr Mason proposed the £1100.00 expenditure, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mayor, unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Boden – Richardson Way – another case of a boiler failing and the resident has been left without hot water for two weeks, and will still be without heating for a further week. Circle Housing have now set up a number for Councillors or MP's to escalate any problems.

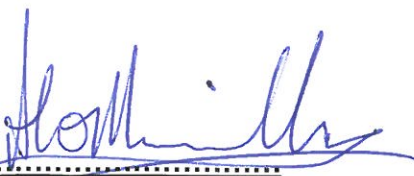
Cllr Wicks – The bin on Wype Road has been installed.

F59/17. Date of next full Council meeting – Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 7.30 at Grosvenor House.

F60/17. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F61/17. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F21/17

Meeting closed 9.47.



Cllr Alex Miscandlon
Mayor of Whittlesey