

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL – Full Council

For the health, safety, and well-being of our community because 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.

Minutes of the Full Council held on Thursday 17th December 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

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

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

Recording: The recording is made as an aide memoir for the Town Clerk.

F192/20. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Davies was not present and no apologies were received.

F193/20 To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda item including confidential items under agenda item F210/20

Opening for Tenders for Cabling and Electric Vehicle points.

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

Cllr Mrs Mayor as a member of FDC Panning may make comment but will reserve the right to change her mind should more information become available.

Cllr Mrs Laws – Portfolio Holder for Planning at FDC will attend the meeting and will contribute if asked by the Chairman for advice and clarification on any policy matters.

F194/20 Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV report.

Members received the Street Scene Officer Report.

F195/20 Police Engagement meeting report.

Members received the Police Engagement report.

F196/20. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2020

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

F197/20 Public Forum

There were 3 members of the public present.

Fenland Youth Radio- Mr Robert Windle.

The station continues to grow and develop, with listeners steadily increasing, with some key events produced, the Remembrance Sunday service that included requests from the care homes was so popular it was repeated.

The knockout stages of the Whittlesey Primary Schools Sports Quiz aired on Fenland Youth Radio on Saturday mornings; this was after each school had staged its own heats.

Fenland Youth Radio were delighted to support the Christmas Santa floats around Whittlesey, the Whittlesey Lions had great socially distanced interaction with families.

They were approached by the local church teams and asked if they could air a Carol Service for Whittlesey & The Villages, this is an ongoing project in conjunction with new Reverend Phil Marsh.

Fenland Youth Radio have produced over 30 hours of presenter content for Christmas Eve through to Boxing Day

The next major event will be the 2020 Pride of Whittlesey Awards to celebrate the hard work and dedication to the community. A previous message was passed out by the Mayor to all Councillors for comment and an indication of support for this project, which will be discussed later in the agenda.

Mr Windle also thanked Cllr Dee Laws for contacting various agencies to enable updates on Environment, Road Closures, and accidents to be made available to the radio.

Mr Windle briefly spoke about Whittlesey Sports Association and that although as expected things were quiet it was hoped that the Whittlesey Sports Day would take place Summer 2021.

Mr Windle invited all Cllrs to check their wards for any persons who may have a disability who would like to get involved with FYR either in front of a mic or on the technical or production side. enquiries should be to management@fenlandyouthradio.com

F198/20 – County Councillor reports.

Saxon Pit – Cllr Boden

Developments over the last month: -

1. Submission by a company asking if prior approval was needed from CCC to demolish the two chimneys at Saxon brickworks, CCC considered the application and it is required to have prior approval for the chimneys to be demolished, due to them potentially housing Bats and Peregrine falcons. The applicants have been told they must go away and seek advice from an ecologist experienced working on brickwork chimneys to ensure compliance with the wildlife legislation Act. The chimneys will not be taken down until 2021. With regards to the heritage of the site, CCC determined the chimneys are not historical in themselves as they were only built in 1971, but they did have historical value in association with the kilns, these were demolished at least 20 years ago, it was determined that they now have no historic value. The plinths that they stand on are deteriorating and this is the main issue, the resolution of this issue will be the removal of the chimneys.
2. There is a proposed recycling plant for Saxon works pit area, with an application being made to the EA for an environmental permit to process in excess of 50 tonnes per day of non-hazardous bottom ash and inert waste. No application has been made to CCC, but an application has been made to the Environment Authority. The applicant has been advised they must seek planning permission from CCC. However, the applicant (Johnsons Aggregate and Recycling Limited) has advised they are going to carry out preparatory construction work before any planning is granted. Cllr Boden suggested the Town Council may wish to make representation to CCC planning that WTC understand the intent to start construction work for something that does not have planning permission and would they investigate and where necessary intervene.
 - a. Members suggested that a full highways and risk assessment be carried out by CCC and not just a desktop study. Whittlesey Town Council main opposition could be on the traffic and highway concerns. The A605 will have limited capacity once all the proposed

developments have taken place, this capacity study was carried out earlier in 2020 by an independent consultant and not a council.

Whittlesey Town Council will make comment when this application comes before them.

