

ASMA

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 12th OCTOBER 2016 AT
7.30 AT GROSVENOR HOUSE, GROSVENOR ROAD, WHITTLESEY**

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

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

Recording: DS250083.DS2

F165/16. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Curtis (work), Cllr Mason (holiday), Cllr Butcher (recovery), Cllr Garratt (unwell).

F166/16. 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 F/184/16

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.

F167/16 Police matters including CCTV Report

Chief Inspector Hills advised that the issue of 'killer clowns' is the main topic of conversation now; it encourages people to dress up in scary clown outfits and go and scare people both young and old.

There have been 15 incidents reported over the last 48 hours in Cambridgeshire, (Two in Whittlesey and one in Eastrea). Media response has been issued to advise that deliberately causing distress to others may result in prosecution.

Members expressed concern for residents in the town and villages, the police advised they would respond to all siting of clowns.

Cllr Boden suggested felt that social media was fuelling this craze which had initially started in America. Mr Ablewhite was concerned about secondary offences for example if a member of the public attacked a clown and caused harm the members of the public may face prosecution. This could also happen if an armed response unit were in attendance and not able so ascertain if the weapon that was being brandished was real or not.

F168/16 Street Scene Officer Report

Cllr Mrs Mayor advised the Queen Street carpark has been weeded and the weeds around the town have been sprayed today.

F169/16 Presentation from Chief Inspector Mike Hills and Police & Crime Commissioner Mr Jason Ablewhite.

Mr Ablewhite advised members that the first five and half months of him being in post has been a real eye opener. He has tried to spend time out on the front line to see what the officers must endure. There are more people coming forward about sexual exploitation and domestic violence than in previous years.

His main concern is how the police are now having to deal with people with mental health illness or people in crisis, incidents has increased for the police due to the withdrawal of some funding from the NHS. Mr Ablewhite advised that 50 police hours per day are spent with people in crisis or at the hospital

The Police & Crime commissioner wants to bring the strategic partners together to ensure that the Police are always available whether it be a 999 request or 101. This is an ongoing project.

Chief Inspector Mike Hills advised the reason behind closing Whittlesey Police Station was purely financial 'bricks and mortar don't deliver, but the people on the front line do'. Whittlesey will still have a police presence and the number of officers in Whittlesey will not reduce. They will now log on in March but will then be in Whittlesey for the duration of their shift unless called elsewhere. The library will be their base and they will be able to work from there.

Members asked if there would be an increase in PCOS and Specials and were told that there has been an increase in the number of Specials and recent promotions to encourage them to continue in the role. Mr Ablewhite advised that by the end of his tenure in 2020 the amount of 'Specials' will be further increased. Cambridge has a very high bench mark, recently there were 185 applications to join the specials, only 20 were successful. They are considering setting up a 'special PCSO', this project is in its early days but if successful would support the full force, and give the visibility in the community that is required.

Cllr Whitwell asked if they have all this technology why can't the briefings be done remotely to prevent officers travelling to March for a briefing then having to travel back to their area. CI Hills advised that its due to the Sergeants being in March and having the whole team together for the briefing to ensure everyone feels part of the team.

The question was asked about the libraries restricted opening hours., CI Hills advised when the library is not open, they are investigating using the fire station.

Cllr Bristow advised he found it acceptable that the police station would close, but disagreed with the travelling to March to log on. He has received comments from members of the public who don't have any confidence in the police, other members of the council concurred with Cllr Bristow's comments. CI Hills advised that the travel time before logging in would be in the officer's own time and not take from the shift time. CI Hills advised that the amount of Special's has been increased to support the Fenland Towns. CI Hills advised that he checks monthly on the surveys that are completed and he is not picking up any significant issues around Whittlesey and the Villages.

Cllr Boden advised that the crime figures for Whittlesey seem significantly lower than any other towns of the same size in the county. He would be interested in quantifying these results. Cllr Boden also asked how the feedback about lack of confidence could be changed as residents feel that there are no police. CI Hills advised that just plain visibility doesn't necessarily tackle crime effectively and one of the potential ideas that is being looked at is 'Hotspot policing' this targets areas where there are issues and puts patrols on every 15 minutes to resolve the situation. This produced some very good results when used in Peterborough.

