

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2019 at Peel House, Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY

Present: Cllr Mrs Windle, Mason, Mrs Mayor, Mrs Laws, Whitwell, Dorling, Gerstner, Boden, Miscandlon, Cllrs Davies

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

Recording: DS25. DS1

F149/19. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Bristow (personal), Cllr Munns & Cllr Mrs Lang-Whiston (work), Cllr Wicks (Holiday)
Proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Mrs Laws, unanimous vote in favour.

F150/19 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 F168/19.

Cllr Mrs Laws as the Portfolio holder of planning at Fenland District Council

F151/19 – Cllr Ian Benney – FDC Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth.

Unfortunately, Cllr Benney was unable to attend as he had the wrong date, The Mayor will contact and invite him to the November meeting.

F152/19 Police matters including CCTV Report.

Inspector Lombardo to be invited to a future meeting to discuss the following items with members (December or January).

- 1- Rural crime
- 2- Lack of Police Offices
- 3- Parking within the Town

F153/19. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 10th July 2019.

Ratified. The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

F154/19 Public Forum

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

7 members present

Carol Turner – thanked the council for responding to Huntingdon District Council regarding the Anaerobic digester

Robert Boddington – Eastrea, commented that he didn't think the sound quality was very good and the lighting was giving him a headache.

Mr Bernard Grey-Esson – VE and VJ day, thanked the Town Clerk and Cllr Mason for guidance on these issues. The two dates have been approved by Reverend Nigel Whitehouse, Friday 8th May for VE day and Saturday 15th August for VJ day. He will not approach the Royal British Legion for their



support until he has received council support. VE day will consist of a small service at the memorial, followed by a church service. VJ day will differ as the pipe band will be present and will play at the war memorial where there will be a service. This may require road closures etc. Mr Gray-Esson will present further information to the projects Committee and list any possible finance that is needed.

Mr Ralph Butcher (former WTC ,FDC & CCC Councillor), congratulated the council on the new chamber and advised that he has some hearing issues, but could hear everything very clearly and had no issues with the lighting.

F155/19 – County Councillor reports.

Kings Dyke – The update will be in the October Minutes.

Gravel House Corner

Cllr Connor met with Cllr Wicks, Whitwell, Miscandlon and former councillor Ralph Butcher to discuss the safety of Gravel House Corner, they have subsequently received an email from Jacob Hobbs advising the following:

EMAIL:

REMOVAL OF EXISTING LINING -	£2,876.75
REMOVAL OF EXISTING STUDS -	£ 753.50
INSTALLATION OF NEW STUDS -	£1,375.00
NEW LINING -	£3,224.61
UPLIFT 34% (NIGHT WORKS) -	£2,798.15

LINING TOTAL - £11,028.01

TM (NIGHTWORKS – LIGHTS) -	£3,072.72
SKANSKA OPERATIVES/COSTS (TREE CUTTING, SUPERVISOR, - UPLIFTS)	£4,042.84

TOTAL COSTING - £18,143.57

Costs are coming out higher due to the location being an A road and to minimise disruptions the works would be carried out at night. I did compare the cost for daytime works however due to the restrictive hours during the daytime it would balance out to be the same as daytime works would require more shifts. The lining proposed is a product called Weatherline, the material product data is attached above. Compared to standard screed and MMA, Weatherline retains its reflectivity for longer (up to 5 years). It is more durable than standard screed but also cheaper than MMA.

I will request another target cost with the budget capped at £6,000 to see how far we can get with regards to the lining. I will also de-scope the works and remove the lining removal along with removing and replacing the studs. We will also go for the standard screed. I want to make this clear that the lining will not last for as long and the junction lining lifespan will be even shorter due to the heavy goods vehicles which use it day in and day out and the turning motions of vehicles. This is evident on site currently. Personally, if you want the lining to last and hold its reflectivity Weatherline is the better option. We will still cost for all vegetation to be cut back around the bend.

I have also been in conversation with Derek Crosby (Police Liaison) regarding the 50mph limit. He does not support the installation of the 50mph limit for the following reasons which mirror our own;

- Existing road layout is not conducive of a 50mph limit. As it won't look or feel like it should be a 50mph, drivers will be less likely to stick to the limit increasing safety issues rather than reducing. Change of the environment would be needed.



