

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL FULL 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 8th July 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

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

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

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

F118/20. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Mrs Lang Whiston – personal reasons – advised by Cllr Mrs Laws.

F119/20 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 F136/20

Cllr Mrs Laws as the Portfolio Holder for Planning at FDC. Cllr Mrs Mayor as a member of Fenland District Council Planning Committee, she may make comment but reserve the right to change her mind should further information become available later

Cllr Gerstner – Christmas Lights Donation, he audits their accounts and will take no part in the discussions or vote.

To approve the confidential minutes from Wednesday 10th June 2020.

F120/20 Street Scene Officer Report

The report was received.

F121/20 Police matters including CCTV Report

Members received the report – Cllr Dorling asked if the key on the graph could be made larger. Cllr Gerstner advised members about the ongoing drugs issues in Whittlesey, he receives reports of drug issues weekly and being traded in this town.

F122/20. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting of the Council held Wednesday 10th June 2020

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

Cllr Boden advised that at the last Full Council he was asked a question by Cllr Gerstner regarding the Council Tax base grant, he did give an answer, however it was incorrect and the correct answer is as follows: The Council tax base calculation does take into account the council tax support scheme and this does and the potential effect that it may have on the council tax base, it may make a difference next year.

Remove Cllr Dorling from Glassmore and Burnthouse as he is not on either committee

F123/20 – Update from Mr Lee Baldry Interim Team Leader – Mayor Infrastructure Delivery – Kings Dyke

Tonight's Full Council presentation offered as a proxy for the ongoing Local Liaison Meeting cycle, which will resume once lockdown lifted.

- CCC E&E, GPC, H&T Committees have each passed the King's Dyke scheme, variously being 5th March 23rd April and 7th June
- CCC now has a signed contract with Jones Bros, as per Press Release shared with WTC in May.
- Now we are moving into the mobilisation phase of the scheme.
- This is in parallel with technical design checks.
- There is a formal programme of works in place, which is being checked and challenged for robustness and expediency.
- There is a detailed risk register in place, which again is being robustly checked, challenged, and used in technical decision-making.
- There is a full governance procedure in place, the Terms of Reference for which were approved by E&E Committee 5th March.
- We are monitoring JB's performance as part of this governance process.
- There is a detailed Communications Plan in force, tied together with the programme of works.
- Some work is already ongoing onsite and underground Statutory Undertake work may be undertaken late July

Cllr Miscandlon – Asked if there will be a ceremony of any type – Due to Covid 19, this would be incorrect to call people to site, perhaps they may be a virtual ceremony, or leave it to later until COVID abates.

Cllr Gerstner- could there be a live feed of the project being built which could be live 24/7. Lee will take this back, he also advised they are discussing with Jones Brothers Drone flights throughout the project, another area would be time-lapse photography.

F124/20. 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.

Mr B Gray-Esson – VJ Day progress. He has written an article for The Fen's magazine and submitted it to Natasha Shiels for inclusion in the magazine. The act of remembrance will be held on 15th August at 11.00 at the Whittlesey Memorial. He is waiting to speak to someone senior from the RBL in July who will advise of the council scheme for the wreath.

F125/20. County Councillor reports

Cllr Boden- Continues to resist requests to reflood the fens to reduce the carbon omissions. They are having to explain that widespread planting of trees in fen areas is inappropriate because the effect of wide planting of trees in fen areas takes more moisture out of the soil thereby increasing carbon omissions, the wide spread planting of trees in the fens is does more harm than good.

CCC meeting in the future to discuss all road names in Cambridgeshire to ascertain any road names that may have association to the slave trade, these will then be changed.

Cllr Connor – was thanked by Cllr Miscandlon for getting the potholes filled from Coates through to Whittlesey.

Cllr Gerstner – expressed thanks to Cllr Connor for the removal of the elongated yellow lines on Ramsey Road.

F126/20. Agenda items for Discussion.

Growing Fenland Stakeholders Whittlesey Group – Cllr Mrs Dee Laws

Cllr Mrs Laws requested another member of the Town Council join the group as Cllr Bristow was our representative. Cllr Mrs Laws proposed Cllr Munns, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Windle, with a unanimous vote in favour.

The first meeting was held last week, there were eight potential projects discussed, however the members need to look at capital expenditure and the ones that have come forward strongly are the heritage walk and cycle way, the heritage centre (Must farm) and great discussions about utilising the Buttercross and market place, whether it be enhancing marking stalls on a Friday, or perhaps a collectable and antiques day once a month, not of the same day as our existing market. The most important thing being we cannot be in competition with the existing shops.

Through the Growing Fenland Project, they are looking at better flood signage, (East Delph, Cemetery Road Roundabout and 2 on Kelly vision), 2.5 x 1.5-meter interactive signs with the cost being about 65K. The FDC officers are attending a meeting with the CPCA officers to learn more about how the bidding process works and how to apply for this funding and the dates associated with the bidding process.

They have five other projects to consider, these will be looked at in the future.

