

Handwritten signature or initials in blue ink.

FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL 2016 AT 7.30 AT GROSVENOR HOUSE, GROSVENOR ROAD, WHITTLESEY.

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

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Sue Evans – Town Clerk.

Recording: DS2500.59.DS2

F59/16 To receive apologies from absent Members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Mrs Windle (Personal)

F60/16. 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 F79/16

- Property Working Group - TRB
- Allotment Settlement Agreement

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 at a later date.

F71/16 item G, Cllr Bristow declared a personal interest as he is a governor at New Road School.

F61/16 Police matters including CCTV Report

Cllr Miscandlon advised members that on the 18th April the police station will be closed for three weeks the reason is unknown.

F62/16 Street Scene Officer Report

Members were pointed towards an email from FDC to advise that a member of the public had been successfully prosecuted at Peterborough Magistrates Court for non payment of a fine for littering, the total cost was £317.00. Cllr Boden asked for this information to be posted on the WTC website to show that Fenland are very proactive.

F63/16 Presentation by Cathy Carlisle – Head Teacher, Alderman Jacobs School

Mrs Carlisle advised that Alderman Jacobs School is one of the largest primary school in Cambridgeshire with a capacity for 630, but with currently 580 pupils, with the new homes it is envisaged that by the time the developments are completed they will be at capacity.

AJS in the last two years have spent time working on what they want for the children of AJS, one of things they have worked on with the Children, staff, trust and parents is a vision for the school.

They have three main focus elements for the vision they are:

- Learning - AJS want to encourage children to be keen to come to school and enjoy learning. – Progress, skills and attitude are all key elements.
- Life – teaching children how to go in society and be good citizens, healthy lifestyle, new activities – Health, sport and aspirations are all key elements.

Handwritten signature

- Environment – Care about people, look after your belongings, reduce and reuse – additional key elements to this are Be Green, Respect and Compassion.

AJS has been an academy for five years meaning it has a trust and governing body allowing it to make many of its own decisions.

AJS wishes to extend the number of specialist teacher in the school through the approach to outside organisations for additional funding for their 'Green' projects, further improve their outdoor spaces and finally recruit more governors.

Cllr Bristow asked if AJS were aware of Glassmore Bank Environmental fund – Mrs Carlisle has heard of this and the Burnthouse one, she will check and come back to the council if she requires more information.

Cllr Curtis asked about the ethnic mix in the school, Mrs Carlisle advised it hasn't changed much in the last few years and is still mono cultural, hence the reason for introducing passport day to allow children to find out about different cultures. Cllr Curtis asked about government funding and Mr Digby advised that there is currently a consultation going on 'Fair funding formula, Cambridgeshire is currently in the bottom 4 or 5, the aim over the next 3 or 4 years is to move Cambs up, there may be some boroughs in London that are £7,000 or £8,000 per child, where as in Cambs we are at £3500.00 per child, so for example some in London may have to be reduced to allow an increase in per pupil funding in other local authorities.

Cllr Mason asked about the schools' attitude competition - Mrs Carlisle advised as an example that on sports day they have two sessions, a morning where all children participate, and the afternoon where children are more competitive.

F64/16 Presentation by Jonathan Digby – Principal, Sir Harry Smith Academy.

Mr Digby advised that Park Lane and New Road are now part of the Whittlesea Learning Trust, the governors and trustees have now agreed to join with SHS Community College to be a new Multi Academy Trust called the 'Aspire Learning Trust' which is due to commence on the 1st July 2016.

All staff and parents at all three of the schools have been consulted on this and the due diligence is being completed at the moment. The general comment has been 'it just makes sense'.

The trust will raise achievement and develop all the students from the age of 3 to 19. Helping them to have lively enquiring minds, question, think creatively, argue rationally and apply themselves.

The vision of the trust is to develop all the things they need for adult life.

The structure of the learning trust is set up like a business model, the main part of this being the 2nd tier being the board of directors that will hold the school to account and report to the DfE.

Mr Digby now as Executive Head has 1600 children, the Associate Principal is Dawn White (SHS) and the Executive Head teacher for New Road and Park Lane is Rob Litten.

To make the vision a reality various items need to be amended for example, the grounds maintenance currently has three contracts with one contractor, it would make sense to have one contract with the to enable cost saving across the board, this is just one of the many items that will be looked at.

Cllr Boden asked about the economies of scale, Mr Digby advised they are still going through due diligence, he doesn't have all the books as they are with the accountants, and he doesn't want to look at restructuring or redundancies, hopefully some of it will be natural wastage. Any new staff will be on the new ALT contract, he is looking at all staff across all the schools and hopes that they can all cross over and assist each other.

