

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2019, 2019 at Peel House, Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY

Present: Cllr Mrs Windle, Mason, Miscandlon, Whitwell, Boden, Gerstner, Dorling, Wicks, Mrs Mayor, Bristow.

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

Recording: This recording is being made as an aide memoir for the Clerk

F190/19. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Mrs Laws, Mrs Lang-Whiston & Davies (unwell), Cllr Munns (work)

F191/19 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 F210/19

Cllr Mrs Mayor as a member of FDC Planning Committee, Cllr Gerstner as a member of Whittlesey Christmas Lights.

F192/19 – Cllr Ian Benney – FDC Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth.

Cllr Benney looked at FDC and was surprised to find there was no one who deals with prospective business interests, no sign posting and no one to guide on this. This is no register in Fenland showing all the land that is available for businesses to purchase, there is something like this in East Cambs. Two further positions have been created in the Economic Development team. This team will assist all Fenland departments to encourage businesses to come to this area and support them, as an example fast track planning.

Cllr Benney's ward in Chatteris includes the site where the Tesco store was not built, he would like to see this site grow and develop, however the number of houses prevents this, this is where he sees his post be of assistance for potential developers who wish to come to the town.

Cllr Benney asked members what ideas they have for Whittlesey to encourage growth.

Cllr Miscandlon – investment is stifled as the infrastructure is not there, eg the bridge still not built over the railway line.

HGV route to the industrial estate means the vehicles are travelling along three residential roads. Both Cllr Miscandlon and Bristow suggested a south relief road (bypass) from Stanground through to the industrial estate. Cllr Bristow also highlighted that we only have one train every two hours, however the Cross-Country train goes from Peterborough to Cambridge via Whittlesey but does not stop at Whittlesey.

Cllr Gerstner further advised that the North Bank is closed, the Stanground to Pondersbridge road is closed, something needs to be done, we need the bridge then a relief road. Cllr Gerstner advised we have lobbied for many years for a solution to these issues.

Cllr Dorling advised the Neighbourhood Plan and business forum asked residents what they wanted, suggestions were hotels, superstore and a manufacturing company. Are FDC just waiting for businesses to approach them or are FDC being proactive. Cllr Benney advised currently FDC are just waiting, however as his team comes together, he wants FDC to be proactive and chase

business to move to the town and to help them establish themselves and grow and reinvest in the town.

Cllr Whitwell advised that if the southern bypass was in place this would open a substantial amount of land for housing.

Cllr Mason - our basic issue in Whittlesey, is most residents have employment outside of Whittlesey, so they spend their money outside of Whittlesey. We do have a strong vibrant town, lots of people who work hard, however the facilities they need are not in the town.

Cllr Boden advised the CPIER report produced about Cambridgeshire was split into three, Cambridgeshire & South Cambridgeshire, The Fens and Peterborough. Whittlesey wasn't classed as the FENS, but as part of Peterborough. A relief road would serve to open the area for leisure, employment, residential and commercial development. The revision of the local plan has commenced but we probably won't see anything for up to 20 years. NNDR relief opportunity – rates relief for new businesses that move to the area funded through FDC, if businesses come to the area with more high paid jobs, they can receive a reduction in their NNDR, if they take on apprentices and if the salaries are above FDC average.

Cllr Mrs Mayor, said businesses looking to come to Whittlesey are put off due to the access. In her role as Chairman of FDC, she was asked by the Chairman Chair of East Cambs, if she had been out to visit any businesses who are looking to come to the area. Cllr Mrs Mayor advised she has never been asked but would welcome the opportunity to go and speak to potential businesses who wish to move to Whittlesey

Cllr Benney would like to learn from some of this other councils who have been successful in bringing businesses into their town.

F193/19 Police matters including CCTV Report.

Members received the Police and CCTV report, Cllr Mrs Windle advised members that the Clerk had received an email from Inspector Lombardo advising the items that were on the list had been discussed within the last twelve months. Members asked the Chairman to respond to Inspector Lombardo.

