

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2019, 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, Wicks

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

Recording: The recording of this meeting is to aid the Clerk in note taking.

F16919. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Munns & Cllr Mrs Lang Whiston, Cllr Bristow (personal)

F170/19 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 F189/19

Cllr Mrs Dee Laws – Portfolio Holder for Planning at Fenland District Council

F171/19 – Lisa Roberts – Peterborough City Council – Must Farm.

Ms Roberts advised that Must farm will have a very successful outcome for Whittlesey, it is known as the Pompei of the UK, and gives great information in how people lived in the Bronze Age. The stakeholder group is made up of British Museum, Historic England, PCC, FDC, CCC WTC, Combined authority and Cambridge Archaeology. The stakeholder group have looked at the artefacts from Must Farm in two parts, some will be retained at the Peterborough Museum as they require special conditions, whilst replicas of these will be held in the building at Kings Dyke Nature Reserve. The building will be environmentally friendly in all aspect and will not have an environment footprint. There will be a classroom for 30 children, exhibition space and portholes to allow viewing into the reserve, along with digital interpretation to show the history of Whittlesey. Whittlesey museum, Kings Dyke, Peterborough Museum and Flag Fen will all be linked together.

The site has been confirmed however the team are not at the detailed design stage, the next stage is to tender for consultants to come in manage the project which has an anticipated cost of appro 500k. Ms Roberts is responsible for raising the funding, they have already received enquiries from various organisations who wish to offer funding to this project.

Cllr Mrs Laws – asked if the classroom could be used for different groups etc, Ms Roberts confirmed this will be multifunctional. Cllr Boden asked about the sustainability of the building. Ms Roberts confirm solar panels, eco toilets, rainwater harvesting, Ms Roberts confirmed they are working with Forterra to find volunteers for the centre.

Cllr Gerstner asked about the timescales, Ms Roberts confirmed an 8-month timeline.

F172/19 Police matters including CCTV Report

Friday 14th October is in their report at Whittlesey engagement however 14th Oct is a Monday.

F173/19. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 11th September 2019

Cllr Mrs Windle apologised to the public as she didn't suspend standing orders and allowed Cllr Butcher to speak at the meeting on the 11th September 2019.

Cllr Wicks – was asked to confirm from FDC clarification that they will undertake the works to the shelter prior to gifting it to Whittlesey Town Council.

F174/19 Public Forum

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

9 members present.

Mr Hodson – Suggested Crowd Funding could be used to raise funds for the new heritage centre. And requested that trees be planted along the boundary at Water tower park.

Mr Cumberland – Zebra Crossing outside Nationwide Building Society, crossing should be moved further up Eastgate to enable people to be seen more easily. He has written to CCC before and they were supposed to put anti slip surface in place.

Entry to the recycling centre & Entrance to the tip

Mr Hibbert – HGV usage Inhams, Cemetery and Station Road, he suggested an Eastern relief Road, just East of the Nags Head. One of the benefits being to encourage businesses onto the industrial estates without travelling through residential areas. There is a planning application at FDC for new units on the industrial estate causing more HGV traffic.

F175/19 – County Councillor reports.

David Connor – will update on the following: Kings Dyke, LHI's and Turves public meeting.

Kings Dyke – Cllr David Connor

The tender went live last night (8th October 2019), and expressions of interest will be shortlisted on 15th November 2019. The shortlisted contractors will then be invited to submit their bids to the main tender by the end of March 2010.

Pondersbridge LHI – Cllr David Connor Cllr Connor will obtain a cast iron cost for this by the next meeting of the council, WTC will then approach the Police & Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite for the shortfall to ensure this project moves forward. The police are supportive of the 40mph buffer zones for both the B1040 Northbound approach and Oilmills Road.