They have earmarked funds 500K for the heritage visitor centre 65 for the interactive signs but there may be additional costings which are unknown at this time. These can also be used for Kingsdyke, RTA's as well as the flooding.

Past Mayor / Chairman's Medallion – Cllr Mason

Cllr Mayor presented members with the three quotations for 4 Mayor Medals, 6 Chairman, and 3 Combined.

- Toye Kenning - £3237.44 – with a presentation box
- Fattorini - 2054.59 – with no presentation box
- Crest Regalia – 1140.90 with a presentation box.

Cllr Mason proposed the Town Council accept the quotation from Crest Regalia £1140.90, this was seconded by Cllr Miscandlon, with 2 votes against and the rest in favour, therefore making it a majority vote.

Property Working Group – Grosvenor House – Cllr Mason

The property has now been handed back to owner, in accordance with lease we had to carry out some works, the original quotation was 5600.00, however the work required only came to 2750.00 this was virtually half of the original quotation.

Must Farm Heritage Centre - Cllr Mason

Cllr Boden is very keen that we obtain the capital finance for this programme from the county council capital scheme, this will leave more money in the Growing Fenland pot, he was disappointed that on the second attempt to attract funding the officer advised the bid needed more polishing. The officer wanted a greater proportion of the scheme to come from third parties, we do have the Growing Fenland Funding, the second item they were concerned about was the revenue that will take place. The Capital fund is only available on a first come first serve basis, the next panel is in two days' time.

There would be match funding to the value of 100K, which is the land that is being gifted by Forterra.



Local Highway Improvements – Cllr Mason

Cllr Mason - Group application, 20mph speed limit on the roads in and around Church Street and Ramsey Road as these are arterial routes and are used by HGV's and the No 31 Bus.

Mrs Mayor – consideration for double yellow lines at the end of Thornham Way. The village councillors were asked to investigate this and report to the Clerk.

Cllr Dorling - Bassenhally Ward – Parking issues in Viking way, Cllr Dorling to furnish the Clerk with all the details.

Cllr Connor happy to support to the Yellow Line submissions and suggested a blanket application.

Cllr Boden – would support the 20mph speed limit.

The Clerk was asked to email all Cllrs requesting details of their proposals for the double yellow lines.

Town Council Meeting Dates – Cllr Boden

Cllr Boden suggested that Full Council be moved to the third Thursday of the month starting in November, all other meetings remain the same. Proposed Cllr Mrs Mason, seconded Cllr Wicks, with a majority vote in favour.

Cycle Racks Locations – Cllr Mason

Cllr Mason asked for suggestions by members to enable the Clerk to response to FDC.

Queen Street – Peel House.

Cycle route 63 – Managed by Sustrans – Location to be advised to the Clerk

Cllr Boden – Outside Nisa Local – Victory Avenue

Queen Street Car Park – Queen Street

Grosvenor Road Car Park – Grosvenor Road

Station Road – near Bet Fred.

Outside Each – on the wide part of the pavement

Cllr Surgery Dates – Cllr Ray Whitwell

The Surgery will commence in September 2020, Cllr Whitwell is just waiting for confirmation of dates by individual councillors.

F127/20 To receive Councillor & Outside Body reports.

Cllr Mason advised that his commitments have increased and as such he has resigned from WEFA.

Cllr Mason – Whittlesey IDB meeting where concern was expressed over fly tipping and the waste that ends up in the Dykes. All evidence that can be passed to Fenland would be grateful received.

F128/20. To report the minutes from the Finance and Policy meeting held on Monday 15th June 2020.

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

To ratify the Christmas Lights Donation - £5,000.00 – this is in accordance with the budget set

F129/20 To report the financial documents

- To report the bank reconciliation – The bank reconciliation was received.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments – The list of payments for vouchers 25 to 50 totalling £11,862.25. These were approved by unanimously.

- To report the year to date figures (2020/2021) – The year to date figures were received.
- To Flex the 2020 / 2021 budget – Cllr Boden will send out the revised flexed budget to all members and the Clerk will update the figures to reflect the changes.

F130/20 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Wednesday 1st July 2020 and receive the minutes from Monday 15th June 2020.

Ratified: The Minutes from the 1st July were approved and signed, the Minutes from Monday 15th June were reported.

F131/20 Information Only

Bassenhally Ward Matters – June 2020

Reverend Nigel Whitehouse final service Sunday 19th July 2020, all Councillors are welcome to attend.

Cllr Mrs Windle has been contacted by Rob Litten, Head of Park Lane and New Road advising they had a painting competition during COVID to paint something that captures the spirit of the lockdown and could they be displayed on the website.

F132/20 Invitations.

There are no invitations

F133/20 Consultations

There are no consultations.

F134/20. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 16th September 2020 *** PLEASE NOTE THIS IS THE THIRD WEDNESDAY DUE TO THE CLERK BEING ON LEAVE.**

F135/20. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

The confidential minutes from Wednesday 10th June 2020 were approved.

F136/20. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F119/20.

There were no items for discussion

Meeting Closed: 21:45



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Cllr David Mason
Mayor of Whittlesey