Inspector Hills advised he would be more than happy to come back and answer any further questions. Cllr Alex Miscandlon asked for any crime figures to be sent to the council.

Cllr Miscandlon advised that we value the work of the local police and we would love to see greater cooperation with other agencies including the Town Council.

F170/16 To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 14th September 2016

Ratified: The Minutes were approved.

F171/16 Public Forum

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

5 Members of the public were present.

Robin Sutton – Neighbourhood Watch – Letterset Ward.

Thanked Cllrs Mrs Windle and Mrs Jolley for attending the last Neighbourhood Watch Meeting and agreed that with 'Agile' policing properly police stations are unnecessary. The NHW team feel agile policing is very useful unless the officers are called to Wisbech, then back to Peterborough to deal with an incident, this would mean that Whittlesey would be without any Police. They were also concerned that the Police had different touchdown area's the library and the Fire station the public may not know where the police are on that day.

Bernard Gray-Esson – Eastrea.

Members were advised that recently there was a Celebration event at the Brassia club, the rewards were in recognition for what the volunteer groups do and it was a great event.

F172/16 Information Only.

- Remembrance Parade 13th November 2016.
- Cllr Wicks was asked to lay the wreath at Turves

F173/16 Invitations.

The Mayor advised that Planning training at FDC will be on 3rd November at 6.30pm, this is open to all Councillors and Clerks.

F174/16 Consultations

- Flood Awareness and Preparedness Questionnaire – CCC – Cllr Mrs Laws volunteered to complete and return this questionnaire,

F175/16 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Friday 23rd September 2016

The Minutes were reported and will be approved at the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 26th October 2016.

F176/16 To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 28th September 2016.

The Minutes were reported and will be approved at the Community Projects on Wednesday 26th October 2016

Page 2. Notice Boards – Cllr Mrs Mayor was working on this and not Cllr Wicks.

Page 2 Town Planter Scheme – Cllr Mason will be discussing with Mr Hodson and not Cllr Mrs Mayor. Cllr Bristow left after the Must Farm Presentation.

F177/16 To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting Monday 26th September 2016

Cllr Dorling proposed that the cost of the monthly SLA is increased from £80.00 to £140.00 per month, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Dorling also proposed that the consultations has been carried out on the two schemes, one being Yellow Lines on Windmill Street, the other being the junction of Commons Road / Stonald Road. Cllr Boden advised there was an issue with linking the two projects the Commons Road projects is further forward and he believes in uncontentious. However, Windmill Street is a different matter, Cllr Boden has door knocked this road and received comments from residents who didn't respond to the consultation as they felt that their comments would not be taken into consideration, however they were not happy about the proposal for the yellow line and were concerned as to where vehicles would park. Cllr Boden agreed there did need to be action taken at the junctions on Windmill Street, he has attended Windmill Street late at night it is quite clear that if we went down the full yellow line works as proposed there would be a significant number of cars which would be displaced to other area. Cllr Boden as the County Councillor would be happy to propose the submission to LHI for double yellow lines at the various junctions, this would then be primarily paid for by the County Council and not the town council.

Cllr Mrs Laws proposed that the council move forward with the Commons Road proposal and could a cheque be raised for £250.00 to be raised for the TRA to advertise the works for Commons Road. This was seconded by Cllr Dorling with a unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Mrs Mayor advised that she supports everything Cllr Boden had said about Windmill Street and sees the yellow lines causing major problems, however the junctions are another issue, she does support the Commons Road yellow lines projection

Cllr Dorling was very disappointed that none of these comments regarding Windmill Street were raised prior to the consultation, he had spent 45 hours on this and feels very unhappy about the decision of

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others and would step down from this project. One of the main concerns on Windmill Street is the fact that emergency vehicles could not get down Windmill Street.

