

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 Thursday 22nd April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

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

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

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

F61/21. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Connor (prior engagement),

F62/21. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda item.

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.

19.40 Cllr Davies & Munns joined the meeting.

F63/21 Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV report.

Members received the report and questioned why the CCTV is not being used to capture cars using driving on High Causeway during pedestrian hours? and what are WTC paying for?

F64/21 Police Engagement meeting report

The next meeting is April 30th and will be attended by Cllr Mason will send the report out as soon as practicable.

F65/21. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th March 2021.

Ratified: The Minutes of the meeting were approved and will be signed as soon as possible. Proposed Cllr Mason, seconded Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.

F66/21. Presentation by Mrs Penny Bryant BA(Hons) FSLCC County Executive Officer Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils Ltd (CAPALC).

Penny has been a clerk for 23 years and has worked for CAPALC as trainer for 12 years, she was appointed acting CEO in 2019 and fully appointed in 2020,

CAPALC are affiliated to NALC, so WTC would have access to both giving a huge resource pool of legal topic notes, legal briefings, monthly magazine, and many other useful documents. Members



were advised only NALC produce Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and therefore if these are obtained from any other source it will be subject to copyright. Due to the size of the WTC, we will benefit with direct access to NALC.

Mr Philip Peacock Clerk of Huntington Town Council, Chairman of Cambridgeshire SLCC and President Elect of the SLCC. – Advised members of the benefits of NALC and all the training courses that are available at a reduced rate.

As WTC have been out of membership for more than two years Mrs Bryant advised NALC are prepared to waive their fee for this year, therefore the cost will be £524.57. Mrs Bryant suggested the Clerk retain a record where possible of all occasions where information is sought from either CAPALC or NALC.

Cllr Boden – How many members do CAPALC have, Mrs Bryant advised 84% of Cambridgeshire councils are members of CAPALC.84%.

Cllr Boden – Is there a notice period for withdrawal – Mrs Bryant advised there is no notice should you wish to withdraw.

Cllr Mrs Laws – Stated that the Clerk can obtain information from the SLCC and therefore CAPALC was not necessary and would not agree to joining. Mrs Bryant advised some information is available from SLCC, but some is only available from CAPALC/NALC, also CAPALC is for the whole council but the SLCC is there to support the Clerk.

Cllr Mrs Mayor – Advised her previous experience of CAPALC was not good. When help was needed it was not given.

Cllr Mrs Windle – Asked if training is available to all Cllrs and all staff – Mrs Bryant confirmed training was available to all at a reduced rate if they were members of CAPALC, there was also virtual training group training available.

Cllr Dorling – Stated that training is of high priority and as well as all the assistance for the Clerk to undertake her duties.

Cllr Laws – stated she did not bear a grudge; however, it was not just the experience she has no faith in the organisation as lots of funds have been spent on CAPALC with no benefit to the council.

F67/21 Public Forum

6 members of the public were present.

Mr Steve Robertson – CCC cut in budgets, they are wasting money in taking short term view in road repairs. 12 smaller holes in Commons Road, awfully close to repairs that were carried out within the previous few days. Highways will have to return to site to undertake further works. Can the Town Council make representation to the Highways Department that this is noticeably short sighted?

Mr Steve Robertson – Advised members he had received a letter on 24th March, which he wished to question. The leaflet contained information about the forthcoming elections, and Mr Robertson felt the information was inaccurate and would misinform residents of Stonald Ward. The document implied that one of the prospective candidates was already a councillor and was this made to mislead the public.

Cllr Boden requested that standing orders be suspended to allow him to respond.

Cllr Boden advised that Mr Robertson was entitled to his opinion and clarified the information that was contained within the letter.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Mr Robert Windle – thank the town council for their valued support and the goodwill that has been invested by the Town Council. Any questions to hello@fenlandyouthradio.com

F68/21 County Councillor reports.

Cllr Boden advised ongoing roadworks at Horsey Toll, where there will be night time closures between 8pm and 6am starting on 4th May for up to 10 nights. PCC are doing more work to the gas main as part of the work to improve the junction.

A Considerable amount of extra money is in the CCC budget for potholes. There have been some significant improvements, an example being the dragon patcher, there are two major issues which need improvement, one being just pushing extra fill into the hole which does not last long, and this process needs to change, the second issue is the problem with utility companies who fail to reinstate the highway to the same standard as it was before. CCC have failed to ensure this is properly followed up and where the work is not completed to the correct standard should be reported back to the utilities within the set period, this could be between 6 and 12 months to allow them to rectify the issues.

Cllr Gerstner suggested that the method of reporting highway issues is made easier for members of the public to report. The Clerk suggested a link be put on WTC website for online CCC reporting highways issues.

Cllr Miscandlon – advised that when Virgin Media laid their cables at Kings Delph the pavement was never reinstated and top dressed, it is extremely dangerous, and someone will fall. The reinstatement now has been completed by CCC as the contractor were never held responsible for the poor work.

F69/21 Agenda items for Discussion.

1. CAPALC – Cllr Boden expressed concern, that administration costs are kept low, if we were to take this on, we would be increasing our admin costs by 1% if it was the full year. When we consider the budget next year, we should either belong to CAPALC or SLCC and not both he thinks they were the same. Cllr Miscandlon proposed WTC join CAPALC for the year based on the terms specified by Mrs Bryant, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Windle, the Chairman wished a name vote would be recorded.

The vote was as follows:

For: Cllr Miscandlon, Windle, Whitwell, Davies, Munns, Mason,

Against :Cllr Boden, Mrs Laws, Mrs Mayor & Wicks.