Turves Residents Meeting – Cllr David Connor

Turves residents meeting held at Three Horseshoes, Cllr Whitwell and Wicks were also present. Potholes and white lines have been actioned; the contract price is being sought for the signage. Residents requested a bus shelter that children could shelter under whilst waiting for transport. After discussions with Gillian Beasley and Steven Cox, Mr Cox has confirmed he will erect a bus shelter at CCC cost if WTC will adopt it. Cllr Boden advised the siting of the shelter must be considered in conjunction with residents. Cllr Connor has confirmed this will be with full consultation with residents and highways officer as safety is paramount.

Cllr Dorling suggested something be put in the budget for maintenance and asked if anyone had an indication of costs, and should it be called a bus stop if there is no buses, should it be called a collection point.

Members discussed a resident adopter group for the cleaning of the shelter if the proposal to accept it is agreed. Cllr Gerstner proposed we accept the gift of the shelter for Turves, this was seconded by Cllr Whitwell with a unanimous vote in favour.

F176/19. Agenda items for Discussion.

Property Working Group

The new Whittlesey Town Council Offices and Chamber known as Peel House were officially opened on Sunday 29 September 2019 by Neil McKittrick, High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire following

a blessing by the Right Reverend Bishop John Flack. This followed an Open Day on the previous day for the public of Whittlesey to view the new premises.

There are still a few snagging issues to be resolved before a final reconciliation of cost can be agreed but this will be finalised within the next month. My thanks go to the Town Clerk for her assistance in these matters which has distracted her greatly from her main duties.

Two families of Syrian refugees have moved into the domestic accommodation on 25 September with their rental being funded by Central Government.

One commercial office has been let and enquiries are ongoing to secure the letting of the other two offices.

This property has been acquired as an asset to the local community and as such any community group that wishes to use the Council Chamber for their meetings are welcome to do so without charge.

I would remind everyone that the purchase of these premises from the Police Authority was secured at a very advantageous price which did not require any independent valuation for either party.

Following the purchase of the premises a vigorous tendering process was undertaken for the extension work and refurbishment with the lowest available tender being renegotiated to secure a further discount of approximately 30% on the original tender price.

Funds were raised partly from reserves but also from two Public Works Loans which resulted in an outright purchase with no mortgage being necessary. The Whittlesey Town Council precept has been frozen at zero for the past two years thus avoiding any increase in Council Tax from this Council to finance this project. The freehold of the property is vested entirely in Whittlesey Town Council who by next year will no longer be liable for leasehold payments on their previous premises in Grosvenor Road

However, under the terms of our lease we still have a maintenance responsibility for the upkeep of Grosvenor House until May 2020 so weekly inspections are in hand.

For a complex the size of Peel House I would recommend that following the resignation of our former cleaner at Grosvenor House that a commercial cleaning company be engaged on a 5 hour per week basis split over two days and accordingly I have sought two quotations;

Supplier 1 Option 1 Labour only £297.50 + VAT
 Option 2 Labour, equipment and materials £335.50 + VAT

Supplier 2 Cleaning including all materials £318.28 + VAT

Both prices per calendar month.

Cllr Mason proposed Supplier 2, seconded Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.

What Benefit is there in planting more trees around Whittlesey – Cllr Dorling

Every Hour and 8 Minutes the amount of power from the Sun that strikes Earth is enough to power all of humanity for a year!

#430 Quintilian Joules of energy strikes Earth every Hour, that is 430 with 18 zeros after it!
Trees are natural receivers of energy, and they do wonderful things with it.

- Give us **Oxygen and improve Air Quality**.
- Store Carbon Dioxide (**CO2**) – the second most abundant Greenhouse Gas.
- **Protect Wildlife** and adds value to properties and business.
- **Provide materials** for tools and shelter.



Nationally the proportion of **Tree Cover** needs to increase from 10% to 20%* by 2022 according to Michael Gove the Environment Secretary, how does Fenland compare? **1% of Fenland** is covered in Trees.