- Adding 50mph terminal signs would complicate things further with the signage clutter and the different "advisory 40mph and permanent 50mph" speed limits would confuse matters.
- End

Cllr Connor had been initially given a figure of 5 to 6k, and not the 18k. he has called Richard Lumley from CCC to ascertain why this is such an astronomical cost. Cllr Miscandlon initially wanted the speed limited reduced to 40mph, the police would not support 40mph but would support 50mph which was agreed, the police have now reneged on this arrangement. Cllr Whitwell advised if a speed limit was introduced the police do not have enough resources to police it. Cllr Connor advised if the council proceeded with the scheme and costings from Jacob Hobbs the cost would be 10k contribution by CCC and 8k from WTC. Cllr Boden suggested that this is a safety issue and it be put into the public arena as the police are not taking the issue seriously. Cllr Boden felt there would be a fatality if nothing is done. Cllr Connor, Miscandlon, Whitwell, Wicks and Mr Butcher will take this item away and discuss further. Cllr Connor confirmed there is option 2, which is a spend of 6/7K just to refresh the white lines and cut a few trees down to make it safer.

Cllr Connor – Pondersbridge LHI – Ramsey TC have offered 3k of extra funding and he would like WTC to match fund or put in a similar amount to move this project forward. Cllr Miscandlon proposed 3k, seconded Cllr Whitwell with a unanimous vote in favour. Cllr Connor has spoken to Jason Ablewhite who has verbally confirmed he will fund the shortfall of between 10 and 12k, Cllr Connor was asked by members to email the Clerk with this information which in turn can be forwarded to Jason Ablewhite for confirmation.

Cllr Boden – had attended a meeting where he obtained much advice on how you can decriminalise parking.

F156/19. Agenda items for Discussion.

Property working group update – Cllr Mason

On 10 September 2019 NB Construction completed their construction and refurbishment work at Peel House and the building has now been formally handed over to Whittlesey Town Council following a final inspection by our Architects and Principal Designers, Swann Edwards.

The premises is now a working environment and thanks go to the Town Clerk, Sue Piergianni, members of the Property Working Group and those councillors who have been available to assist in the move from Grosvenor House to our present location.

I shall be meeting James Burton from Swann Edwards in two weeks' time to agree variations of costings and the issue of a Completion Certificate. It is anticipated that the project will be completed within the original budget of £250,000 with some, but not all, of the original contingency sum of £29,000 being used up on unforeseen requirements, examples of which include the provision of enhanced safety shields on first floor balcony railings demanded by Building Control, additional electronic fire and security requirements, removal of asbestos waste under the redundant generator and minor additional costs of internal locking systems.

A final decision needs to be made on the provision of microphone systems in the Council Chamber which may well result in a cost saving of up to £3,000.

The solar panels are to be fitted to the upper parts of the building in the next few days for which funding of £16,000 has already been secured from the Glassmoor Bank Environmental Fund.

The provision of funding for electric vehicle charging points is still being investigated.

Initial approaches have been made to two organisations specialising in the provision of aerial masts which could generate additional income for Whittlesey Town Council. The smaller of the three first floor commercial offices has been rented out to the Peterborough Asylum for Refugees who will be on hand for 4-6 hours each week to deal with matters relating to our new Syrian tenants who will occupy their accommodation from 25 September.



The revenue from the renting out of the flats is guaranteed for five years under the Central Government backed International Aid Foundation at a projected rate of £71,040 but this figure may well increase as the rents are reviewed independently on an annual basis.

The Council Chamber is available for local community group meetings without charge and there are two additional first floor offices available for hire with full facilities. At present we have a permanent booking on a weekly basis from the Wood Carvers' Group. My personal preference would be for this group to be allowed to continue their activities in one of the first floor offices rather than the Council Chamber but that is a decision for the Full Council to consider.

Signage for the front of the building is on order for which we are advised by Fenland District Council planning permission is not required. We are also awaiting the completion of a commemorative plaque to mark the official opening on Sunday 29 September by the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, His Honour N A McKittrick DL, JP following a formal blessing of the premises by Bishop John Flack in the presence of invited guests.

An Open Day is planned for Saturday 28 September when the premises will be open for inspection by the general public between the hours of 1000 and 1200.

It is hoped that photographs of past Whittlesey Town Council Chairmen and Mayors along with other historical memorabilia previously on display at Grosvenor House will be erected in the new Council Chamber in the next few days.

