

# WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019, 2019 at Peel House, Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY

**Present:** Cllr Mr Windle, Mason, Whitwell, Boden, Gerstner, Dorling, Mrs Laws, Ms Lang-Whiston, Davies, Munns. (Cllr Connor CCC)

**Officer in attendance:** Mrs Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

**Recording:** The meeting is recorded as an aide memoir for the Town Clerk

### **F211/19. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.**

Cllr Bristow (personal), Cllr Mrs Mayor and Miscandlon (Civic engagements), Cllr Wicks (Holiday)

### **F212/19 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 F231/19**

Cllr Mrs Laws – as Portfolio Holder of Planning at FDC and Cllr Connor Chairman FDC planning, Cllr Connor will be reporting on issues for Whittlesey South.

### **F213/19 – Carol Pilson and Annabel Tighe – Fenland District Council – update on councils littering enforcement contract with Kingdom and potential next steps.**

Mrs Pilson sent apologies, Mrs Tighe is head of environmental health and compliance, delivering enforcement. FDC entered pilot with Kingdom LA support, jointly with PCC. This was to see if it would work financially, in the first 18 months it was neutral finance. With kingdom being in place, it has allowed the street scene teams to be more effective. PCC will cease working with Kingdom in January 2020. Kingdom have advised it is not financially viable for them to carry on working with Fenland. What comments do councillors have on this and how the service may continue, as a cost neutral service, or with funding? and would the town councils like to offer any funding.

Cllr Gerstner thanked FDC for their support with Street Scene over the past 12 years. Concern with Kingdom is duplication and cross over of service between them and street scene officers.

Cllr Dorling would like more data on prosecutions for Whittlesey in comparison with other Fenland Towns. Feb 2019 to end of Nov 2019, Mrs Tighe advised 70% of fines have been paid, 20% have gone forward for prosecution, 10% are at discussion stage. Cllr Dorling also asked If parking was decriminalised, could the officer whether it be kingdom on Street scheme, issue Fixed penalty tickets for parking offences and littering.

Cllr Mason – if we do not continue the contract with Kingdom, are there any other organisations who could carry out this work. There are other companies, but not fully cost neutral.

### **F214/19 Police matters including CCTV Report**

Cllr Mrs Windle advised members the response from Inspector Lombardo who advised it was not prudent to attend and discuss the same issues that had been discussed in the past twelve months. Cllr Mrs Windle has spoken to the new Acting PCC Cllr Ray Bisby about attending one of our meetings, The Clerk will ask if he can attend our February meeting.

### **F215/19. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

JAW

**Ratified:** The minutes were approved and signed as true record, with the amendment of changing Wisbech to Peterborough F192/19

### **F216/19 Public Forum**

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

Seven members of the public were present.

Mr Peter Baxter – advised members that Wyndom Thomas who had designed the parkway system, Queensgate, Nene Valley and Ferry Meadows, ran the development corporation and turned an old city into a new city had passed away recently.

### **F217/19 – County Councillor reports.**

David Connor – Kings Dyke and LHI submissions.

Meeting 3 / 4 weeks ago, the project is moving in the right direction regarding the contractors who have expressed an interest. The county council have asked the contractors to submit a tender, the contractor continues to ask questions. There is another meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019, eight applicants have passed the initial process, at the second stage they will need to have at least five 5, CCC currently have six at this stage. Tenders will be back in April, during April a meeting either of the Environment Committee or General Purposes Committee will take place in Whittlesey where a decision will take place to appoint the contractor. Cllr Boden advised that if any further funding over the limit that was set, will be split 60/40 between county and the combined authority.

LHI - Pondersbridge – meeting several weeks ago, drawings have been put together these have been sent to Skanska for costing. Cllr Connor has spoken to Alistair Baker CCC who in turn has discussed with Ray Bisby PCC who has approved the additional funding for the projects in Pondersbridge and the camera in Turves.

LHI – Cllr Boden advised members the original proposal for the crossing on station Road involved WTC making a contribution of 31K, this was discussed at F & P and members agreed WTC could not proceed with this, due to the following reasons the high cost and the safety of location being near two junctions on Station Road. Cllr Boden advised that following discussions with the Town and district councillor, it was agreed to submit a scheme for SIDS on New Road and Bellmans Road and offer a contribution of £1000.00, not the £500.00 which is 10% of the cost.