Kings Dyke Update – Cllr Boden

Opening date still scheduled for December 2022, the contractor is about 2 months ahead of schedule, but this could change as there still major works to be undertaken. The boards on the A605 will be updated monthly from January 2021 to keep the public as informed as possible. Cllr Mrs Laws advised that all updates up put on the town council website.

F199/20. Agenda items for Discussion.

1. Growing Fenland Stakeholders Whittlesey Group update - Cllr Mrs Dee Laws

- A. 3 x interactive Highways signs.
Now ordered with a lead time up to 16 weeks.
Electricity feeder pillars for each sign to be ordered shortly (with a far shorter lead time)
- B. Heritage Centre.
Legal process to lease land from Forterra to commence imminently.
Process will take several months, after which a project manager is expected to be appointed to develop the project.
- C. Heritage Walk.
Project initiation in January 2021, with a completion date of March 2022 anticipated.
- D. Business Grant Scheme.
Formal scheme to be developed in the coming month.

Cllr Boden – The Small capital grant scheme is designed to utilise the full 1 million, £500,000 is to be used towards COVID 19 recovery and its part of the 500K that the amount of approx 126K will come from. This must be applied for no later than the 23rd December 2020 to be considered at the January CPCA board meeting. If approved any businesses / organisations in Whittlesey or within two miles of the boundary of WTC so long as they are within fenland which have any capital investment, they need to make to apply up to £10,000, representing up to 95% of the capital costs, priority is to protect existing jobs or create new jobs. It will be necessary for firms to obtain three written quotes and they will need to purchase the equipment; the grant will be a reimbursement and checks will be carried out to ensure the equipment was purchased.

2. Property Working Group – Cllr Dave Mason

Last month the Council requested further information from the three companies who had provided tenders for the installation of barriers in front of the entrance to the flats above Peel House. Unfortunately, only one company GL Developments have provided this information which has been circulated previously to all Councillors and I propose that they be engaged for the necessary work as this is a pressing Health & Safety issue that should not be delayed further. This was proposed by Cllr Miscandlon, seconded by Cllr Boden with a unanimous vote in favour. The Clerk will instruct the contractor to commence the work as soon as possible.

Throughout the present Covid19 epidemic our commercial residents have continued to pay their rent in full and have never asked for consideration of reducing their rent. I feel that under the present economic climate Whittlesey Town Council should show support to the businesses of ISA-Cam and Fenland Youth Radio by suspending their rent for three months commencing in January 2021. This would not only support the businesses financially in the short term but in the long-term assist in ensuring a continuance of their respective businesses which of course would be in the interests of Whittlesey Town Council. This was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.

3. MVAS progress report – Cllr Miscandlon

Members were advised the MVAS cameras are all in place, Cllr Miscandlon advised he has requested two more units (Bassenhally and Drybread Road) in next year's budget along with a laptop that can be used for the download of this information. The conversion software is provided free of charge from Morelock, this converts the data into Excel data. The Clerk will investigate the costs and report back to the council.

4. Public open space, - Churchfield Way / Wakelyn Road – Cllr Mason

He has been approached recently by residents to enquire if the large open space between Churchfield Way and Wakelyn Road could be better utilised for the good of the community. The field at present is primarily used by dog walkers and it has been suggested that consideration be given by Whittlesey Town Council for a children's' play area and benches for older citizens to use. Cllr Mason is a District Councillor and understands there is little chance of a play area as there is no development money available through Fenland District Council at the present time but would ask the Council's consideration to providing two benches. He is happy to approach FDC for assistance in laying down concrete bases for the benches if members felt this was an item for consideration of the WTC Project Committee. Members suggested the following: Discuss options with Phil Hughes at FDC, ascertain if funding is available through the wind turbine fund, check the S106 allocation and see if any could be used for this project and finally contact the Lincolnshire Coop and Jones Brothers. Cllr Mason thanked members for their input and would research all these avenues.

