

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

For the health, safety, and well-being of our community as a result of Covid-19 and following the instruction of the Prime Minister's address on 23rd March 2020 all Parish Council meetings will be held remotely until further notice.

Whittlesey Town Council have resolved to use Zoom to facilitate the holding of meetings.

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllr Mason, Miscandlon, Mrs Mayor, Mrs Windle, Dorling, Connor, Whitwell, Gerstner, Munns, Boden, Mrs Laws.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Sue Piergianni Town Clerk & RFO

Recording: This is recorded as an aide memoir for the Clerk.

F137/20. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Victoria Lang Whiston – resigned and will remain vacant until elections in 2021.

F138/20 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 F155/20

Cllr Miscandlon as Substitute on FDC Panning may make comment on any planning applications but will reserve the right to change his mind should more information become available.

Cllr Mrs Laws – Portfolio Holder for Planning at FDC will only speak on planning applications if asked for advice and clarification by the Chairman

Cllr Mrs Mayor on FDC Panning may make comment on any planning applications but will reserve the right to change her mind should more information become available.

Cllr Boden – LHI for speed reduction on the A605 as he lives in the vicinity of Peterborough Road, he will speak and vote on the LHI when it is discussed.

F139/20 Street Scene Officer Report

Street pride Litter pick – Cllr Mrs Mayor advised that according to FDC other towns have commenced the litter pick, can Whittlesey Street Pride commence doing this providing they stick to the COVID rules. Cllr Gerstner has advised he has not heard anything about Street Pride.

Cllr Wicks advised that the Street Scene report did not breakdown the fly tipping figures for the villages. The Clerk to request the breakdown on future reports.

F140/20 Police matters including CCTV Report

Cllr Munns asked for clarification on the wording on the CCTV report, 'CCTV patrols competed, what does that mean?'

F141/20. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting of the Council held Wednesday 8th July 2020.

Ratified: The Minutes of the meeting were approved and signed as true record.

F142/20. Public Forum

To allow any member of the public to address the council. Time allowed 15 minutes in total to be split equally between the total amount wishing to speak.

Three members of the public were present.

Mr Gray – Essen – Advised members they have not commenced any litter picking and are waiting for guidance from Rebecca Robinet at FDC, and he is unaware of any physical litter picks taking place.

Mr Robert Windle – on behalf of Fenland Youth Radio, thanked WTC for the support during the launch day. The radio station is now broadcasting 24 hours per days, 14 hours are live. Cllr Dorling was thanked for attending the Steering Group and to Cllr Gerstner who was in the hot seat yesterday as an individual. They have appointed David Carr as the Station Manager and he is supported by Pino Soccio.

Mr Windle has been compiling the community group contact list, he has made personal contact with all organisations, he has asked for AGM details for these organisations as that is when contact details usually change.

Sports Association – successful application for floodlights who purchased them and donated them to the Sports Association, they are trying to encourage free football to all.

Mr Kevin McKevitt – Remembrance Parade commented that we have two groups, the band and the dignitaries and therefore should be within the government guidance as they can also socially distance.

F143/20. County Councillor reports

Kings Dyke update – Members were advised that updates are being posted every couple of weeks on the Kings Dyke Facebook page, they are also sent to the Clerk for publishing to Councillor and on the website. Cllr Boden and Connor will alternate with updates.

LHI update – Cllr Connor thanked the Clerk and all councillors for all the information which enabled the LHI's to be completed and submitted in a timely manner.

The LHI's are

Blanket application for Yellow Lines

Blanket application for 20mph speed limit put in the list.

Speed reduction from 40 to 30 Crossway hand to Saxon pit.

The maximum contribution from CCC is 15K, we need to contribute a minimum of 10%, No figures have been included on the submission as they are subject to a feasibility study prior to costings.

Cllr Connor advised the Pondersbridge scheme has successfully been completed and most residents are pleased. The Turves bus shelter that WTC have agreed to adopt and is being widely used. Cllr Connor was thanked by all Councillors for everything he has done.

F144/20. Agenda items for Discussion.

Remembrance Day arrangements – Cllr Mason

The Remembrance Parade is a civic event, organised and paid for by Whittlesey Town Council at which event they are ably supported by the Royal British Legion.

As we have had no guidance on this year's events from Central Government and taking into account that our Town Clerk, who is very central to the event, will be side-lined following surgery in the near

future, I attended a meeting yesterday with the Town Clerk and Parade Marshall, Kevin Mckevitt to draw up a risk assessment should an event go ahead this year on Remembrance Sunday.

