

# WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7.30 at Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey

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

**Officer in Attendance:**

Mrs Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

**Recording:**

DS 250245.DS2

**F107/19. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.**

Cllr Mason (holiday), Cllr Davies (work), Cllr Mrs Lang-Whiston and Cllr Munns (illness)

The Clerk suggested that in future the apologies are approved, the proposal and apologies accepted were proposed by Cllr Whitwell, seconded Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.

**F108/19 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 F126/19**

Cllr Mrs Laws as a Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder at FDC.

Standing orders were suspended to allow Cllr David Connor to speak on the Portaloo facility at Kings Delph and any update on Kings Dyke crossing.

Kings Dyke cross – CCC are continuing to work with Keir on the scheme, there are some design issues they are trying to resolve. Cllr Connor advised that as soon as he or Cllr Boden are made aware of the next step, they will disseminate this information to the council. Cllr Connor confirmed that Mayor James Palmer is totally committed to bring this scheme to fruition

Road Repairs - Drought damaged funding has been made available for the Ramsey Road, which will be shut between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August to enable the repairs to be made.

Cllr Mrs Laws advised there had been a meeting with Anglian Water and other utility companies to prevent the occasions when CCC repair a road, it is then dug up by the utility company. Anglian Water are taking the lead on this this, but there is no forthcoming information at this present time. Cllr Connor will discuss further with Cllr Mrs Laws.

Cllr Miscandlon – Advised Cllr Connor that a section of the Benwick Road has sunk over the last week and is very dangerous.

**F109/19 Police matters including CCTV Report**

Cllr Mrs Laws asked if the CCTV on the Market Place on Easter Sunday when the cross was moved and hidden. The Clerk to chase a response from

**F110/19. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

F94/95 should be in past tense not present.

Ratified: The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

**F111/19 Public Forum**

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

10 members of the public present.

Mrs Crosby commented that some of the allotments were very overgrown and allotment holders are becoming frustrated that weeds are encroaching onto their tidy allotments. She asked if the council still carried out inspection.

Mr Bernard Esson-Grey – Streetpride held two litter picks in May, Cllrs were thanked for attending. Members were also advised that the gutters along Wype Road and Thornham Way were full of weeds, could this area be sprayed.

**F112/19. Agenda items for Discussion.**

**Property working group update – Cllr Miscandlon & Cllr Dorling in Cllr Mason's absence.**

NB Construction officially took possession of the site in Queen Street on 21 May 2019.

The external lift at the rear of the premises was dismantled and removed by the contractors at no cost to the Council. Other quotations had been sought for the work, one of which amounted to £2,700 + VAT.

This has enabled the necessary work to be carried in two concurrent stages i.e. the two flats are being refurbished in line with the scheduled completion date of 31 July 2019 but whilst the weather has been favourable the external construction of the new Council Chamber has also been undertaken.

Asbestos that had been located adjacent to the redundant generator has been removed by a specialist company at a cost of £470 + VAT

Interest in the generator itself has been shown in writing from Whittlesey Junior Football Club and it is the proposal of the Property Working Group that the generator should be made a gift to the football club to enable them to service floodlights for evening matches and training purposes.

The Town Clerk has researched floor coverings and internal communications and has been invited to present the information later in the meeting.

Approaches will be made shortly to local companies to enable them to provide quotations for intruder and fire alarms etc.

Invitations had previously been sent out to local schools for ideas for a name for the new premises without receiving suitable ideas so suggestions from fellow Councillors and members of the public are invited for a final decision at the July meeting of WTC.

It is intended that the present logo for WTC is retained.

Grants for the provision of solar panels and electrical charging points are to be sought as a matter of some urgency, Cllr Dorling advised member that we would need to apply for funding as we now have accurate prices, Cllr Dorling will liaise with Cllr Bristow for assistance with this application.

The contracted completion date for the premises is 20 August 2019.

An official Grand Opening is proposed for Sunday 29 September 2019 where the guest of honour will be His Honour Neil McKittrick, High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire as the Queen's Representative. A guest list to be drawn up with the emphasis on local heads of organisations along with civic dignitaries.

Our thanks to Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor and Mr Ralph Butcher who have spent considerable time in sorting and removing redundant literature from Grosvenor House in anticipation of the move to Queen Street.

#### **VAT**

Cllr Dorling advised members that following in depth discussions with the VAT specialists the town council should be successful in recovering all the VAT charged, provided we:

- a. Monitor and limit the amount of time given to use of the Council Chamber
- b. That we carefully monitor all invoices so that we can ensure charges are clearly identified with specific areas of refurbishment and/or development in order to use the correct recovery process.

