

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2018 at 7.30pm at Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey.

Present: Butcher, Miscandlon, Mason, Boden, Whitwell, Mrs Laws, Wicks, Dorling, Mrs Windle, Bristow.

Officer in attendance: Mrs Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk

Recording: DS25.DS2

F42/18. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Curtis (personal), Cllr Mrs Jolley (illness), Cllr David Connor (County Councillor attending Doddington Full Council meeting), Cllr Mrs Mayor (prior engagement)

F43/18 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 F62/18

- Land Ownership – CB

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.

Cllr Wicks declared a personal interest in the item for the Strawbear as he is on the committee.

F44/18 Police matters including CCTV Report

PCSO's Shane Green and Mike Froment were in attendance and reported on issues in Whittlesey and its villages.

- High Causeway will continue to be monitored

Members asked if drop in sessions similar to those held in the library could be held in the villages.

The Mayor thanked PCSO Green and Froment for all their help in Whittlesey and the villages.

F45/18 Street Scene Officer Report

The report from FDC was noted.

F46/18. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 14th February 2018.

Ratified: The minutes were signed and approved.

F47/18 Presentation from Steve Bass FDC – Air pollution Whittlesey.

Nitrogen Dioxide (Road Traffic)

At the start of 2018 we increased the monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) from four to seven locations within Whittlesey, using passive diffusion tubes. These are installed / collected on a 4-5 week cycle in-line with the national diffusion tube exposure periods.

The current monitoring programme runs until the end of March 2019, we should be able to report on the results for the extra tubes in early 2019. The locations are on the A605 at West End and Eastrea Road and on Station Road.

The results since 2009 are shown in the graph below. All the NO₂ diffusion tubes showed compliance with the annual mean objective for NO₂, which is set at 40 µg/m³.

If any annual means are recorded that are greater than 60µg/m³ then this may indicate that an exceedance of the 1-hour mean objective is also likely. No such exceedances were recorded at any monitoring site.

I have included the 2017 results for the established sites, there was a slight increase across three of the sites but still well below the action level.

Based upon traffic levels and the fact that the NO₂ is well within the objective we cannot justify monitoring for Particulate Matter (PM10 or PM2.5), the latest DEFRA assessments indicate that the objective for both will be met within the area. Defra have accepted our conclusions and are not asking us to monitor in the district.

Sulphur Dioxide (Industrial)

Whittlesey does have an Air Quality Management Area; this is for Sulphur Dioxide attributable to the brickworks. This dates back to work undertaken in 2005/06 that concluded that an area along roads and cycle routes to the west and northwest of Whittlesey brickworks and an area covering roads, footpaths, dwellings, schools and public open spaces to the east of Whittlesey brickworks., could be above the 15-Minute Mean objective. This was based upon modelling and assumed that all the kilns (including the now closed Saxon Works) would be operating at the same time. As part of their Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency, Forterra monitor at two locations in the in Whittlesey. They operate continuous ambient monitoring stations (CAMS) to the east-southeast of the former Saxon Works (Park Lane CAMS) and to the north of the Kings Dyke Works (Bradley Fen CAMS). These results confirm that the sulphur dioxide objectives are being achieved, for the 15-minute, hourly and daily air quality objectives at locations of relevant exposure within the current AQMA.

F48/18 Public Forum

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

Six members of the public were present.

A resident from Snoots Road commented that the burst water main on A605 near the water tower caused a major problem, HGVs ignored the signs on the A605 that stated the access was for resident only and used Snoots Road as a cut through causing many issues.

A resident – can we have paint on the zebra crossings as they paint is virtually impossible to see, he also asked that FDC should be leading on putting electric vehicle charging points into the town. He would also like FDC take the initiative to have the correct machinery to monitor air pollution within the Fenland Towns.

F49/18 Information Only.

- There is no information

F50/18 Invitations.

- There are no invitations

F51/18 Consultation

- Corporate Governance Review – Cllr Boden asked that all Cllrs also respond individually. 

- Peterborough City Council – Supplementary planning documents
- Consultation at New Road School 28th March 2018 to discuss the extension to New Road School.

F52/18 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on Monday 19th February 2018.

Ratified: The minutes were approved and signed.

F53/18 To report the financial documents

- To report the bank reconciliation – The Chairman advised the bank is fully balanced.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments – members approved the list of payments
- To report the year to date figures (2017/2018) –The Chairman advised we are 95.42 % of the year, with an underspend of approximately 30K.
- To approve the donation requests.
 - CAB – the continued funding of the CAB was proposed by Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Boden with a unanimous vote in favour.
 - Whittlesey Festival, Cllr Dorling proposed 4k, seconded Cllr Mrs Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

F54/18 To receive the minutes from the Planning Meeting on 19th February 2018 and report the minutes from Wednesday 7th March 2018.