The cost of planting trees is small and is a long-term benefit, already there are offers of land and manpower to get this underway, but it requires resources and a co-ordinated plan to move this on quickly. The potential publicity opportunities and engagement with local business and community groups has great potential.

I propose that a working group is established that could work with the co-ordinator of Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency (Stefan Haselwimmer) that I met on Friday in this chamber.

Cllr Boden advised the living environment can be massively enhanced by having more greenery and the tree issue has been recognised by FDC, CCC and the Combined Authority. all three organisations have 'The Doubling Nature Project' on their future agendas. Members were concerned about setting up another working group as this is not our direct responsibility and did not make a decision regarding a working group.

Councillor emails.

The Clerk advised members her email is working well and requested members contact her if they wish to have a new email and how they wish their name to appear. name@whittleseytowncouncil.gov.uk. This was proposed Cllr Wicks, seconded Cllr Boden with a unanimous vote in favour.

Growing Fenland Report – Cllr Mrs Laws

Members of the Whittlesey Growing Fenland team were upset about the Metro Dynamics report. Following a cabinet meeting at FDC, Cllr Laws made a presentation on behalf of WTC about the inaccurate report, this was supported by Cllrs from March and Chatteris. There has now been a final draft of the report.

WTC are no longer putting forward the Growing Fenland strategy proposals to the approvals process, it will not be submitted to the combined authority this will just be a discussion document. (blue document),

The process will take place before the end of November. A relief road which will enable more accessibility to Whittlesey. This infrastructure is needed to give relief to our existing roads especially the issue with HGV's, the proposal for a relief road needs to be added to the report. This was proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Mrs Laws with a unanimous vote in favour. Cllr Mrs Laws will make the amendments.

F177/19 Street Scene Officer Report

Members received the Street Scene report

F178/19. To receive written reports from to outside bodies

There were no reports from outside bodies.

F179/19 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on Monday 16th September 2019.

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

Financial regulations – the new regulations were proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Miscandlon, unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Boden explained the lack of Correlation between NI, Pensions and Salaries.

The following donation requests were approved.



Royal British legion £1000.00 & Whittlesey Christmas Lights £1000.00 proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.

F180/19 To report the financial documents

- To report the bank reconciliation. – Members received the bank reconciliation.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments – members approve the payments voucher 141 to 182 totalling £124,271.74.
- To report the year to date figures (2019/2020) – Members received the year to date figures.

F181/19 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 2nd October 2019 and receive the minutes from Monday 16th September 2019.

Ratified: The minutes from the 16th September were approved and signed as a true record and the minutes of the 2nd October were reported.

F182/19 To report the draft minutes from Community Projects on the Wednesday 2nd October 2019 and receive the minutes from the Wednesday 4th September 2019

Ratified:

Ratified: The minutes from the 4th September were approved and signed as a true record and the minutes of the 2nd October were reported.

Delfland have been retained as the supplier of the hanging baskets.

F183/19. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including: -

There was no Planning applications for discussion.

F184/19 Information Only.

Mayors Civic Service Sunday 27th October 2019 at 3.00pm
Remembrance Parade 10th November 2019 and 11th November 2019
Gritting details – Members were advised to collect this information from the Clerk.

F185/19 Invitations. –

The Rotary Club of Whittlesey Quiz – Friday 8th November 2019 at The Ivy Leaf.

F186/19 Consultations - There were no consultations.

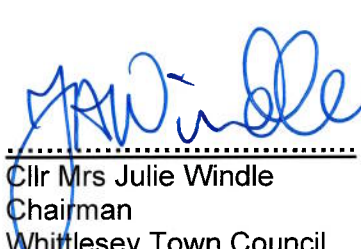
F187/19. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 13th November 2019

F188/19. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F189/19. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F170/19.

There were no items for discussion

Meeting Closed: 21:52


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Cllr Mrs Julie Windle
Chairman
Whittlesey Town Council

13th Nov 2019.