Cllr Dorling asked if anyone has a specific question, seeks clarification or wishes to meet with him to discuss this further, he will be happy to arrange a meeting that anyone from the Council can attend, or if they wish to ask a question in writing they should email him.

#### **Office Communications**

The Clerk was asked to present information regarding the proposed phone system. She had two quotations which were for very similar phones. Members agreed to have 2 phones and 2 licences, a hands-free headset for the Clerk and an additional port in the council chamber so one of the phones can be moved and used for any conference calls. This was proposed by Cllr Miscandlon, seconded Cllr Dorling with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **Office Flooring**

The Clerk had also been asked by the Chairman of the Property working group to obtain confirmation of the preferred flooring colour. Members agreed on Martinique Maroon, this was proposed by Cllr Miscandlon, seconded Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **Room Hire – New Office.**

Following the information given by Cllr Dorling on the VAT, members agreed that all hire time should be recorded, and the record maintained. This was proposed by Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **Payment of Invoices**

Members agreed that all invoices for the works to the new site are checked by the Clerk and a member of the property working group. This was proposed by Cllr Boden and seconded by Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **Generator**

Members were advised that an offer of £200.00 had been received but this had not come to fruition, the generator does need to be moved, therefore it was suggested following an approach by Mr Graham Sharman on behalf of the Whittlesey Junior Football Club at the field of dreams the generator be donated to them. The Clerk to contact Mr Sharman and advise the above also advise that the council will be able to assist in the removal of the generator. Mr Sharman will also need to ensure they have their own liability insurance. This was proposed by Cllr Miscandlon, seconded Cllr Wicks, unanimous vote in favour.

#### **CAPALC membership**

Membership of the above organisation was proposed by Cllr Whitwell, seconded Cllr Dorling with a 2 in favour and 8 against vote. The council will not join CAPALC. The Clerk requested that it be noted in the minutes that she is unable to obtain the new standing orders and there are some changes in there, therefore the information she has is not up to date.

### **Kings Dyke truck stop toilet**

Cllr Mrs Windle proposed that WTC contribute their share for the first year. Members were asked to investigate a more permanent facility that would be the responsibility of WTC. There are many options available, but discussions would need to take place with CCC and North Level. Cllr Miscandlon advised that at a previous meeting CCC highways did not want a permanent solution. Members agreed to continue their share of the funding providing that CCC and FDC also continue to fund. This was proposed by Cllr Gerstner, seconded Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.

### **Tour of Cambridgeshire**

Cllr Dorling reported as follows on this. The 4 events attracted about 15,000 cyclists. The 2020 event will provide an opportunity to qualify for the Canadian hosted **UCI Gran Fondo**.

Having discussed with the organisers previously about the possibility of bringing the race through Whittlesey it was agreed that a suitable route was not available, but that if a road improvement was made – it could be considered, and there was a desire to involve Whittlesey.

The planned bridge over the Kings Dyke Crossing could be the improvement needed. If we are to provide (post 2020):

- Engagement with the organisers.
- An international showpiece for our community.
- Youngsters with inspiration to compete at the highest level.
- Marketing opportunity for the parish of Whittlesey.

I am prepared to engage with the organisers if it is the will of this council to entertain the concept. This could literally put Whittlesey on the map.

Cllr Whitwell reminded members that in 2016 we carried out a survey and many people were in favour of the race coming through Whittlesey. Cllr Whitwell had met with the organisers who are keen for the race to come through Whittlesey, but the cyclists cannot go over railway lines, so the option would be the North Bank, but the police would not agree due to the quantity of businesses that would be affected. The next option is when the Kings Dyke bridge is built this would allow a new route. Ongoing dialogue should continue.

### **Climate Change**

Cllr Dorling asked, 'In what ways can WTC demonstrate commitment to reducing Climate Change', Brexit is important but is overshadowed by the onset of Climate Change. Securing trade deals may promote or preserve local commerce, but the very existence of this region in years to come must take precedence.

- We tolerate poor air quality close to schools.
- We fail to lead by example in terms of renewable energy.
- There are no charging points to support Electric Vehicles.
- There is no co-ordinated education for adults on environmental issues.
- Only the Business Forum supports shopping locally.
- Support is scarce in respect of growing our own produce.
- There are no co-ordinated tree planting initiatives.

We should be more concerned about leaving a viable economy and landscape for our children and their children.

I would like to start a debate – How do we make a start to address these and other issues within Whittlesey and the surrounding villages?