Ratified: The minutes from the 19th February were approved and the draft minutes from the 7th March were reported.

F55/18 To report the draft minutes from Community Projects on the Wednesday 7th March 2018.

Ratified: The draft minutes were reported.

F56/18 To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.

Cllr Mason – Whittlesey Extravaganza.

The AGM of Whittlesey Extravaganza committee took place on 6th March 2018, Cllr Mason was disappointed that only nine people turned up to this meeting. He has asked that a letter be sent from WTC to the Chairman of the Extravaganza expressing our thanks and congratulations for the first year they have been set up.

Cllr Whitwell – CCTV – (forthcoming meeting)

CCTV - Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 6.30pm.

Cllr Dorling – Thorney Running Club.

Annual 10k Run, 25th March 2018 – Cllr Dorling advised the road through the middle of Thorney will be closed.

F57/18. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including: -

To receive the list of planning application decisions.

F58/18. Agenda items for Discussion.

Must Farm – Cllr Dorling gave a full update on what has happened and where we are now!

- April 2017 Must Farm appeared on our Agenda for the first time – report delivered by David Mason.

- Earlier today, 11 months later DM, AM & ED attended a meeting with 9 others in PCC Town Hall to progress what has become known as Project B. Four individuals expressed a phrase first attributed to Otto von Bismark” the art of the possible, the attainable “
- This is important because 12 months ago we had nothing, we aspired to create a Heritage Centre and a group of replica roundhouses in a realistic Fenland Landscape. The roundhouses might not feature significantly within Project B, however, the story about what happened at Must Farm, replica artefacts, demonstrations and a sustainable tourist attraction have great promise.
- On 27th February 2018 included a meeting with Fourth Street the organisation awarded the task of completing a Feasibility Study that WTC contributed to. A site visit provided valuable information on a potential site for a Heritage Centre, parking, park and ride and an introduction to the Fenland Landscape. The outcome of the study needs refining because there are too many options being considered, the proposal is likely to be available in May although a further group meeting will be scheduled in mid-April.
- On March 5th at the Knights Chamber, Peterborough cathedral – Presentation of Plan A, an impressive plan to extend the Peterborough Museum in Priestgate, an initial submission for £5m has been submitted 2pm 14th March with outcome expected in June – the overall project is likely to cost £9m.
- Following feedback by residents via the Neighbourhood Plan that was circulated last year a significant number of respondents expressed keen interest in Bronze Age history and culture as it impacted on the area, many said they would like to be involved with voluntary help if such a venue was created.
- A key element of this work uses a phrase referred to as the ‘String of Pearls’ this is a concept where various locations convey another aspect of the Must Farm story, for example: finds from the dig, other bronze age artefacts and an exploded visualisation of a roundhouse using original and replica structures might be delivered at the Peterborough Museum.

With cross marketing to:

- Flag Fen where a replica roundhouse and preserved boats and the causeway would tell another facet of the story –
- Kings Dyke could provide a Heritage Centre offering a digital representation of the dig, digital learning experiences, demonstrations, story telling and all the background the archaeologists surmise from the evidence they uncovered. There is a view that our unique prehistoric fossils will be of immense value to younger visitors – thus adding to the string of Pearls.
- We are keen to engage with the local Museum because this is an opportunity to showcase items that seldom see the light of day whilst maintaining the ecology associated with the Nature Reserve and respecting nature.

Objectives for Project B might include:

- Enhanced Educational opportunities
- Volunteering opportunities
- Regeneration & economic growth
- Employment
- Skills Training
- Health benefits
- Partnership possibilities

We will continue to promote our parish in pursuance of Project B, our NHP has generated valuable information that, with permission, I will forward to Fourth Street to assist with their feasibility study.

Strawbear

- Cllr Wicks Stated that the 2019 festival will not be the last, there is going to be a full review of expenditure as the costs will be increasing.
- Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Mrs Laws advised a conference call is booked for tomorrow with the consultants, additional funding from the locality office maybe available. The masterplan has been produced by Akon and is free of charge.

Property working group update

- The WTC Property Working Group have met this week to study designs produced by Swann Edwards for comment which have been circulated to all Councillors for their additional consideration and comment.
- The proposed development has three main aspects.
 1. The construction of a new council chamber and associated facilities.
 2. The provision of suitable offices for the Town Clerk to carry out her daily duties and for Councillors to have working space
 3. The refurbishment of living accommodation including the conversion of former interview rooms to their original domestic use.

