

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th February 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

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

Present: Cllr Mason, Boden, Davies, Dorling, Gerstner, Mrs Laws, Miscandlon, Mrs Mayor, Munns, Whitwell, Wicks, Mrs Windle, County Councillor David Connor

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

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

F21/21. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

There were no apologies.

F22/21. 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 F40/21

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 Whitwell & Cllr Mrs Mayor also declared an interest in item F26/21.

Cllr Connor Declared he will take no part in any planning discussion.

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.

F23/21 Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV report.

Members received the report.

F24/21 Police Engagement meeting report –

The meeting this month is after our Council Meeting, therefore the notes will be sent out when available.

F25/21. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2021.

Ratified: The minutes were approved and will

F26/21. Presentation by Mr Alan Davies & Asa Chittock BDW Cambridgeshire regarding new proposals for residential development at Land South and West of 300 Eastrea Road, Whittlesey.



Mr Davies from Barratt David Wilson Homes advised members the proposed site would allow for 207 properties and a supermarket with a breakdown of housing as follows:

95 x 2 bed (Kenley/Maidstone)
38 x 3 bed (Bewdley/Moresby)
74 x 4 bed (Alderney//Chester/Hensworth/Radleigh).

The site would be developed in 2 phases starting in 2022, members were advised that pre application discussions are ongoing, Barratt's are proposing to submit the application mid to end of March 2021 with Barratt Developments PLC taking the lead on the build. The houses will be centred around a children's play area and park. At the present time no apartment blocks are proposed. The site will include well designed sustainable drainage and surface water run-off with be attenuated to green field run of rates, the attenuation pond will be surrounded by soft land scaping, however this may not be an area where residents can walk. Mr Chittock stated there will be no affordable housing as it is not viable if they are building the Supermarket as part of the development.

Mr Davies advised members there is no market demand for the whole site to be a supermarket as was previously looked at, so the mixed scheme is the best option to provide Whittlesey with housing and a new supermarket. Members were advised that the supermarket operator want to present to WTC in due course. The supermarket will have an internal floor size of 15,000sq ft. Mr Chittock confirmed agreement had been obtained to access the whole site from the A605.

Mr Davies was advised that the local plan is currently under review and some elements will change. Mr Davies advised, they are aware and that is why they are having pre app discussions with FDC.

F27/21 Public Forum

51 members of the public were present.

Mr Robert Windle – Thanked the Town council for supporting the Pride of Whittlesey Awards.

Mr Gray-Esson – Gave a brief history of the fall of Singapore and wondered if WTC would consider holding a memorial service for all the soldiers who had lost their lives.

F28/21 County Councillor reports.

Updates from Cllr Boden and Cllr Connor

Whittlesea Station – Cllr Boden

Entrance / Exit carpark at Railway Station. CCC are now of the opinion that this is not a safe access due to the proximity of the barrier. Network rail have decided they are going to close the manual gates at the railway and replace with automatic gates and they will be installed towards the end of 2022. They will be relocating the large electricity box and undertaking work to the footpaths. They may consider changing the entrance onto Station Road. At the end of car park there is a factory that is being rebuilt it is much large than the previous one, it is being done without planning permission, the owners of the site have advised they will be submitting retrospective permission. CCC have advised they do not want any additional HGV'S on Station Road.

Kings Dyke – Cllr Boden

The Project is sailing forward, the contactors are working closely with all other agencies. The potholes on the A605 may not be connected to the project, Cllr Boden has bypassed CCC as they are dealing with so many flooding issues, Jones are going to liaise with highways to see if remedial works can be carried out.

Vaccination sites – Cllr Boden

Attempts are being made across the country to increase vaccination centres, soon there will be another one in Whittlesey for one day a week (between Monday and Thursday) and it will be in the Grosvenor Road North carpark.

Local Highway Improvements - Cllr Mrs Windle

Members were advised the LHI's would be heard on the 1st of March 2021. The Clerk was asked to send out the feasibility studies to all members as there were some inaccuracies on one of them. Cllr Mrs Windle offered to take photographs of the proposed double yellow line areas, this would be submitted to the board prior to the meeting. She also advised she would be happy to host a zoom meeting to Cllrs to comment on the Feasibility studies.

F29/21 Agenda items for Discussion.