At the Fletton Liaison meeting Cllr Wicks was approached by a representative from the EA regarding tree planting the land near the South Bank, he is still waiting for an update from them. Cllr Boden suggested changes need to come from the top and not the bottom, there will be information coming through from CCC over the next twelve months and the council will be able to work alongside this.

## **F113/19 Ward Matters**

Cllr Bristow – Concerns are becoming evident regarding speeding along Bellmans Road. This has been an issue in the past, but more residents are complaining. Whittlesea Station, Cllr Bristow has been to the station today and the environment around the station is very poor, the foliage North of the station is encroaching further into the station area and destroying the tarmac. There are still the remains of the fly tipping left by the travellers. The concrete area where the buildings used to be are overgrown as is the ramp to the platform. Cllr Bristow had noticed on Social media that a gentleman was on the wrong platform couldn't cross and missed the train, he was sat inside the shelter, wet through and cold and wet, the station adopter took him to the Railway Public House where he was given a hot drink. Cllr Bristow was assured In October last year by Mr Neville that the area would be sprayed to prevent the weeds, this did not happen. Community Rail Partnership have funding to put six planters and new shelters. Cllr Bristow advised an audit of the station had been carried out in 2017 and many of the issues raised have not been actioned. Cllr Bristow to email Cllr Chris Seaton Portfolio holder at FDC.

Cllr Mrs Mayor – has been assured by FDC that the grass cutting will be up to date by the end of this week. The play areas at Eastrea should have been cut before the rain started and have now been cut. Cllr Wicks has agreement from FDC that rejuvenation of the Thornham Way play equipment will take place

Cllr Wicks – ongoing anti-social behaviour in the layby in Coates, residents are monitoring and recording.

Cllr Wicks – Noxious smells from Mccains, he had been in contact with the Environmental health officer and waiting for a response.

Cllr Dorling – 12 empty commercial properties, 136 commercial properties in total,

Cllr Dorling – There are problems with parking near Alderman Jacobs School, he would welcome any suggestions from other councillors to deal with some of the issues. There has been bad behaviour demonstrated by parents.

Cllr Gerstner – There is a caravan behind the George, it apparently belongs to new owners of one of the houses, they have been advised by FDC that it needs to be removed immediately.

Cllr Gerstner – A resident has asked when the grass cutting will be carried out on the bank at the Briggate end of the Bower, there are three agencies involved with this, they are all bound by the bird nesting season.

Cllr Boden – With regards to parking issue around schools, he is discussion with officers at FDC, they are actively looking at initiative they may assist, at the present time he cannot give any further information. This is on the agenda at FDC.

## **F114/19 Street Scene Officer Report**

Cllr Whitwell and Wicks really pleased to see that FDC have prosecuted someone for fly tipping in Eastrea.

Cllr Mrs Mayor advised the 'Green Dog Scheme' continues to grow, we have 181 dogs, 131 owners registered A dog bag dispenser near the manor field is being kept full and used sensibly. There are still people not clearing up and there will be more work to promote the scheme.



## **F115/19. To appoint members to Outside bodies**

Attendees who are appointed to the outside bodies.

<b><u>Outside Body</u></b>	<b><u>Nomination</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>	<b><u>Seconded</u></b>	<b><u>Vote</u></b>
CCTV	Cllr Whitwell, substitute Cllr Mrs Mayor	Cllr Bristow	Cllr Wicks	Unanimous
Glassmore Bank Wind Farm – 2 representatives	Cllr Bristow Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Wicks	Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Mrs Mayor Cllr Gerstner	Cllr Mrs Laws Cllr Whitwell Cllr Dorling	5 - 3 in favour 5 - 3 in favour 3 – 5 against Cllr Bristow and Miscandlon were elected
Burnthouse Wind Farm 2 representatives	Cllr Bristow Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Wicks	Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Whitwell Cllr Dorling	Cllr Mrs Laws Cllr Mrs Mayor Cllr Gerstner	6-3 in favour 6-3 in favour 3-6 against Cllr Bristow and Miscandlon were elected
Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid	Cllr Mason	Cllr Miscandlon	Cllr Mrs Laws	Unanimous
Business Forum	No official representative			
Fletton Liaison Group	Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Whitwell Cllr Wicks	Cllr Bristow Cllr Boden Cllr Gerstner	Cllr Mrs Mayor Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Dorling	6 – 3 in favour 6 – 3 in favour 3 – 6 against Cllr Miscandlon and Whitwell were elected.
Community Car Scheme	Cllr Mrs Windle	Cllr Mrs Mayor	Cllr Bristow	Unanimous
Rural CAB*	Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Gerstner	Cllr Mrs Mayor Cllr Dorling	Cllr Bristow Cllr Wicks	5-3 in favour 3-5 against Cllr Miscandlon was elected
Community Rail Partnership	Cllr Bristow	Cllr Mrs Mayor	Cllr Mrs Laws	Unanimous
Family and Children's Centre	Cllr Mrs Windle	Cllr Mrs Mayor	Cllr Bristow	Unanimous
Whittlesey in Bloom	Cllr Mrs Mayor	Cllr Mrs Laws	Cllr Bristow	Unanimous
Mud Walls 2 representatives	Cllr Whitwell & Cllr Gerstner	Cllr Mrs Mayor	Cllr Bristow	Unanimous
Must Farm 3 representatives	Cllr Dorling, Cllr Mason & Cllr Miscandlon	Cllr Whitwell	Cllr Bristow	Unanimous
Green Wheel / Route 63	No Representatives			
Christmas Lights	Cllr Mrs Mayor (substitute Cllr Whitwell)	Cllr Mrs Laws	Cllr Bristow	Unanimous
Christmas Extravaganza* (2)	Cllr Mrs Windle & Mason	Cllr Whitwell	Cllr Boden	Unanimous
Whittlesey Festival	Cllr Mrs Windle	Cllr Whitwell	Cllr Mrs Laws	Unanimous
Allotment Society* (2)	Cllr Davies & Munns	Cllr Bristow	Cllr Miscandlon	Unanimous
Growing Fenland	Cllr Bristow	Cllr Mrs Mayor	Cllr Miscandlon	Unanimous