Whilst we have vacated Grosvenor House we still have a responsibility under the terms of the lease to maintain the premises in a satisfactory condition until the expiry of the lease in May 2020. Therefore regular weekly inspections will be made of the premises in the meantime.

We are now at the conclusion of a two year project which it is to be hoped will continue to be a community asset to the people of Whittlesey for many years to come.

LHI applications – Gravel House Corner and Pondersbridge

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

Pondersbridge Bus Shelter – BW

There was no update as Cllr Wicks was not present at the meeting.

The Bower – Cllr Gerstner

Members were advised a volunteer has been down to the Bower and cut back some of the overgrown nettles. Cllr Gerstner has discussed with Cllr Mason and they feel they have identified the agencies responsible for this area. Middle level for the river and bank, CCC for the towpath and FDC for the wooded area. Cllr Mason proposed the Community Projects Committee meet and obtain two quotes for cutting from Ashline Lock to the top of the Bower at Briggate end, the cost should then be split between all the agencies. Cllr Boden felt that the other organisations have a statutory responsibility for this area and therefore there should be no burden levied on Whittlesey Town Council. After much discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Mayor facilitate a meeting between all agencies to discuss this further, and not obtain any quotes until after a meeting has taken place. Proposed Cllr Mason, Seconded Cllr Mrs Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

Recycling – Cllr Dorling

European target of **50%** recycling of municipal waste by December 2020, (DEFRA)

- Top 10 local authorities are better than **60%**
- I could not find up-to-date data on Fenland District Council but one source declared 227 (Councils) performed better and 117 perform worse (<http://www.geopunk.co.uk/councils.php>)

- In the 'letsrecycle.com' 2017 survey Fenland were not on the list of 350 councils surveyed
- There is no **mission statement** by FTC or WTC. I propose we find the data and aim to exceed 50% in 2019-20 making this a policy statement.

However: recycling is only one of three actions we should be taking. More importantly we should:

1. **Reduce waste**
2. **Re-purpose i.e. re-use**
3. **Recycling effectively**

Therefore, we should consider how leadership and education should play a role. I move that the data for Whittlesey is extracted and verified together with suggestions from FDC on how improvements can be facilitated and brought back to Full Council for consideration.

Cllr Miscandlon advised Cllr Murphy should have these figures, also FDC has an officer who visits schools to encourage recycling. The Clerk to try and ascertain this information.

F157/19 Street Scene Officer Report

Members received the report.

F158/19. To receive written reports from to outside bodies

There were no reports.

F159/19 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on Monday 15th July 2019.

The draft minutes were reported.

Donation of £250.00 for the Life education Quiz , proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Miscandlon, with a unanimous vote in favour.

F160/19 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation – the bank reconciliation was received.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments – vouchers 112 to 140 to the value £14,376.28 Cllr Boden proposed, seconded Cllr Mrs Mayor, unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the year to date figures (2019/2020)

F161/19 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 4th September 2019 and receive the minutes from Wednesday 31st July 2019.

The draft minutes from the planning meeting on the 4th September were recorded and the minutes from 31st July 2019 were signed as a true record.

F162/19 To report the draft minutes from Community Projects on the Wednesday 4th September 2019 and receive the minutes from the 31st July 2019.

The draft minutes from the planning meeting on the 4th September were recorded and the minutes from 31st July 2019 were signed as a true record.

F163/19. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including:-

The are no planning applications

F163/19 Information Only.

Public opening Saturday 28th September 2019 – 10.00 – 12.00
Civic Opening – Sunday 29th September 2019 at 3.00pm
Mayors Civic Service Sunday 27th October 2019 at 3.00pm

F164/19 Invitations.

There were no invitations

F165/19 Consultations

There were no consultations

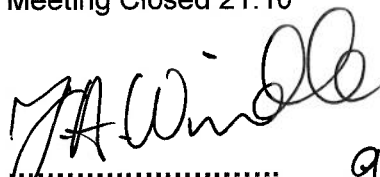
F166/19. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 9th October 2019

F167/19. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F168/19. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F150/19.

There were no confidential items for discussion.

Meeting Closed 21:10


.....
Cllr Mrs Julie Windle
Mayor of Whittlesey

9/10/19

