

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at Peel House, Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY

Present: Cllr Mrs Windle, Mason, Miscandlon, Dorling, Gerstner

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

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

F01/20. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Davies (Work), Bristow (Personal)

F02/20 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 F20/19.

Cllr Mrs Laws as the Portfolio Holder for Planning at FDC. Cllr Mrs Mayor as a member of FDC Planning Committee

F03/20 Police matters including CCTV Report

The police advised there would not be a report for December. Cllr Mrs Windle advised members that Mr Ray Bisby Acting Police and Crime Commissioner will be invited to a future meeting.

The Clerk to ask Aarron locks if it is possible to have the total amount of patrols that are completed and all incidents which are recorded.

F04/20. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on the Wednesday 11th December 2019.

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

F05/20 Public Forum

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

Three members of the public present.

Lynda Day – wants to ensure that residents are kept informed by the town council. The town council website is out of date, an up to date website would allow residents to raise any questions at the meetings.

F06/20 – County Councillor reports.

Written Report from David Connor who was unable to attend - Kings Dyke still moving forward and waiting for tenders to come in. Pondersbridge – waiting for costs from Skanska. New highways inspector has been appointed. Cllr Boden has attended high level steering group which meets monthly. The exit road to Pondersbridge near the Cardea roundabout may cause some issues with the works that are being carried out at Kings Dyke, PCC are involved with discussions on this. It appears the steering group have approved the interactive signs to assist whilst the works are being carried out this will assist with any potential flooding issues.

Cllr Miscandlon asked when the speed limit from 40 to 30 from Whittlesey to Stanground which was approved in 2019 but has not yet been implemented. Cllr Boden to chase this up.

Pondersbridge LHI – Cllr Boden advised Skanska are putting the final costs together for the project.

New Highways Inspector in place, he will be in contact with us all in the next few days.

F07/20. Agenda items for Discussion.

Property working group – Cllr David Mason- We have a watching brief over Grosvenor House, and it will be handed back to in May in better condition to when it was taken. We have not received any further interest in the commercial offices at Peel House. Perhaps we should advertise in the magazines, papers etc. Members requested that the Clerk and Cllr Mason obtain costs with a view to advertising. Cllr Mrs Mayor suggested perhaps a letting agent may be able to assist, the Clerk confirmed we had used a letting agent for single room lets at Grosvenor House. The Clerk to obtain costs from letting agents which will be discussed at F & P prior to further discussion at Full Council.

Financial scoping of 'Interactive signage' Update – Cllr Mrs Dee Laws - meeting tasked with obtaining prices for mobile interactive signs. the raising of the North Bank road by 1M was also discussed. Cllr Mrs Laws advised the group are very focused on improving signage for motorists, currently the EA issue the road closure and opening of the roads, when residents find this out they assume the road is open, however it may take several further hours for highways to inspect the roads before removing the barriers, interactive signs may assist with this, by giving update information. These signs would be mobile and could also be used for other interactive messages. Cllr Mrs Laws requested this go on the February agenda.

Decriminalisation of Parking – Cllr Chris Boden - on street parking, on double yellow lines, timed bays, improper parking causing obstruction, all are responsibility of police and only they can act. The police regard this as being the lowest priority and do not have the resource to undertake this type of role. The cost to decriminalise parking would be approximately £250,000 paid by FDC and therefore levied onto WTC to set the scheme up, then ongoing costs. As part of this scheme every single sign would need to be checked to ensure it meets the legal criteria, County Council would have to do this and it would take up to 6 months and cost approximately 90K, if we started this process today it would take up to 2 years to be up and running. Alternatives are being looked at, one being powers being given to the police to devolve responsibility to councils, parking is one of these. Secondly looking at environmental controls parking with a running engine around schools, it is possible using environmental regulations, actions can be taken by FDC. CCC pay for designated PCSO's to carry out specific duties in the town and villages. The Chief Constable will not entertain this as it allows the richer towns to pursue this course of action. With the election of the new PCC, and things changing throughout the country we may have more of a sympathetic ear. Cllr Gerstner spoke on behalf of the NHW coordinators who support decriminalisation and appreciate the challenges that this issue poses, but they would support the decriminalisation as it only has to be completed once.

