

## WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL – Full Council

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 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.

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

**Officer in Attendance:** Mrs Sue Piergianni - Town Clerk & RFO

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

#### **F41/21. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.**

There were no apologies.

#### **F42/21. 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 F60/21**

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 Mrs Mayor also declared an interest in Agenda item F49/21 Saxon Pit.

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.

#### **F43/21 Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV report.**

Members were advised that two residents have complained to the police about large gatherings of young people, however the CCTV have done nothing to indicate to the police that there have been these gatherings.

The question was also asked can the CCTV monitor the vehicles entering High Causeway as the stream of vehicles is constant and this is a pedestrian area. Cllr Mason will bring this up at the next police engagement meeting.

#### **F44/21 Police Engagement meeting report**

The last meeting was the February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and the minutes have been circulated to councillors, the next meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2021 and Cllr Mason will attend.

#### **F45/21. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

**Ratified:** The Minutes were approved and would be signed as soon as possible.

#### **F46/21. Presentation by Mr Andy Russ – Royal Haskoning on the Southern Relief Road Inception Report.**

Members were advised this is a study scope and we are stage Zero, this is about examining the strategic elements of the scheme to see if there is a case for the project.

The five CPCA Gateway stages are as follows:

Gateway 0 – Strategic Outline programme

Gateway 1 – Strategic Outline Business Case: Options, Identification, and preferred way forward.

Gateway 2 – Outline Business Case: Detailed Value for money assessment

Gateway 3 – Full Business Case – Preparation for delivery

Gateway 4 – Post Business Case Implementation.

Two broad corridors were looked at, one to the North to see if they could take advantage of the Kings Dyke Bridge works and one to the South which stretches between Coates and Cardea.

Key Background Documents:

- Fenland Local Plan and Emerging Replacement – sets the growth agenda for a horizon of 2031 and 2040.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER) – informs policy priorities and strategic investment to target a doubling of GVA.
- Peterborough Local Plan – sets ambition growth agenda for a 2036 horizon.
- CPCA Local Transport Plan – sets the overarching transport strategy for 2050, within which short- and medium-term investment plans to be developed.
- Whittlesey Market Town Strategy 2012 – introduced the concept of a southern relief road.
- Growing Fenland 2018 – introduced Coates to Cardea as a desired alignment.

### Potential benefits of a Relief Road

- Facilitating economic growth in Whittlesey, Fenland, and the wider subregion.
- Diversion of through traffic away from Whittlesey, improving journey reliability and reducing travel time.
- Relief of parallel routes when diversions are needed.
- Improved environmental condition in the town; and,
- Road Safety improvements in the town.

The corridor between March and Whittlesey will become a more desirable route particularly with the opening of the Kings Dyke bridge and will also make the A605 more attractive and that aligned with growth in the Southern part of Peterborough.

All scheme options are scored, the southern bypass scores quite high, the northern route does not score very well and is impaired by the environmental impact.

### How Strong is the case likely to be? - Dependent Development

- Infrastructure normally developed in proportion to new housing and employment provision through developer contributions.
- If that is not viable, it may be classed as 'dependent development'.
- Then 'value of development facilitated' can be counted as a scheme benefit.
- If all proposed development in Whittlesey and March was deemed development .... £109m.

### Conclusion

- Sound strategic case – number of benefit areas reasonable alignment with local plans and strategies.
- Value for money (VfM)
  - Reasonable prospect for VfM
  - Some engineering challenges – flood risk, railway crossing
  - VfM – May be reliant on dependent development.

"It is therefore concluded there is sufficient evidence to justify scheme progression, and it is recommended that the scheme proceeds to the next stage evaluation, namely, the Strategic Outline Business Case.

### Next Steps

- Strategic Outline Business Case
- More detailed investigation of options

- Non-highway options as well as highway options
- Cost estimation
- Initial benefit appraisal

Cllr Boden advised this is the first formal step towards achieving a by-pass. The next step would be to seek a sponsor, possibly CPCA.

We have already lost one commercial application in Whittlesey because of the impending over capacity of the A605, if we want economic growth and if we want to improve resident's quality of life, we need a relief road. Growth is constrained in Whittlesey due to the current infrastructure. MR Ross mentioned about BCR's (Benefit Cost Ratio), one thing that will be important is the flooding of the B1040 and the frequent closure of the North bank, when the business case was put together for the Kings Dyke Bridge, the BCR as at 7 and justified the project, however when this figure was broken down the component which related to days when B1040 was flooded the BCR 246.

Cllr Boden proposed that we put the report on the Council website, we receive and approve the report, and send out to all Senior Officials at CCC, FDC, local MP's and parish and Town Clerks advising of our desire to see this project taken forward. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Mrs Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **F47/21 Public Forum**

11 members of the public were present.