\*Cllr Gerstner will attend the meetings as a member of the CAB but not as a representative of the council

**F116/19 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and receive the minutes from the Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

**Ratified:** The minutes from the Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were signed and approved, and the minutes from the 20<sup>th</sup> May were reported.

To approve the donation for the Summer Reading Challenge at Whittlesey Library - £1000 proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Mrs Laws. Cllr Gerstner declared an interest and did not vote

Cllr Boden to replace Cllr Butcher as signatory – proposed Cllr Mrs Mayor, seconded Cllr Whitwell unanimous vote in favour.

Bank reconciliations to be produced at month end.

1. End of month reports – The Chairman will do a cumulative monthly analysis of nominal codes.
2. Budget outturn variance reports – this would show anticipated year end figures – The Chairman will produce this report.
3. Reserve account for the election costs to be brought in later in the year the Clerk to work on how this is can be achieved.

Items 1, 2 and 3 were proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.

The Clerk presented the costs on the .gov email, this was accepted and proposed by Cllr Boden. seconded Cllr Whitwell with a unanimous vote in favour.

10.00 The Chairman suspended standing order

**F117/19 To report the financial documents**

- To report the bank reconciliation – Received by Members
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments – Voucher numbers 31 to 49 totalling £17,467.44 were received and approved.
- To report the year to date figures (2019/2020)

**F118/19 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and receive the minutes from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

Ratified: The minutes from the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were approved and signed as a true record. The draft minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> May were reported. Cllr Bristow advised he would step down from this committee as he is now a representative on FDC Planning. Cllr Miscandlon proposed Cllr Whitwell go on the committee in replacement,

**F119/19 To report the draft minutes from Community Projects on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and receive the minutes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.**

Cllr Mrs Mayor advised the allotment inspections will be 25<sup>th</sup> June, 17 July and !!!! August.

The Whittlesey Allotment and Garden Society is 7.30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> July at the Falcon.

Cllr Whitwell thanked Cllr Mayor who has obtained £2000 sponsorship, McCain's are sponsoring all three events in respect of St John's Ambulance, Forterra are also sponsoring the August event.

**F120/19. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including:-**

To receive the list of planning application decisions.

**F121/19 Information Only.**

The response from FDC on the polling station queries was circulated to members

**F122/19 Invitations.**

- It's a knockout on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Field of Dreams – Whittlesey Sports Association
- The Festival committee – fund raising coffee morning Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Whittlesey Christian Church.

**F123/19 Consultations**

There were no consultations.

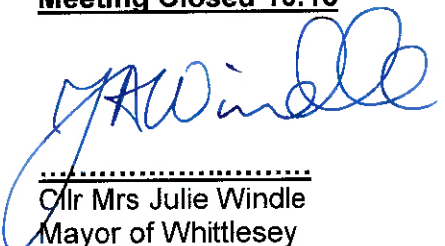
**F124/19. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**F125/19. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.**

**F126/19. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F108/19.**

**There were no items to discuss.**

**Meeting Closed 10:10**

 , 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 .  
.....  
Cllr Mrs Julie Windle  
Mayor of Whittlesey