Council Chamber

- After due consideration the Property Working group are recommending that the glass frontage at the front of the proposed Council Chamber be replaced with brickwork and a single fire exit door at the front onto Queen Street.
- The proposed static projection screen at the front of the chamber to be replaced by two more flexible or mobile screens.
- The situation of the Mayor and Town Clerk to be reversed from east to west in the chamber to allow them to face the public gallery.
- The double leaf internal doors at the rear of the public gallery to open outwards in to the foyer.
- Power in the two plant rooms to be supplied by electricity and gas respectively.
- The sink shown at the front of the council chamber to be removed and a new wash up area to be created at the rear instead of one of the existing toilets.
- Consideration to be given to the provision of a sloping roof or ridge at the rear to improve security of the building.

Main Offices.

- Minimum reconstruction work required with the roller shutter in the reception lobby to be repositioned on the south side of the lobby to access the Town clerk's office more readily.
- A Members Room and two meeting rooms to be assigned for general use away from the Town Clerk's working area.
- A courtyard to be created to the rear of the ground floor offices.
- Office space and a meeting room to be created on the first floor with access from the repositioned modular disabled lift.
- The main expense is anticipated to be redecoration, flooring etc.

Living Accommodation

- One flat above the proposed council chamber is virtually habitable at present with all modern facilities installed.
- The second flat is in need of bathroom equipment but otherwise habitable.
- Both flats provide kitchen, dining room and lounge on the first floor with three bedrooms each on the second-floor level and will require minimum redecoration and flooring prior to occupation.

All information under section Property Working Group was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded Cllr Bristow with a unanimous vote in favour.

Community Rail Partnership

- Cllr Bristow advised members that the dates for the station masterplan were now confirmed, the Clerk is advertising the poster in the window and on the website, FDC are also putting notices up in the town. Cllr Bristow offered thanks to Mr Alan Neville from Greater Anglia for the removal of all the debris at the station and requested this be minuted. The Annual meeting regarding the station masterplan will be held at Fenland District Council on Thursday 26th April 2018 at 7pm.

Potholes

- Members were advised to put the any details regarding potholes or the condition of road on the CCC website, the Clerk to send the link out members.

Syrian Refugees

- At last month's Whittlesey Town Council meeting unanimous support was given by councillors to the proposed repatriation of two Syrian families in Whittlesey under a scheme funded by central government by means of the International Aid Grant Scheme.
- With reference to my earlier presentation on proposals at the former police station in Queen Street two three-bedroom flats have been identified above the new Council Offices which would ideally suit this purpose.
- A revenue stream of £71,500 from central government funds would be guaranteed over a five-year period, funds which would be used for the benefit of the community in Whittlesey on future projects. Under the government scheme a managing agent would be provided at no cost to WTC to monitor the premises and be on hand for any emergency. There will also be no necessity to employ estate agents initially to market the premises
- It is stressed that properties owned by private landlords only can be considered. Therefore, no social housing is involved, and this proposal will not prevent anyone from moving up the waiting list for social housing.
- All other funding for healthcare, education and general integration would be triggered once confirmation of accommodation is secured and it is proposed that payments to Whittlesey Town Council will commence in July 2018 whilst it is understood that the flats will not be occupied until September 2018.
- This item was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded by Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.

Citizen of the year –

- Cllr's Miscandlon, Butcher, Mrs Laws, Mrs Jolley, Curtis, all expressed an interest in being on the committee the Clerk to report back to the Chairman of the Community Projects Committee.

Water Tower Play Equipment.

- The online survey finished at end of February, FDC are now applying for funding, they have asked if Whittlesey TC would be able to offer at donation to it, FDC have put in 5k, Cllr Whitwell asked for it to be match funded, Cllr Mrs Laws seconded with a unanimous vote in favour.

F59/18 Ward Matters

Cllr Boden reported on the following issues:

Stagecoach are changing the timing for the 31 and 33, however stagecoach enquires are still unable to confirm the timings, the new timetable has been lodged with CCC which a legal requirement is.

Burst Water main in West End was chaotic, the work was completed however the reinstatement wasn't completed for a further three days, this was due to Anglian Water's sub-contractors (Clancy Docwra's) lack of priority on a major road.

Both Cllr Boden and Mason are taking up the issues of smells omitting from Saxon Pit.

Cllr Mrs Windle reported on the following issues along the Bower:

The community payback team will be working on the fisherman swims, also the large quantity of dog fouling along the bower has been reported to the street Scene officer.

F60/18. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 11th April 2018

F61/18. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F62/18. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F43/18

- Land Ownership – Nothing to discuss

Meeting closed: 21:52.