### **F218/19. Agenda items for Discussion.**

**Property working group** – report by Cllr Mason

On 1 December 2019 the first of our three commercial offices was let to a local security consultancy that wished to relocate from Fengate in Peterborough. The Clerk has drawn up all the necessary legal papers which have been signed by both parties and witnessed and a deposit has been lodged with the Tenancy Deposit Scheme.

Following an article published in the Peterborough Telegraph last week further interest has been shown in letting the two remaining offices which I intend following up in the future.

I am delighted to report that we have eight community groups using the council chamber free of charge with interest being shown by other groups.

During the past week an external electrical fault was detected by UK Power Network which necessitated a shutdown of power and the disconnection of the solar panels. The fault has now been rectified at no cost to the council and the solar panels will be reconnected early next week.

I am obliged to our Town Clerk for the many additional hours necessary to liaise with various parties as a result of the electrical problem and to Cllr Davies for manning the office whilst the Clerk took authorised leave.

Our own electrical contractors have also attended site to ensure that all systems continue to comply with legal standards.

It has been necessary to pay a modest additional premium to our insurers in respect of Grosvenor House which remains let to us until May 2020 in an unoccupied state. We continue to monitor the empty premises on a weekly basis and all necessary intruder and fire alarm systems continue to be operational along with extinguishing equipment.

Finally, I would request formal approval for funding of additional electrical work in the council chamber in accordance with quotation submitted by JBE Services Ltd in the sum of £575.00 + VAT, this was seconded by Cllr Whitwell with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **Pondersbridge Bus Shelter**

The Clerk was asked to advise members that at the previous meeting only one option was discussed regarding the bus shelter and FDC have requested the other option be discussed, this being that FDC give WTC £1500.00 to complete the works, the alternative that FDC complete the works prior to hand over to WTC. Cllr Whitwell proposed FDC carry out the work prior to handing the Bus Shelter to WTC, seconded Cllr Mrs Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **Financial scoping of 'Interactive signage' for the flood/road closure on B1040 and North bank.**

Cllr Gerstner suggested this should be a standalone project and not connected with the funding for Kings Dyke. The current signs are manual and not always changed in a timely manner, therefore the public don't always take notice and could put themselves in danger. The sign could also be used for any information, missing persons, accidents etc. Cllr Mrs Laws advised nearly 8,000 vehicles use this section of road between Monday and Friday. The North bank is owned by PCC, Martin Brooker CCC is now in discussion with relevant organisations as four signs are required. (Kellyvision roundabout, Thorney side of Dog and Doublet bridge, North bank and Storeys Bar Road in Peterborough). Cllr Munns suggested that it would be helpful if there was signage in the vicinity of the Morton Fork cross roads due to the roads converging at this junction. Cllr Mrs Laws will report back to the full council meeting in January.

**Bellmans Road, New Road, Station Road** – covered by Cllr Connor report.

#### **Whittlesea Station**

The project continues to go ahead, the timetable for the changes is still being adhered to, James Palmer is keen to move things forward more quickly. If we didn't lengthen the platform the timescales could be reduced, but most trains require the platforms to be lengthened. GRIP guidance for rail infrastructure project.

**Greater Anglia** – Cross Country Trains not feasible for them to stop at Whittlesea or Manea, too tight on the timings.

Cllr Boden advised Whittlesea Service has had problems for a couple of weeks, one train every four hours. There are now no trains between Peterborough and Ipswich, the train operator has been economical with the truth and there is no realistic timescale as to when the situation will be resolved.

#### **Cross Country Trains**

Not feasible for them to stop at Whittlesea or Manea due to timings.

**Young Technicians** – A Community Interest Company (CIC)

A CIC is a special type of limited company which exists to benefit the community rather than private shareholders, Young Technicians is run as a **Not for Profit** organisation based in **Whittlesey**.