F194/19. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 9th October 2019

Cllr Wicks was present at the meeting, however not listed in the attendance section. The Clerk to amend the minutes. Members agreed the minutes could be signed once this change to the first page

F195/19 Public Forum

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

Six members of the public present

Mr Gray-Esson – thanked everyone involved in the Armistice day. He also commented that the presentation from Cllr Benney was the best in years and all Cllrs participated in the discussion.

F196/19 – County Councillor reports.

David Connor – update on Kings Dyke and Pondersbridge LHI

Cllr Connor was not present at this meeting but will be here for December's meeting. Cllr Boden advised a significant amount of work is being done to push Kings Dyke forward quickly, Steve Count is taking ownership of this and attending weekly meetings with officers, Cllr Boden and Connor have a meeting this Friday to consider the initial tender responses. Cllr Boden also advised

Pondersbridge LHI has been potentially threatened by the resignation of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the only option is to approach the interim PCC who will be appointed this month.

F197/19. Agenda items for Discussion.

Property working group

All contracted works undertaken by NB Construction on Peel House have been completed under the supervision of our Principal Designers, Swann Edwards, who have now issued a Completion Certificate.

The original contract price of refurbishment and building works was £273,309.81 made up of £244,303.50 construction costs and a contingency of £29,006.31. The total monies spent under contingency amounted to £22,001.27 but we also had to bear the direct cost of a gas connection in the sum of £8,716.00 resulting in a total outlay of £275,020.77, £1710.96 over budget.

All costs exclude VAT which is reclaimable after consultation with Elysian Associates whose own costs are included under "Professional Services" for the purposes of our internal accounts.

The costs of our Principal Designers, Swann Edwards, amount to £18,095 + VAT which have been paid in stages over the past two years.

The solar panels which will produce free electricity to the council offices were funded entirely from a grant from Glassmoor Environmental Fund in the sum of £15,990.57 + VAT. I am in dispute at the present time with the suppliers of the solar panels, Halo Renewables, for the supply of additional scaffolding not allowed in their quotation in the sum of £2040 + VAT.

I shall also be contacting our carpet suppliers who verbally agreed a discount on the Council Chamber carpet as they could not supply the original carpet specified and the discount has not been forthcoming so far.

The Council Chamber currently is being used free of charge by six local community groups and I hope to conclude a rental agreement for one of the three available commercial offices tomorrow. The domestic accommodation was taken up on 25 September and we are now in receipt of regular rental payments through Peterborough City Council.

All of the expenditure does not reflect on the budget required for the coming year as it is money spent in the current financial year and it is hoped that the potential income from commercial and domestic rentals will offset the repayment of Public Work Loans taken out for the total project without detriment to the rate payers.

However, I would like to point out the possible costs in the coming year that may be required to maintain the boiler system which currently has one of its two main pumps inoperative which may well need a replacement before too long.

A more detailed analysis of our possible liabilities about maintenance of this building will be shortly discussed by our Finance and Policy Committee.

Dog Bin – Thornham Way – Eastrea

Cllr Whitwell advised this item was previously brought to council by Cllr Wicks, Cllr Whitwell advised he can get a lid put on this bin and suggested this be actioned. Cllr Wicks has confirmed that FDC have verbally confirmed they will replace the bin free of charge, Cllr Mrs Mayor requested this information be put in writing. Cllr Whitwell proposed a lid be fitted on the bin, this was seconded by Cllr Miscandlon, four in favour, four abstentions, one against.

Pondersbridge Bus Shelter – Cllr Wicks had given members email from FDC detailing the offer amount they are prepared to pay, they have met the requirement advising us what they will do, he proposed that Whittlesey Town Council adopt the bus shelter once the repairs have been completed. This was seconded by Cllr Whitwell that WTC will take over the bus shelter.