Abstention: Cllr Gerstner

The motion was carried 6 votes to 4 to join CAPALC for 1 year, this will be reviewed when the membership is due for renewal.

2. Saxon Pit update – Cllr Gerstner

Cllr Gerstner had circulated the responses below to members prior to the meeting.

(1) Reply to myself from CCC – Received today 20th April

I can confirm that the total number of neighbour responses received to date in respect of this application stands at 142.

I can also confirm that I am still awaiting formal consultation responses from the EA, the Fenland EHO and Peterborough District Council.

Once these responses have been received a Reg 25 letter (EIA regulations) will be sent to the application requested additional and revised information and following the receipt of this information a further round of formal consultation with all parties will be carried out. It will therefore be some time before this application is presented to a Planning Committee for consideration.



Any party that has made representation will be informed of the relevant committee date and invited to make appropriate representation at that meeting.

(2) Reply to one of group who has been lobbying MP Steve Barclay Received today 20th April.

Steve had a constructive meeting with the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, Sir James Bevan, to reinforce the community concerns regarding Saxon Pit and to request that sufficient resource and prioritisation is focussed on this issue within his organisation. Sir James was very clear that he recognises there is significant community concern and that his organisation is working to address this at pace. He also agreed with Steve that transparency is important, particularly given the recent incident of water being discharged from Saxon Pit into Kings Dyke, and in respect of the planning applications that have been submitted. Steve will continue to liaise with local councillors to ensure relevant bodies are held to account in respect of this site.

(3) Extract from a reply to another application (different applicant and location) by one of the group 15th April.

The applicant submitted a revised junction capacity assessment of the A605/Broad Street roundabout which demonstrated that the development as 7,432sqm of B1(c) and B8 land use would not cause 'severe' detriment to the capacity of the junction. As such, we did not object to the revised proposals subject to planning conditions.

It is important to note that Government Policy States:

"Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe".

The following planning conditions will further mitigate the impact of development traffic on the surrounding highway network through encouraging a mode shift towards sustainable travel.

Cllr Boden advised the cumulative effect of the application with everything else going on is a problem, when the application was put in on the old equestrian centre there was traffic study done which showed the effect of existing planning permissions on the Town Centre and it is this effect that is the strongest point we can make on traffic, within a few years this would cause gridlock at the Kellyvision roundabout junction. This will all be decided on Planning Grounds, Cllr Boden suggested someone from the Town Council speak at the Planning Meeting, he will be speaking as the County Council.

3. Snowley Park Play Area & Open Space – Parking Issues – Cllr Laws

The newly opened play area has brought in many people from far field, there have been as many as 81 children and 19 adults, it is a narrow road that leads from Snowley Park, recently there were 21 vehicles parked, this area has no kerbing and people are parking on resident gardens, double parking and not thinking of residents or safety, an officer from FDC has put notices on cars asking people when parking to exact more consideration. Cllr Mrs Laws has asked CCC if they can put double yellow lines on the roadway and in the turning circle, an indicative price of this will be £1000.00. Cllr Boden asked that it be ascertained this area is adopted and therefore yellow lines can be installed. Both Cllrs Mrs Mayor and Miscandlon were concerned that even with the installation of yellow lines. Will the police have the resources to monitor this area? Cllr Mrs Laws proposed WTC pay £1000.00 for the yellow lines. Members voted unanimously for Mrs Laws to bring this initiative forward.

4. Stonald Road – Speeding – Cllr Mrs Laws

There have been 2 near misses due to speeding. Can the town council consider speed cushions from the next LHI? The data from the MVAS will assist moving forward with this initiative.



5. **How can WTC help the community recover from the COVID pandemic? – Cllr Dorling** – Deferred to the next council meeting as Cllr Dorling has internet issues and cannot re-join the meeting.
6. **Peel House on Call Alarm Guarding – Cllr Mason**
The Town Clerk to chase an update on this.

F70/21. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

Cllr Mrs Windle, Gerstner, Dorling, and Mason, attended a community focus group organised by CCC, there was representation from many groups and when the minutes are issued, the Town Clerk will be asked to circulate to all members.

21:00 Cllr Davies left the meeting for work.

F71/21. Finance & Policy – To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting held on Monday 19th April 2021.

The draft minutes were reported, Cllr Boden advised there were two items that required approval, he proposed the following:

1. 10,000.00 had been set aside for the purchase of MVAS cameras, a quotation had been obtained by the Clerk for 2, 3 or 4 cameras, Cllr Boden suggested the council purchase 4 additional MVAS units totalling 9580.00, purchasing the 4 is the most cost effective, this was seconded by Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.
2. Whittlesey Christmas Lights – Cllr Boden proposed £5,000 be given as a donation to the Christmas Lights, he did advise members this item had been discussed in depth at the F & P Meeting.

F72/21 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st March 2021.
- To report the list of payments & To report the list of uncashed payments. Vouchers 245 to 279 to the value of £28867.10
- To report the year-to-date figures (2020/2021)
- The Chairman and Cllr Miscandlon thanked the RFO for the work and getting the figures in a short time.

F73/21 To receive the draft Planning minutes from Wednesday 7th April 2021.

The draft minutes were reported.

F74/21 To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects Meeting on Wednesday 7th April 2021.

The draft minutes were reported – The Clerk to change Cllr Mayors name.

F75/21 Information Only.

Letter that was sent with condolence on behalf of Whittlesey Town council on the death of Prince Philip and the response from the Private secretary.

F76/21 Invitations - There were no invitations.

F77/21 Consultations - There were no consultations.

F78/21. Date of next meeting – The Annual Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 4th May at 7.30pm via Zoom.