5. CCTV SLA for 3 years at a cost of £10,740.00 per year. Members discussed this in depth voicing the pros and cons of the CCTV. Members felt that better use could be made of the CCTV, members discussed the issues of High Causeway and if the cameras are now so good with digital playback, could not they be used to catch traffic offenders. Cllr Boden advised that the CCTV does have the capability to change this, however there are discussions taken place at FDC regarding civil enforcement. The Clerk advised that all members have been invited to the new CCTV hub once we are able to visit. Members asked if the proposed we continue with this under the new CCTV SLA renew us being more demanding. Cllr Boden proposed we accept the SLA, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Mayor with a majority vote in favour, Cllr Mrs Laws did suggest that the contract is reviewed to ascertain if we receive a refund if any of the cameras cease working.

6. Pride of Whittlesey Awards – Members discussed the awards and suggested that the radio station run the awards itself. However, requested they submit a donation request to the Clerk. Perhaps in future years, this may become a fixed item on the budget.

F200/20. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

Report of Zoom meeting on 25th November 2020 with Tracey Cain, Public Liaison Officer / Office Manager from Jones Brothers and Cllr Mrs Julie Windle.

The meeting was to discuss ideas in which Jones Brothers can engage with the local Whittlesey community, a practice which they have successfully employed in many other areas of the country where they have undertaken major engineering/building projects.

The hour and a half zoom call was incredibly positive and many diverse/imaginative ideas were discussed.

Jones Brothers are extremely keen to have as much local community engagement as possible while the Kings Dyke Bridge project is being rolled out. They are very keen to involve all sections of the community from schools to care homes. Cllr Mrs Windle has undertaken to put them in touch with all the local schools, the organisers of all the local calendar events/Festivals in the town, care homes and Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid.

Tracey said they were keen to involve all local primary schools with visits to Jones Brothers Visitor/Education Centre during the life of the project and wish to engage with secondary school pupils from Sir Harry Smith Community College on issues of apprenticeships and preparation for job interviews.

Other ideas/projects that were discussed:

1. When the Bridge is completed, parts of the Jones Bros Visitor Centre being incorporated into the Must Farm Heritage Centre as part of modern-day local Whittlesey history.
2. Road race and or Cycle race to be organised over the new bridge prior to the official opening.
3. Jones Brothers providing speakers at local community group meetings.

Cllr Mrs Windle will be following up the meeting by keeping in regular touch with Tracey as agreed. This was an incredibly positive and receptive meeting, and she was impressed with Tracey's professional manner. Thanks, were given to Sue Piergianni, our Town Clerk for organising the zoom meeting.

F201/20. Finance & Policy – To report the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting held on Monday 14th December 2020.

Cllr Boden advised that due to other meetings running on the F & P meeting on Monday was abandoned and had been rescheduled for Monday 21st December 2021 at 6.30pm. The Clerk is on leave but will be in attendance carry out the duties of the officer from home.

F202/20 To report the financial documents

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st October 2020 Members received reconciliation.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments. (vouchers 143 to 172 to the value of £23, 797.85, there were also £3864.76 of uncashed payments. Members approved the list of payments.
- To report the year-to-date figures (2020/2021). The year-to-date figures were received.
- Budget 2021/22 – version 0.1 is still current; however, provision needs to be made for two by elections taking place on 6th May 2021, (Lattersey Town & District & Bassenhally Town), there is also the CPCA Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner, Cllr Boden has advised due to these elections the cost to WTC should be reduced to approximately £3,000.00.

F203/20 To report the draft minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 14th December 2020 and receive the minutes from Wednesday 2nd December 2020.

Ratified: The minutes from the 14th December were reported and the minutes from the 2nd December were received.

F204/20 To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 2nd December 2020.

Ratified: The minutes were reported.

F205/20 Information Only.

Cllr Mason advised the Past Mayor / Chair Medals have been received, he proposed they be presented at the Annual meeting in May if it is possible to hold an actual meeting.

F206/20 Invitations.

- Virtual Carol Service – Cllr Mason has sent the invite out to all.

F207/2020 Consultations

Fenland Taxi Policy – Members were asked to send any comments to Cllr Mason who will formulate a response to FDC.

F208/20. Date of next meeting – Thursday 21st January 2021

F209/20. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F210/20. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F193/2020

Meeting closed: 21:40.

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Cllr Mason

Mayor

Whittlesey Town Council