Cllr Boden asked if they are taking 185 does that mean larger classes, Mr Digby advised that the form groups may be 31, however the core subjects would be in smaller groups, so perhaps 23 and 24 in English, Maths, PE etc.

Cllr Butcher asked if there was an issue recruiting – Mr Digby advised there have been difficulties, but he has been quite successful with recruiting. Possibly the new bridge at Kings Dyke will encourage people to come to Whittlesey as it will be more accessible.

F65/16 To confirm and sign the Minutes from the meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 9th March 2016.

Ratified: The Minutes were approved.

F66/16 Public Forum

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

5 Members of the public present.

Roy Gerstner

Expressed his congratulations to Jonathan Digby, eight years of continuity and success at the school.

Cllr Gerstner showed people the Wisbech Vision 2020 leaflet – Will Whittlesey have a vision beyond next week / next year?

Mr Steve Buddle – Rose Homes regarding the disable parking at Windmill Street, F73/16

In 1994 the original planning permission was passed for 35 units with single access via Windmill Street, in 2013 a new application was made which was approved, there was however one parking space on Windmill Street. In late 2015 Rose homes were surprised to see another disabled space being marked out, Rose Homes have now had to pay a substantial amount of money to now move the spaces. The houses will be built later in 2016.

F67/16 Information Only.

- Fenland Twinning Association letter.
- Young Citizen of the year presentation information

F68/16 Invitations.

There were no invitations

F69/16 To receive the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 24th February 2016.

The Minutes were received.

F70/16 To receive the minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 24th February 2016.

The Minutes were received.

F71/16 To receive the minutes from the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting Monday 22nd February 2016.

The Minutes were received.

A To approve amendments to Whittlesey Town Council Financial Regulations - this item was recommended for approval at F & P 21st March, Full Council ratification is required.

B Small Substantive amendments

C Drafting Amendments

D Revision of Regulation 5.

Items A to D above were proposed by Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Boden, 1 against, all other councillors in favour.

- E To approve amendments to the Reserves Strategy and discuss suggested resolution - this item was recommended for approval at F & P 21st March, Full Council ratification is required.

Item E was proposed by Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Boden, 1 abstention, all other members were in favour.

- F LHI Burnthouse Road, additional funding of £3500.00 to complete the path – TRB, this item was recommended for approval at F & P 21st March, Full Council ratification is required.

Cllr Butcher advised members that when the development was finished approximately fourteen years ago, the pavement was not completed and over the years via the LHI we have increased the pavement, WTC was successful if the last round of LHI and would contribute the normal 10%, however to finish the pavement an additional £3500.00 was required. Cllr Butcher requested that WTC fund the additional amount to finish of the pavement.

Item F above this was proposed by Cllr Dorling, Cllr Butcher unanimous vote in favour.

- G To discuss the donation request from New Road Primary School.

Members discussed the donation request in depth, but were unsure of the reasoning, Cllr Bristow advised members as follows:

In September 2015 the school's OFSTED Report identified the reading skills were below the normal scale, however since they have received some grant funding and can operate a system for children to take books home to read the reading skills have improved rapidly.

The children that attend New Road school come from a wide variety of backgrounds from affluent families and deprived families.

The reason for the grant is to allow children to take the books home and not have to bring them back in a short space of time.

Cllr Bristow advised they have been allocated £1000.00 from Moto, the project total is £3000.00.

Cllr Boden proposed the grant, seconded by Cllr Garratt, two abstentions, all other councillors in favour.

F72/16 To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.

Cllr Mason attended the Whittlesey Business Forum meeting, they have 82 on the database and 32 paid up members. The next meeting is 20th April at 6pm at Grosvenor House.

Cllr Bristow – the meeting for Burnthouse grants was postponed as there was only one request. The Clerk advised that she had already sent out the information to all the Tesco applicants, but would resend it with the details of Cllr Miscandlon, Butcher and Bristow with a note stating that they would be happy to give advice on the completion of the forms.

F73/16. 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

F/YR16/0182/FDC – Erection of a 4.8 metre high flag pole and display of associated flags – War Memorial, Queen Street, Whittlesey.

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval – unanimous vote in favour.

F/YR16/0214/0 – Erection of a dwelling (Outline application with all matters reserved) involving demolition of existing garage – Land West of 4 Blunts Lane, Whittlesey.

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval – providing drop kerbs are located in the appropriate places.

ALJW

F/YR16/0221/F – Change of Use from retail (A1) to osteopath practice (D1) – Ground Floor, 14 Market Place, Whittlesey

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval – unanimous vote in favour.