Young Technicians - Following a meeting with Cllr Miscandlon, members were advised this could be good use of the room upstairs for a proposed radio station, Some of the individuals within the Young Technicians have gone on to secure employment, one is working for the BBC and another is attending an interview at the BBC, they are looking for a small room where they can start to move the project forward, they would not be able to pay for the room initially but would do so after they have secured funding. Cllr Dorling advised this is more than just a radio station, it will give Whittlesey a voice. If it were based within WTC premises it will good them a good platform. It has a huge benefit for the whole community. This project fits in well with the combined authority skills programme, they are endeavouring to obtain backing from this project. The cost of setting up the facility is between 15 and 20k, they are willing to work to get the funds, Cllr Dorling and Mason have advised of two local funding streams. If they were on WTC premises, an adult would be present all the time. Cllr Mason asked about their access to Peel House and what insurance they have. Cllr Miscandlon advised access is something that would need to be discussed, however they would have their own insurance, broadcast licence.

Councillors supported the scheme, but expressed concerns about the use of WTC premises, unless used on commercial terms.

Cllr Dorling and Miscandlon will arrange a further meeting to discuss this further.

F198/19 Street Scene Officer Report & brief update from Dawn Sadler SNR EHO FDC.

Mrs Sadler was unable to attend due to illness and will be invited to attend the December meeting. Cllr Boden advised members the contract with Freedom ceases with Peterborough in February, at this point there is no definitive replacement.

Cllr Mrs Windle advised that a fine of £400.00 was issued for fly tipping in Whittlesey this has been paid, the perpetrator was caught unloading a small amount of carpet onto the verge by the dash cam on one of the Street Scene Officers vehicles.

F199/19. To receive written reports from to outside bodies

Cllr Whitwell – CCTV Partner Liaison Meeting – 16th October 2019 – members received the report. Cllr Whitwell has asked Aaron locks for a new camera in Queen Street. Approximate cost 3-4000 this would need to be budgeted for. Cllr Dorling challenged the cost. The request for these was when the cashpoints were in place. The Clerk to email Aaron saying we don't need a camera on queen street, proposed Cllr Whitwell, seconded Cllr Miscandlon, unanimous vote in favour

F200/19 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on 21st October 2019.

Ratified: The minutes were approved and signed as a true report. Current residents will be happy to carry out the community cleaning of the bus shelter. The council will pay for the cleaning materials.

F201/19 To report the financial documents

- To report the bank reconciliation -
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments – voucher 183 to 213 totalling £34,435.83.
- To report the year to date figures (2019/2020)
- Donation request – Whittlesey Christmas Lights – Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor advised members that F & P and Full council has not read the form correctly and that the request for was a donation of 5K and not 3.5k, Cllr Mrs Mayor proposed the full amount be paid, this was seconded by Cllr Boden unanimous vote in favour.



F202/19 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 6th November 2019 and receive the minutes from Monday 21st October 2019.

Ratified: The minutes draft minutes from Wednesday 6th November were reported and the minutes from Monday 21st October 2019 were received.

F203/19 To report the draft minutes from Community Projects on the Wednesday 6th November 2019.

The minutes draft minutes from Wednesday 6th November were reported.

F204/19. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including: -

To receive the list of planning application decisions.

There were no planning applications

F205/19 Information Only.

Letter from Mr Jonathan Digby – Aspire Learning Trust announcing his retirement, Members agreed a letter be sent from the council thanking him for his long service to our Whittlesey Schools.

St Andrews & St Mary's North and St Marys' South Wards – Residents meeting Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Parkinsons Lane, Whittlesey.

F206/19 Invitations.

Planning training– 21st November at Fenland Hall, members to notify FDC directly if they are attending.

F207/19 Consultations

BT Phone box removal – Cllr Mrs Mayor to read the guidance the closing date is 6th January 2020.

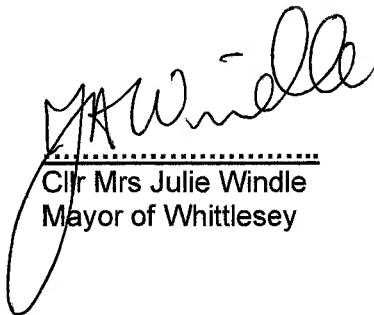
F208/19. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 11th December 2019

F209/19. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F210/19. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F191/19.

There were no items for discussion

Meeting Closed: 9.25


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Cllr Mrs Julie Windle
Mayor of Whittlesey

11th December
2019