A local resident asked What can the town council do to support the young people in the town? they have had a really difficult time over the last 12 months, they have been isolated, no interaction, they are feeling disconnected. There could be a spike in mental health and self-harm. The youth club that was formally at the Scaldgate club allows lots of individuals to interact. Would the Council consider something for the younger people in the town?

#### **F48/21 County Councillor reports.**

Cllr Boden reported that the works for the new bridge at Kings Dyke crossing continues to make good progress, they are concentrating on Star Pit which is an extremely intricate and complicated engineering exercise to ensure it is filled correctly. Temporary traffic lights may have to be used near the pit and to avoid unnecessary disruption the work will take 10.30am and 3.00 pm.

Saxon Pit – This application goes to CCC and it is they who will make the decision. Cllr David Connor is currently the Chairman of the Planning Committee at CCC, this may change after the election, however as things stand Cllr Connor will be not be involved in any parts of any discussions or campaigning regarding Saxon Pit as this may prejudice his position as chair.

#### **F49/21 Agenda items for Discussion.**

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Mrs Laws – Meeting arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021, to discuss an alternative public consultation due to COVID and the lack of public interaction. The next phase is the public consultation on the 14 draft policies, with comments from the public being considered prior to presenting to Fenland District Council and subsequent referendum.
2. CAPALC – Cllr Mason & Gerstner, Cllr Gerstner opened this item for discussion, Cllr Boden felt this matter has been brought forward many times and firstly, he feels the Clerk does a perfectly good job and secondly the expenditure we need to minimise the funding spent on administration and maximise the funding spend on residents. Cllr Mrs Laws concurred with this, Cllr Mrs Laws advised there are routes available where we can get advice Free of charge, we should be investing this on our residents and not with CAPALC and therefore she would not support joining them again. The Clerk was asked to comment and advised there was a financial review taking place to encourage councils to join who have not been members for a few years. She also advised that the Model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had changed, and she was unable to obtain copies of these. The Clerk was asked to obtain further information for discussion at the April meeting.
3. Heritage Centre – Cllr Mason advised members that FDC were unable to review the CPCA financial documents but had recommended Sharon Jones from Browne Jacobson, the cost for the

review would be £600.00 plus VAT, Cllr Boden asked if local companies and suggested Elsey & Hodson. The Clerk was asked to investigate if they still were based in Whittlesey, and if this were not the case the initial proposal made by Cllr Mason and seconded by Cllr Miscandon would be accepted that Mrs Jones would be authorised by the Clerk to carry out the work.

#### 4. Saxon Pit – Cllr Gerstner

A planning application on behalf of Johnsons Aggregate & Recycling Ltd has been received by Cambridgeshire County Council Ref CCC/21/024/FUL.

The importation, storage, processing, including use of trommel, picking and recycling of 250,000 tonnes per annum of incinerator bottom ash (IBA) and 50,000 tonnes per annum of construction and demolition (C&D) waste, for the exportation use as incinerator bottom ash secondary aggregates (IBAA)

I am presenting the case before Whittlesey Town Council to refuse this application.

There are circumstances, whereby incinerator bottom ash can be advantageous to the building construction and road industries. It can also help to reduce landfill.

However in this application, the following observations and facts need to be questioned and challenged.

1/ The applicant has not demonstrated an in depth business case to import 250,000 + 50,000 tonnes of materials.

2/ (Section 11 of application submission) Q - Is the site within risk of flooding – answer Yes

Q - Will proposal increase the flood risk elsewhere – answer No –

This is not correct Anglian Water/Mid-Level Commissioners and The Environment Agency need to challenge this.

There is historic flooding of the Saxon Pit and water being pumped out in order to avoid flooding.

3/ (Section 12 biodiversity and geological conservation)

Q – Are there Protected and priority species – answer Yes

Q - Designated sites, important habitats and other biodiversity features Answer – Yes

19) Hours of operation – The Noise document is of some concern regarding the reading undertaken during COVID restrictions– Peterborough Road.

Noise from the plant & machinery is close to the 85dB threshold for long term safe working especially the 'Finlay Screener'

Any complaints about noise and dust have a procedure to deal with through the company process.

20) The applicant clearly states that None of the 250,000 tonnes of IBA is 'Hazardous' The EA and Cambs CC needs to confirm rigorously.

21) The applicant clearly states there will be no storage of hazardous substances.

Generally the public has no confidence in the EA's ability to monitor the substances, given the history on this site.

Can CCC and the EA confirm that all material in and out will be 'Inert'

What process will there be in place to monitor the material?

It is of some concern of the 50,000 tons of Construction & Demolition Materials being 'Inert'

All materials must be 'Inert' There are leachability and pollutant content that could endanger the quality of any surface or ground water. (North Yorkshire Waste Action Group)

A605 the applicant breaks down the movements to the lowest denominator, (i.e., 92 HGV movements per day). In contrast, the concern is the annual movement of some 25,000+ HGV's arriving and leaving the site. No calculation regarding CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and PM 2.5 & 10 was provided.