F/YR16/0222/LB – Internal works to a listed building to enable change of use from retail (A1) to Osteopath practice – 14 Market Place, Whittlesey

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval – unanimous vote in favour.

16/00080/MMFUL – Erection of Gas to Grid Anaerobic Digestion Plant to comprise four digester tanks, technical operations building, silage clamp, storage lagoons, four liquid waste tanks, Gas Flare, Gas Upgrading System, (GUS) and Gas Entry Unit (GEU), separator, cooling unit, transformer, heating kiosk and two underground propane tanks – Land Adjacent to Horsey Toll Farm, Whittlesey.

Members discussed the application in depth and agreed to refuse the application on the same grounds as it had before, the Clerk was asked to send the response with these rejections. This refusal was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jolley, seconded by Cllr Butcher, 4 members were in favour of the refusal, 3 voted against and 6 members abstained.

CCC/PRO261 – Proposed CCC relocation of disabled parking Windmill Street, Whittlesey.

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval with a unanimous vote in favour.

CCC/PRO260 - Proposed CCC speed limit extension A605. (Larkfleet roundabout)

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval with a unanimous vote in favour.

F74/16. Agenda items for Discussion.

- Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Mrs Laws advised members that we have an award winning London Based company who are going to assist, the main consultant is meeting with Cllr Mrs Laws and Bristow on the 26th April to discuss the vision for the town, he is giving his time free of charge. Cllr Mrs Laws also confirmed they are in discussions with a Consultant who only supports Neighbourhood Plans. New funding was put in place from the 1st April 2016 by the Neighbourhood plan funding, we could obtain between 10 and 20K to assist us with the plan, however, once we apply for the funding we only have 30 days to send in our application and demonstrate that we have a resilient neighbourhood plan.
- Mud Walls – Cllr Whitwell advised he had attended two meetings with Katie McAndrew Conservation Officer FDC, there is a new mud walls group being formed in Whittlesey. There have been three surveys about mud walls in Whittlesey, 1981 – 42 mud walls, 1991 – 23 mud walls, and in 2006 – 16 mud walls, therefore in 25 years approximately two thirds of the mud walls have disappeared. Each time there has been a survey, a thorough document is produced, but nothing has been followed up. The new group is going to look at the 16 walls that were identified from 2006, they are going to look at protection of the walls, education of the schools and also ways to assist the owners of these walls with help of maintenance.
- Energy Performance Certification, Grosvenor House – Cllr Mason advised members that he had been furnished with information from the Clerk which identified that the DCLG in 2008 introduced a register and system to ensure commercial premises which were either sold or let had a valid EPC in place. The Town Council moved into this building in 2010 and the EPC should have been provided by the Landlord, there is not one on file from the Landlord. The Clerk to write to the Landlord and request a copy of the EPC.
- Finance & Policy Committee – Cllr Miscandlon advised members that Cllr Mrs Mayor had resigned from the F & P Committee. Members agreed not to fill the place as the Annual Meeting of the Council is in May, this would be deferred to the May meeting.
- County Division Boundary and Corporate Governance Review – CB advised members that at a previous meeting it had been agreed to ask for a Corporate Governance Review, that request wasn't sent to FDC as the local government boundary commission for England has decided to

reopen the consultations, this is the fourth round for the review, the public consultation will open in 6 weeks and will last for 6 weeks, so can be discussed at a future meeting.

- Licensing Policy Changes Consultation Document – Cllr Miscandlon and Cllr Mrs Mayor advised members that the agenda for the forthcoming Licensing Meeting had already been issued, but requested that if any members have questions about the changes, please could they email them to either Cllr who would bring them up during the meeting.

F75/16. Ward Matters

- Cllr Curtis requested that someone from Vivacity is invited to the next meeting.
- Various Cllrs have now received complaints about the lighting switch off in the Town, Cllr Boden has spoken to CCC who were supposed to furnish the Clerk with further information, as of now the Clerk has still not received anything. Cllr Boden will contact CCC regarding the street lights.

The Mayor suspended standing orders. At 10.00

F76/16. Approval of Bank reconciliation and Council payments.

Cllr Dorling advised members that the Clerk is currently working on the year end so there would be no bank reconciliation as we are only 13 days into the new financial year and no cheque to sign. Cllr Dorling did advise members that all the case balanced at the year end.

Cllr Curtis gave his apologies and left the meeting 10.02

F77/16. Date of next full Council meeting – Wednesday 11th May 2016 at 7.30 at Grosvenor House.

Members were also advised that the Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11th May 2016

F78/16. 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.

F79/16. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F60/16

Meeting Closed 10.08

.....
Cllr Alex Miscandlon
Mayor of Whittlesey