Whittlesea Station – Hereward Community Partnership meeting today, the next rail project meeting is Monday 27th January 2020. Cllr Mrs Mayor is unable to attend neither is Cllr Bristow, Cllr Mrs Mayor will check with the Chairman and ascertain if the board is happy to accept a stand in representative from WTC.

Email: gov.uk. – Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk – The Clerk advised members she wished to organise these as soon as possible and needed a final decision as to the preferred choice. Members discussed this and agreed the format would be as follows: juliewindle@whittleseytowncouncil.gov.uk; Cllr Boden advised he did not wish to have a new email and would continue with his existing one. All other councillors would change to a .gov email.



Citizen of the year selection team – Cllr Mrs Mayor asked for volunteers to sit on the panel, the following people offered to do this, Cllr Mrs Laws, Mrs Lang-Whiston, Cllr Miscandlon. The Clerk will organise a date for meeting.

F08/20 Street Scene Officer Report.

There was no street scene officer report. Members were advised that Dawn Sadler – Senior Environmental Officer – Fenland District Council will be attending the February Full Council Meeting.

F09/20. To receive written reports from to outside bodies.

There were no written reports

Cllr Mrs Mayor advised members she had received a request from the RBL for storage facilities for all the Remembrance items, Cllr Mrs Mayor proposed the storage room at the end of the ground floor corridor this was seconded by Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour, this would be subject to suitability after the RBL have viewed the room.

F10/20 To report the draft minutes from Finance & Policy on 16th December 2019.

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

Gerstner and Dorling declared an interest in Street Pride and the Electric Charging point as both have an electric vehicle.

F11/20 To report the financial documents

- To report the bank reconciliation – ending November and December 2019
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments November £149,723.50 and December total £7,998.99, members were advised the high payments in November were due to the final payment to NB Construction. The payments were proposed by the Chair and approved by Full Council.
- To report the year to date figures (2019/2020) – The Chair of F & P presented the year to date figures to members.
- To approve the Pension Valuation Contribution Rates – The Chair advised the new rate for the next two years would be 21.5% this is the employers contribution, this was proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Miscandlon, Cllr Gerstner abstained as part of the HR group, all other members voted in favour.
- To approve the Budget 2020/2021 – Discussions took place regarding the proposed budget and precept for 2020/2021.

Discussions took place regarding the proposed budget and precept for 2020/2021, Cllr Boden suggested to members the precept remain the same as last year, this would mean a slight reduction to residents due to the increase in the amount of Band D properties.

The Chairman invited Cllr Dorling and Wicks to present their requests for specific projects in the new financial year.

Cllr Dorling advised members that as there are many aspects of climate change, we should have funding available, if there is an opportunity to support something locally, we need to have funds to be able to do this, possibly a local community group. If at end of year we have surplus funds from any other budget headings we could use these to assist with any climate change issues.

Cllr Wicks asked if funds could be set aside for activities in the villages, the figures proposed is just a start point. Without the funding, Cllr Wicks cannot plan any activities. Once he has the costs he will report back to the council. Any of these events will be organised by an external committee and not the council. Members discussed the plan and felt that it wasn't quantified and therefore funds should not be earmarked as the starting point. A Committee should be set up to organise this and then come to the council for assistance with funding.

Following all discussions, Cllr Boden proposed the budget, he also proposed the Precept of £171,015.00 seconded Cllr Mrs Mayor, with a unanimous vote in favour.

F12/20 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Thursday 2nd January 2020 and receive the minutes from Monday 16th December 2019.

Ratified: The draft minutes from Thursday 2nd January 202 were reported and the minutes from Monday 16th December were received.

F13/20 To receive the Community Projects Minutes from Wednesday 4th December 2019.

Ratified: The Minutes were received.

F14/20. To discuss any planning applications received from Fenland District Council for comment including: -

To receive the list of planning application decisions.

F15/20 Information Only.

Duck Race Monday 13th April 2020.

F16/20 Invitations.

Mayors Charity Dinner Dance – Saturday 18th April 2020.

F17/2020 Consultations

Cambridgeshire County Council consultation draft on Climate Change and Environment Strategy from 20th December 2019 to 31st January 2020 – Cllr Dorling presented his responses, however Cllr Boden proposed we don't respond as a council to this, seconded Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour, Cllrs were advised to respond as individuals.

F18/20. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 12th February 2020

F19/20. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F20/20. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F02/20

Meeting Closed: 21.55


Doreen Mason