JAW

- **Certification:** There are 2 awards at Primary school level (Explorer and Discovery), but more importantly for Secondary pupils a **Bronze** award is equivalent to a grade D in old money, **Silver** is A+ - C and **Gold** provides 18 UCAS points.
- **Access:** Only a responsible person will have keys that will only allow access to the room(s) they rent and the necessary access route. Every youngster is managed by the responsible adult and is well drilled in respect for other people and their property.
- **A disabled person,** they can be accommodated by using another ground floor based location such as the Ivy Leaf club where they already hire a room, but have to clear everything away at 6pm, remote working with digital transfer to the main location is envisaged and already in operation.
- **Successes:** There are two individuals that currently work on the One Show selected from about 800 applicants, it is felt that the experience gained from this initiative helped their selection, another is working at the Broadway in Peterborough.
- **Safeguarding:** Every adult has an **Enhanced** level of certification in respect of **DBS** disclosure, in addition
- **Equality and Inclusion:** They have all been trained on equal opportunities, diversity, ethics and all the associated legislation - they are sending me evidence of this.
- **Insurance:** They carry their own 'contents' insurance and professional indemnity insurance, they would expect a landlord (WTC) to provide buildings insurance, evidence will be sent to us.
- **Funding:** They would welcome a 6-month rent free period to enable them to get set up, thereafter they would commit to the going room rent. Not looking for funding from WTC.
- **Aerial:** They anticipate transmitting on FM with a range of 25km plus they will investigate DAB, and internet distribution is a given.
- **Setting up Cost:** All the equipment, hardware and software and installation will be about £15,000. They anticipate a 5-year licence costing £600 (included in the £15k).

**Fenland Youth Radio** is an additional project aimed at the local Community as an additional source of information, inclusion and entertainment.

It also aims to help **local children** develop and gain confidence putting something back into the Community.

WTC has an opportunity to help launch something that other Communities will envy.

The Whittlesey Business forum supports the initiative because members can see how this could help develop business in the area,

Other specialists in developing Communities allude to;

- Promoting local commerce,
- Socialisation,
- Social Control,
- Participation
- Mutual Support

As important aspects in building a mature Community.

Cllr Dorling proposed a 3-month rent free period, rental to be paid thereafter. Members did not agree to this.

Cllr Mrs Laws advised this organisation would not mix with a commercial company. But would be happy to support the group with a donation. Cllr Dorling will advise the organisation of the council decision.

**Whittlesey Concert Band** – Cllr Mrs Julie Windle

*JAW*

Members discussed the request from the concert band to use the facility for rehearsals, however, could not agree to this request due to the noise and flats being above the council chamber.

### **HR Group**

Cllr Whitwell has resigned from this group, Cllr Mason proposed Cllr Gerstner, seconded Cllr Boden with a unanimous vote in favour. Thanks, were offered to Cllr Whitwell and the success he has had in the role.

### **F219/19 Street Scene Officer Report.**

The Street Scene report was received.

### **F220/19. To receive written reports from to outside bodies**

There were no written reports

### **F221/19 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

The draft minutes were reported. Cllr Boden advised members that the figures for the meeting were based on Month end October due to the Clerks workload, there were no figures to the 30<sup>th</sup> November, therefore nothing reported, the Clerk will ensure these and figures to end of December are presented at Full Council in January 2020.

### **F222/19 To report the financial documents**

- 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 (2019/2020)
- Budget – Cllr Boden has requested any comments from member for any changes to the proposed budget.

### **F223/19 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and receive the minutes from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

**Ratified:** The minutes from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November were approved and signed as a true record, and the minutes from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December were reported.

### **F224/19 To report the draft minutes from Community Projects on the Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December and receive the minutes from the Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

**Ratified:** The minutes from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were approved and signed as a true record, and the minutes from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December were reported.

### **F225/19. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including: -**

There are no planning applications.

### **F226/19 Information Only.**

Amey Recycling Facility in Waterbeach – Attended by Cllr Dorling.

Residents meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 was to discuss highways and parking issues in Church Street and Ramsey Road

### **F227/19 Invitations.**

JAW

There were no invitations.

**F228/19 Consultations**

BT Phone box removal – Members agreed to respond advising they wished to retain the phone box on the Market Place, and remove the one on New Road.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Proposed Submission Plan Consultation 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Members requested the following response be submitted 'No requirement for any waste incinerators that are already in place or already agreed.

Cambridgeshire County Council consultation draft on Climate Change and Environment Strategy from 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 – Cllr Dorling will draft a response.

Tour of Cambridgeshire – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Any questions regarding the proposals be sent to [highway.events@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:highway.events@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) – The town council support this event.

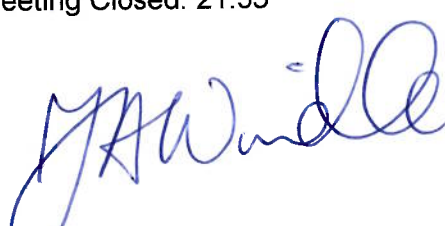
**F229/19. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**F230/19. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.**

**F231/19. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F212/19.**

There were no items for discussion.

Meeting Closed: 21.55

 *JAW* 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020

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Cllr Mrs Julie Windle  
Chairman  
Whittlesey Town Council.

*JAW.*