Cllr Boden felt there was a great deal of value in the consultation and most people recognised that there were issues on Windmill Street, there was 27 responses from 90 properties. Cllr Boden also advised that many people don't park on Windmill Street, but park in other areas. Cllr Boden advised the junction situation did need to be looked at. Cllr Boden would be happy to sponsor looking for LHI for the junctions associated with Windmill Street.

The Minutes will be approved at the F & P meeting on the 24th October 2016.

- To report the bank reconciliation.
- To report the list of payments
- To report the list of uncashed payments
- To report the year to date figures

Cllr Dorling advised we are now looking at the 2017/18 budget and would like members to submit anything they wish to be included in the 2017 budget.

F178/16 To receive verbal reports from members who have attended meetings with outside bodies.

Cllr Whitwell – Christmas Lights Committee, everything moving forward for the display this year.

Cllr Whitwell – Mud Walls Group – new members have joined following the stand at the Whittlesey Festival. The team have also discovered a new wall that has never been mapped this is located on Windmill Street.

Cllr Dorling – Cambs Fens Leader program – this was about grants that can be obtained. Local authorities can apply for this funding. Cllr Bristow asked if we could identify what the funding can be used for. Cllr Dorling will research this.

Cllr Windle – Neighbourhood watch also attended by Cllr Mrs Jolley.

Cllr Mrs Mayor – The next Hereward Rail meeting is Tuesday. Cllr Mrs Mayor has managed to work with HR partnership and ensure a better train service is in place, however this will not be until 2019. Cllr Mrs Mayor will now step down from this committee and Cllr Bristow will take over.

Cllr Bristow advised that he Cllr Butcher and Wicks had attended the Burnthouse Farm Environmental Fund. Submissions included four projects for Whittlesey, three have been approved and one was rejected.

F179/16. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including: -

F/YR16/0805/F – Installation of external wall insulation to front, rear and side of existing dwelling – 179 Kings Dyke, Whittlesey

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval.

F180/16. Agenda items for Discussion.

- **LHI Submission 2016/2017 – deadline 30th November 2016.**

Cllr Miscandlon proposed the 40MPH around Gravel House Corner to be set as a permanent speed restriction. Members agreed unanimously that this be the submission for the villages.

Cllr Whitwell proposed the scheme for the footpath in front of the allotments and continue to the amenity site, the cost is approximately 17k, the LHI would pay 10K, the town council would pay 7k, this was proposed by Cllr Whitwell, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.

Cllrs Miscandlon and Whitwell to meet with the Clerk to complete the paperwork for the submission.

A2311

Cllr Bristow has been approached by residents about a crossing by the co-op, the raised area that was place prior to the car park and road changes used to slow traffic down. Cllr Bristow suggested that road markings are put in saying look left and look right. Cllr Boden will endeavour to obtain the costings. Cllr Boden will ask the engineers for the best solution to the problem. this will be discussed at November meeting.