The main points suggested are:

1. There will be no parade this year as it would be impossible to carry out under the present Covid guidelines.
2. There will be no gathering or reception afterwards at the Ivy Leaf Club.
3. The Town Clerk will contact a limited number of organisations to ascertain whether they are available to lay wreaths at the Town War Memorial.
4. Wreaths will be stored and collected at the Town Council Chamber
5. A limited service to be held at the Town War Memorial with social distancing applied to all participants. The Town Clerk has contacted Cambridgeshire County Council and gained permission for a limited road closure in Queen Street and the immediate areas of the Buttercross.
6. Enquiries to be made of the Peterborough Highland Pipe Band to ascertain their availability.
7. St Mary's Church have confirmed that they will be unable to host a service.
8. Enquiries to be made locally of the plans for services at Coates, Eastrea and Turves on the morning of Remembrance Day.
9. A short service to be arranged at the Town War Memorial on Wednesday 11 November at 1100 again with the observance of restrictions.

Growing Fenland Stakeholders Whittlesey Group – Cllr Mrs Dee Laws

Interactive signage, application has been submitted before the deadline. CCC have given us the sites and are absorbing the cost of the power. They are supporting us with staff 24/7 as and when the information is required on the signs. The application is purely for the cost of the signs. The signs will be in WTC ownership. Every four years there will need to be a maintenance figures in the budget, the figure for this maintenance would be 4,500.00, which will cover us for a further four years.

Heritage Centre – The update from Dee as Chair of Growing Fenland, funds have been ringfenced for this project, it needs to be in Whittlesey, next to the nature reserve and Must Farm, this is incredibly important for Whittlesey. Costs need to include architect, topical survey, and a flood risk assessment, briefing document and sketches or artist impression of the centre, when this is submitted it needs to go in with the planning fee, approx 9 – 10K, there is £1666.66 available from Fenland, there may be a fee reduction and cost savings, WTC needs to partner on this. Cllr Mrs Laws asked the Town Council if they would consider giving a donation of 8K to allow all the professional reports to be compiled and submitted as part planning application.

Cllr Boden requested that instead of asking the town council for the 9 – 10k, but that WTC underwrite so they can be included in the bid for the Growing Fenland Scheme. We do have matched funding in the form of the land. Cllr Mrs Laws proposed where possible she will endeavour to get the expert reports, briefing documents architect reports and planning underwritten within this application and kept it to a minimum cost for WTC and also note that the this is supported by WTC. Should there be any expenditure, this will come out of the current financial year. This was seconded by Cllr Miscandlon. The Chairman asked for a named vote. Cllr Wicks, Miscandlon, Mrs Mayor, Dorling, Windle, Whitwell, Laws, Boden, Munns, Gerstner, Mason.

Property Working Group – Cllr Mayor

At present we are without heating and hot water in Peel House due to the failure through age of the two pumps in the boiler house. Heating contractors have been alerted and have provided a quotation for the necessary remedial work in the sum of £1900. This does not include the price of a new pump. Approval is required of Council to proceed. Cllr Mason proposed we accept this quotation, seconded by Cllr Wicks, all councillors present in favour.

We are still in the process of negotiating with our water suppliers over splitting the supply to the tenants' accommodation from the main supply in Peel House and installing separate water meters for billing purposes. The difficulty we have is that the main water supply is charged on a commercial basis which is plainly unfair to our domestic tenants who have every right to be charge don a domestic rate basis. The estimated cost of conversion is £4,000 and I need Council's approval to proceed. Cllr Mrs Mayor proposed we proceed with the split of meters and install sub metres into the Washing Rooms. Cllr Mason seconded. All Cllrs present at the meeting were in favour.

Following an unfortunate accident to a member of the public recently I have requested a quotation for a set of railings to erected directly in front of the domestic tenants ground floor entrance door where a small wall of 0.5 meter exists at present. This is a Health and Safety requirement and as a secondary consideration will provide an indication of parking spaces for visitors.

The present siting of the Electric Vehicle Charging point is badly positioned and needs to be moved two metres away within the central area of the courtyard both for ease of use by motorists and to comply with Health and Safety.

The present notice board is to be refurbished with a second notice board to be sited on the south wall of the parking spaces outside Peel House.

One of our domestic tenants has negotiated a move to Peterborough and subsequently, Fenland District Council who administer the Central Government Resettlement Scheme are obliged to issue Whittlesey Town Council with twelve weeks' notice of termination of tenancy. This formal notice is expected at the end of September.

Unfortunately, the Resettlement Scheme has ground to a halt under the present Covid 19 epidemic worldwide and the Council may well need to consider their options in future letting of this accommodation.

Must Farm Heritage Centre - Cllr Mason

Following the failure of Whittlesey Town Council to secure funding from the Cambridgeshire Communities Capital Fund a meeting has taken place involving myself, Cllrs Miscandlon and Doring with senior members of Peterborough City Council and Peterborough Vivacity to plan the way forward.