The A605 is already stressed 27 tonne HGV's for IBA, and 8 wheeled rigid HGVs for C&D material states all traffic coming from the West.

Also states that around 25,000 tonnes comes from a Peterborough incinerator directly to the site!!!

Statistics from Cambs CC @ 2019 show vehicles entering and leaving Whittlesey in a 12 hour flow was 36,441 of which 2,351 were HGV's – In comparison all the Fen Towns, Ramsey had 731, Chatteris 547, Ely 1017, March 893, only Wisbech had more 3502.

Fleet News™ calculator states that for every 50 miles an HGV travels it produces in the region of 59.5 Kg of CO<sub>2</sub>

Will Cambs Planning be requesting that the applicant is ISO 14064 compliant (Greenhouse Gasses)

Will Cambs Planning be requesting that the applicant is ISO 14067 compliant.

### **Objections to application.**

1 Have all the conditions in ES Part 1-Appendix 3 (CCC Scoping Option) been fully met?

2 A605 The applicant states in Section ES Part 3 (Non-Technical Summary) 4.4.3 that there would be an average of 92 HGV movements a day (46 in & 46 out) + the 60 movements by staff working at the site.

The A605 is already stressed by the current volume of traffic. Most of the HGV traffic will come from the West along the A605 and turn right across the carriageway to enter the site.

With the imminent Kings Dyke Bridge Crossing completion (2022), the flow of traffic Westbound impedes vehicles wanting to turn right, potentially creating a backlog on the A605 coming into Whittlesey.

There is no mention within the document of offsetting a Carbon Neutral environment. The impact of whether it be 92 HGVs per day or 25,000+ per year, the effect of more CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, PM 10 and 2.5.

25,000+ HGVs per year will add significantly to the issues and problems associated with exhaust emissions.

It is calculated that this volume of traffic would produce in excess of 1,000,000 Kgs of CO<sub>2</sub>.

On March 05<sup>th</sup> The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate Change released its first report on addressing the issue, highlighting the need to take urgent action, and outlining policies to reduce emissions.

This application to transport 300,000 tonnes of waste material should be refused on the environmental and transport infrastructure concerns.

The air quality pollution in Fenland is one of the highest nationally.

Cllr Miscandlon – will all vehicles come from the West; Cllr Gerstner advised in their document it does state that all movements will come from the West.

Cllr Boden – suggested all Cllrs object, the strongest planning reason is on the transport side, the idea that all vehicles come and go from the west is laughable. This is something that is difficult to be monitored and this should be challenged. There will be traffic that goes through the town as they cannot ensure everyone who works there comes from the West. Cllr Boden is speaking to CCC highways to ensure they raise an objection to ensure consistency in objecting on traffic grounds.

Cllr Munns asked for clarification, can he assume that the existing problem in Saxon pit has been dismissed, he understands that the proposal is to cap the existing material. The second point he was this under the impression that this was to shore up and secure of Saxon Pit. Applicant states they are exporting the residue that is not to say it may not be used in the remodelling of Saxon pit. Cllr Gerstner advised the issues are totally different, the applicant states they are exporting the residue he also added that there are two parallel applications going through with East Midlands Waste as well as this one. Cllr Boden advised we are not dismissing the existing problem; Mr Steven Barclay is incensed this has not been deal with.

Proposed Cllr Gerstner, seconded Cllr Boden unanimous vote in favour, recommend refusal on transport, and other issues. Cllr Mrs Mayor took no part in the discussion or vote.

5. Road Safety – Cllr Wicks – purchase of stickers for people’s bins put in the sticker prices, Cllr Boden asked for this to go to F & P and obtain more information as the speed limit varies, Cllr Wicks to obtain costings for 30/40/50 MPH signage.

**F50/21. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.**

Cllr Mrs Windle attended the ‘Cambridgeshire Local & Fenland Local Engagement Event, she will send out the summary notes when the amendments have been made.

**F51/21. Finance & Policy – To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

**Ratified:** The minutes from the meeting were approved and signed would be signed as soon as possible.

**F52/21 To report the financial documents.**

- To report the bank reconciliation to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Members received the bank reconciliation.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments. Vouchers 219 to 244 to the value of £11,299.25, proposed Cllr Miscandlon, seconded Cllr Boden, with a unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the year-to-date figures (2020/2021) – Members received the YTD figures.

**F53/21 To receive the Planning minutes from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 and report the draft minutes from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

**Ratified:** The minutes from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 were approved and will be signed as a true record as soon as possible and the minutes from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were reported.

**F54/21 To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.**

**Ratified:** The draft minutes were reported.

**F55/21 Information Only**

There was no information.

**F56/21 Invitations.**

There were no invitations.

**F57/21 Consultations**

There was nothing to report.

**F58/21. Date of next meeting – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021**

**F59/21. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.**

**F60/21. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F42/21.**

There were no items for discussion.

**Meeting Closed 21.30**



Cllr David Mason  
Mayor of Whittlesey