- **Community Road Watch - DL**
Stonald Road – Cllr Mrs Laws and Whitwell – Monday – Friday 7.30 – 9.00 am or 5.00 to 6pm in the evening. Cllr Wicks advised members that there were some irregularities regarding this organisation. The Clerk to email the Chief Inspector regarding the validity of the Community Road Watch organisation.
- **Neighbourhood Plan - DL**
The working group meet at 9.00 every Thursday morning, they are compiling a questionnaire. Vicky Payne from Urbed has met with team in an advisory capacity. The team is looking at other Council's neighbourhood plan questionnaires to ensure that WTC's is succinct and cost effective for the council. The questionnaire will be delivered to every house in the town. The questionnaire will be finished by January and will be in the magazines. Cllr Bristow advised that the current questionnaire format is different for the villages
- **Website Update Costing 2017/18 – ED**
This was agreed above. This now allows us for about 30 changes per month.
- **Kings Dyke Crossing**
Mr Tim Watkins will attend the November meeting to update members.
- **Must Farm – AM/DM**
Cllr Miscandlon, Whitwell and Curtis had attended the presentation at SHS whereby Selena Davenport from CCC Archaeological Unity. The siting of the artefacts will take about three years to ensure the correct preservation is completed prior to display. Cllr Miscandlon will chase the boards for the display in reception. Cllr Bristow advised that at the last Projects meeting it was agreed to purchase five of the books that are being produced about the site. Cllr Bristow proposed the purchase five books, seconded by Cllr Miscandlon unanimous vote in favour. These will be presented to the five local schools
- **Tour of Cambridgeshire 2017 – RW**
Cllr Whitwell reminded members that residents had supported the race to come through Whittlesey unfortunately due to other changes imposed on the organisers they have had to use the budget elsewhere; the organisers do remain committed to Whittlesey and they will endeavour to bring the race back through Whittlesey and villages in 2018
- **2017 Meeting Dates**
 - Amend June Full Council meeting to the 14th, Projects and Planning to the 28th June and F & P will be on the 26th June.
 - December Projects meeting to start at 6.00pm.
 - Cllr Mrs Laws proposed an August meeting seconded by Cllr Bristow, unanimous vote in favour.
 - Additional planning dates to be discussed by F & P at their next meeting.
- **Pedestrian Crossing near Co-op (AB)**
This item was dealt with earlier in the agenda.
- **Route 63 Cycle Path (RW)**
Cllr Whitwell – advised members the project is moving forward; Funthams Lane has been tarmacked. A new gate will now be put in at the end of Stonald Road. The cost of the gate is £2400.00 for a painted gate or £2700.00 for a galvanised gate. WTC budgeted £5000.00. Cllr Bristow proposed a galvanised gate at £2700 plus vat, Cllr Mrs Mayor seconded this, members voted unanimously in favour of this.
- **Whittlesey Station (KM)**

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Cllr Mrs Mayor is attending a meeting on Tuesday morning, the last meeting on the 19th September was a Full Partnership meeting. At the same meeting the previous year the Chairman advised he would look at issues at the station, emphasis was put on the fact that new lighting was needed at the station for safety reasons, a technical person that was attending the meeting suggested solar lights, the other issue is the five-bar gate that is half way down the roadway as vehicles collecting people being in the evening are unable to get to the platform as the gate is locked. Cllr Mrs Mayor would like to ascertain who owns the gate and find out if the gate could be locked after the last train, or moved further down the roadway. Cllr Mrs Mayor has advised that she will be stepping down from this project and Cllr Bristow will be taking over. Cllr Mrs Mayor further advised that the hourly service at Whittlesey will commence in 2019

Thanks to Cllr Mrs Mayor for all her effort to gain the hourly train service to Whittlesey. Lighting, covered areas and train information.

- **Boundary Changes CB**

Cllr Boden will bring something forward to the next meeting regarding the Corporate Governance Review. Cllr Boden will also advise members about Parliamentary changes, Cllr Boden will also advise members of the changes.

F181/16. Ward Matters

- Cllr Boden – Local Transport Strategy is being reviewed, the one for Fenland will be completed by Summer / Autumn 2017. One of the areas he is interested in the continued use on the A605 and passing in general through the area.
- Cllr Windle – Alarm at Black bush railway crossing has been reduced in volume.
- Cllr Windle – no news on Lazy Acre Farm.
- Cllr Bristow – disgusted with Gas board digging up pavements in Lattersey. They are leaving much rubbish lying about.
- Cllr Bristow – Millfield Way between New Road and the barrier – the road and footpath in terrible condition and needs immediate attention, he has recorded this on the CCC system, the Clerk offered to record this as well.

F182/16. Date of next full Council meeting – Wednesday 9th November 2016 at 7.30 at Grosvenor House

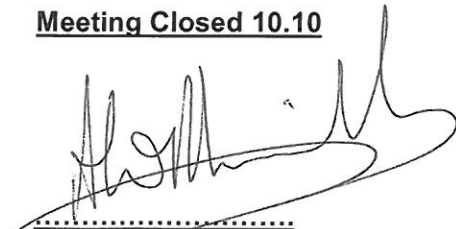
Cllr Bristow gave his apologies as he is on holiday.

F183/16. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F184/16. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F166/16

There were no items for discussion

Meeting Closed 10.10



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Cllr Alex Miscandlon
Mayor of Whittlesey