- 1. MVAS progress report** – Cllr Miscandlon asked members to suggest other sites for the MVAS cameras these would be subject to CCC approval. Cllr Miscandlon thanked the Clerk and Wayne Gunn for all their efforts in obtaining this data. The Clerk made a presentation to Cllrs explaining what data can be captured and how it can be shown in either pie charge or data form. Members were also advised that data can be broken down into minute by minute. Cllr Miscandlon will ascertain the best way to submit data to Mr Matt Stanton road safety officer at CCC. Cllr Miscandlon proposed and additional 10 brackets at a cost of £55.00 per bracket, seconded Cllr Wicks unanimous vote in favour.
- 2. Cabs for Jobs** – Cllr Mason (in first person) My attention was drawn recently to the financial challenges that some of our residents are facing when being called for their Covid inoculations in Stanground and Peterborough and being asked to fund their travel costs.

One resident with health issues, having lost his job through no fault of his own, found it difficult to find the £5 required for a return bus fare having been placed on Universal Credit as his only form of income.

Also, it has been brought to my notice that taxi firms in Whittlesey are also struggling to make a living. One such company, having missed out on Government support grants, approached me expressing willingness to transport residents to and from their respective inoculation centres if the Town Council would reimburse travel costs.

Therefore, I wish to make the following proposal:

That Whittlesey Town Council agrees to fund any taxi company operating out of Whittlesey and the Community car scheme, and I believe there are four in total, up to a maximum grant of £500 for each company on production to the Town Clerk of receipts monthly until the £500 is exhausted, this was seconded by Cllr Miscandlon.

A similar initiative has this week been undertaken by Peterborough City Council and I believe we should support both residents and taxi companies by implementing the scheme that I have proposed.

- 3. COVID 19** – Cllr Dorling made the following statement.

3.1 Local Outbreak Engagement Board

Set up by Dr Liz Robin 29/06/2020, chaired by Roger Hickford.

Their Constitution calls for one Board Member to represent the 5 District Councils in addition to CCC and PCC – unclear who at meeting 10/02/2021.

Dr Robin presented data and announced that Peterborough and Fenland have the worst data for positive COVID cases. Illustrated by numbers, graphs, and coloured charts. Hospitalisations and deaths were also higher.

Lateral Flow Tests could help if taken twice per week.

There is no evidence of South African variant within Cambridgeshire to date.

Service Director, C.C.C. and P.C.C. congratulated everyone involved with the vaccination delivery and volunteers giving the impression that local councils had successfully managed everything. There was no reflection on how Peterborough and Fenland District Council were among the worst across the U.K.

There was no representation for any of the District Councils regarding help they might require – It cost £3.5m Government money to establish this Board.

3.2 Lateral Flow Test centres

A **Community Rapid Testing programme** is highlighted in the Councillor briefing document. Five new sites were announced: (1) Cambourne, (2) Wisbech, (3) Soham, (4) Huntingdon and (5) Arbury. No mention of the three locations in Peterborough (areas much more useful for residents living in the North West of Fenland (Peterborough Rugby Club, Gladstone Park and East of England showground))

Issue: People should book in advance online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

Problem: The web site only provides access to the five previously mentioned new sites; none of the existing sites is available. Dr Robin indicated that use of these centres is a vital strategy to reduce the transfer of COVID-19.

3.3 Inoculations Cohorts 5 - 9

The NHS vaccinated the 'priority' four cohorts on time. We turn to the next phase. Patients can choose to book an appointment online or await contact from the G.P. surgery.

The online booking service could not provide residents in Whittlesey a booking in Peterborough or Wisbech. Therefore, those wanting to book online must travel to Cambridge, Milton Keynes, or Boston.

3.4 This brings me to my final point: **National data** from PHE shows that, in the first 17 days February, this area: COVID cases have fallen by 41%, but Fenland only managed 32%, Since the pandemic began Fenland has slipped from a top-three position to 112. In the last week, Fenland has been worse than 360 out of 380 local authorities, the bottom 5% in the UK.

Are Fenland DC too proud to ask for help?

Cllr Boden advised - Lateral flow test centres being increased in Wisbech from 2 days a week to 5 days a week. The rate of infection in Wisbech and Wisbech St Marys' is 5 x greater than that in Whittlesey possibly due to the high preponderance in food processing and packaging plants. with many people travelling and working together. Fenland are targeting smaller sites for Lateral flow tests.

The Whittlesey and villages area we have a far lower level than the average in Fenland. The Whittlesey area alone has 12,000 residents, there were only 18 new cases last week. This number is still important and needs driving down.

Cllr Boden He will take away the action regarding the website not showing lateral flow test centers in Peterborough.

4. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Mrs Laws advised members the next stage will be out to public consultation; this was not possible last year due to COVID. It is the same this year so far. The way forward could be a delivery service as was used with the 'Have Your Say' document or alternatively it goes out via post.
5. **Heritage Centre – Cllr Miscandlon & Mason (written in first person by Cllr Mason)**



On 15 February Cllr Alex Miscandlon and I had a site meeting with Brian Chapman of Forterra plc, the owners of the land on which our proposed Heritage Centre will be built adjacent to the Kings Dyke Nature Reserve.

We are pleased to report that an exact location for the Heritage Centre has been agreed in principle and Brian will now be consulting with his colleagues at Forterra plc on the terms of a lease agreement with Whittlesey Town Council.

Swann Edwards have done considerable preparatory work on this scheme and have been invited to tender for the Design and Build aspect of the project. In addition, I have invited three other architects to tender, namely Studio 11 at Wisbech, BCR Infinity at Cambridge and Urban Edge Architects at Stamford.

Funding of £500,000 from the Growing Fenland pot has been confirmed and Phil Hughes at Fenland District Council has been extremely helpful in getting us thus far and we will no doubt be calling on him again in assisting with the legalities of the lease.

My thanks also go to Cllr Mrs Dee Laws and her Growing Fenland team for their assistance in this matter.

As Cllr Miscandlon has indicated earlier, we have numerous outside bodies interested in the project including Historic England, British Museum, Cambridge University of Archaeology and are liaising closely with Peterborough Museum and Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre to explore mutually favourable ideas.

Once the lease arrangements are confirmed the necessary planning permission will be applied for and the various Design and Build tenders will be brought before Whittlesey Town Council for consideration.

6. Saxon Pit – Cllr Boden

The motion Members were advised the motion which has been previously mentioned concerning Saxon pit has been placed on the agenda and will be debated at FDC next week. A specialist freelance environmental journalist has got involved and has ascertained the following that concerns the composition of the waste.

'The EA have confirmed the waste that was illegally dumped on site is from the mechanical treatment of waste and believed to be Automotive Shredder Residue 'ASR' which is a waste by product of the metal recycling end and of life vehicle sector following shredding shearing or fragmentising mostly comprised of mixed plastics, foam, rubber and glass, out of 50 samples, 42 contained Copper, zinc and total Petroleum Petro carbons'.

FDC will be asking for more information to ascertain what is going on and Cllr Boden will report back to WTC. Strong report has been offered by the member of parliament.

Cllr Mrs Mayor declared an interest.

Cllr Miscandlon has been contacted by the new owner who wanted to discuss the proposed development of the site. The gentleman was asked to call the Clerk to arrange presenting to the Council when the agenda allows.

F30/21. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

Cllr Boden – FDC is responsible of the renaming of streets in the area, a proposal will be put forward to the next meeting the new bridge will be called 'The Ralph Butcher Causeway'.

F31/21. Finance & Policy – To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting held on Monday 15th February 2021.

The draft minutes were reported.



F32/21 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st January 2021 – the bank reconciliation was received.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments. vouchers 193 – 218 – totalling £21,487.28, proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the year-to-date figures (2020/2021) – the YTD figures were received.
- Helipads for Hospitals – Grant Application for £320.00 - Proposed Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Gerstner with a unanimous vote in favour.
- To approve any grant applications from F & P on 15th February 2021
Citizens Advice Bureau £6400.00 Grant and Read to Succeed £500.00 proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Gerstner with a unanimous vote in favour.
Mr Colin Wilson – Falcon Hotel – Meals for local families and older residents Monday's and Wednesday, £1000.00 proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Miscandlon with a majority vote in favour.
- To approve policies and procedures as agreed by F & P on 15th February 2021, proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Miscandlon, with a unanimous vote in favour.

GPC Briefing and Policy Document – February 2021
Annual Parish Assembly for Parish and Town Councils – February 2021

F33/21 To receive the Planning minutes from Wednesday 3rd February 2021.

Ratified: The Minutes were approved and will be signed when possible.

F34/21 To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 3rd February 2021.

Ratified: The Minutes were approved and will be signed as a true record as soon as possible.

F35/21 Information Only.

There was no information.

F36/21 Invitations.

There were no invitations.

F37/21 Consultations

Feedback for CCC validations process – Cllr Miscandlon will action this and draft the response.

F38/21. Date of next meeting – Thursday 18th March 2021

F39/21. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F40/21. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F22/21

There were no items for discussion.

Meeting Closed: 21:23



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Cllr David Mason
Mayor of Whittlesey Town Council