Three main action points emerged from the meeting, namely.

1. Securing the Forterra plc land earmarked for the project legally. A meeting to be arranged involving myself, Gillian Beasley, CEO Peterborough City Council and Brian Chapman of Forterra.
2. Engaging a professional architect to draw up detailed plans of the centre and for planning permission to eb obtained from Fenland District Council.
3. Obtaining testimonials from eminent bodies to enhance e any future grant applications.

Cllr Boden asked why vivacity are still involved, he was advised that Cllr Mason & Gillian Beasley are meeting with Forterra regarding the land ownership.

Cycle Race – Cllr Mason

I have been contacted by the organisers of the Tour of Cambridgeshire to enquire if Whittlesey would like to be involved in the race planned for June 2021 bearing in mind the difficulties that would be encountered by the Kings Dyke bridgeworks.

Should the Whittlesey Town Council be interested I will arrange a meeting with the organisers to discuss options -

Planters on the Market Place – Cllr Mrs Mayor has requested this be withdrawn tonight as she is waiting further information.

MVAS Progress report – Cllr Miscandlon

He is meeting with the Clerk and Fenland Electrical w/c 21st September to organise the programming and installation and will update members at the next meeting.

Road closures – Cllr Wicks

Advised members that better road signage is necessary when there are road closures, the recent issue when the A605 was closed resulted in HGV's being sent along the B1040 and through Pondersbridge, there was an incident where a vehicle ended up in the dyke, this just proved that the B1040 was not suitable as a diversion route, the A47 should be primary diversion if A605 closed. The interactive signage would be of benefit should the A605 be closed.

High level business case – Relief Road– Cllr Boden

Cllr Boden has made enquiries about obtaining a high-level report for the Southern Relief Road, this would link the Morrison's roundabout to the area of Station Road, South of the railway line. The only way this would work would be to open areas for development. This road would be unable to link with the A605 without crossing over the railway line. He was hoping to bring forward a business case with the support of James Palmer. Cllr Boden has ascertained that once you get past the Cardea roundabout there is only a small amount of land to the East of the roundabout that is in Peterborough the majority of land falls into Huntingdon District Council, there are proposals for the 4th Spur of the Amazon roundabout to be opened up, therefore it may be possible that the proposals that Huntingdonshire and Peterborough City Councils are investigating via the Amazon roundabout may provide an access route to the industrial area in Whittlesey. The cost to put a business case together will be around 4 to 5 thousand pounds. To cross the railway line may make this out of the reach.

CCC do desk top studies about traffic movements and have looked at all planning apps that have been approved but not yet built, once built the two roundabouts in Whittlesey will have reached their capacity

CAPALC – Cllr Gerstner –

Option 1 – CAPALC costing 1600.00 per year, plus the cost of a locum clerk £35.00 per hour, they would not be able to assist during the day.

Option 2 – Cllrs work out a rota and sit in office and answer phone and be available to the public.

Option 3 – engage a temporary admin officer – used to work for FDC, but could only sit and signpost but could not do anything else

Option 4 – Agency admin staff – Cllr Gerstner contacted three agencies only one responded with a CV and this person was not suitable.

Members discussed all four options and Cllr Miscandlon proposed option 2, this was seconded by Cllr Gerstner. Cllrs voted as follows Wicks, Miscandlon, Windle, Whitwell, Mason, Laws, Boden, Mayor, Munns all voted yes, Cllr Dorling voted No.

F145/20 To receive Councillor & Outside Body reports.

Cllr Mason advised that he has stepped down from WEFA and Cllr Mrs Julie Windle will now represent the Town Council.

F146/20. To report the minutes from the Finance and Policy meeting held on Monday 15th June 2020.

LOCAL TAX COUNCIL SUPPORT SCHEME – incorrect information. Additionally, FDC consulting on changing the discount rate on the current support scheme.

F147/20 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 to a value £15518.35 for vouchers 86 to 100, this was proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded by Cllr Mason with a unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the year to date figures (2020/2021) – The YTD figures were received.

F148/20 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 2nd September and receive the minutes from Wednesday 5th August 2020.

F149/20. To report the draft minutes from Community Projects Committee on Wednesday 3rd June 2020.

To ratify that Cllr Roy Gerstner be appointed as a member of the Community Projects Committee – Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor.

F150/20 Information Only

Bassenhally Ward Matters – Summer 2020
Whittlesey Town Council revised meeting dates
War Memorials Trust Bulletin

F151/20 Invitations.

F152/20 Consultations

F153/20. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 14th October 2020

F154/20. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F155/20. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F138/20.

There were not items for discussion.

Meeting Closed: 10.35

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Cllr Mason
Mayor of Whittlesey.