

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 23rd September 2021 at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Mason (Mayor & Leader), Boden, Davies, Dorling, Laws (Deputy Mayor), Mayor, Miscandlon, Nawaz, Whitwell, Wicks & Windle, Connor (CCC)

Officer in Attendance: Mrs S Piergianni – Clerk & RFO

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

F120/21. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Gerstner & Munns (personal), Mockett (work)

F121/21. 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 Chair for advice and clarification on any policy matters.

F122/21. Fenland District Council Street Scene Officer Report and CCTV report.

Can Turves and Pondersbridge be included in the villages figures as a separate line.

F123/21. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 22 July 2021.

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

F124/21. Public Forum

To allow any member of the public to address the council. Time allowed is 15 minutes in total, to be divided equally between the total number of people wishing to speak.

7 members of the public were present.

Chris Morgan – Resident from Kings Delph, presented to Councillors the reason all residents at Kings Delph are in favour of the LHI speed reduction on this part of the A605, it will improve safety for residents who need to cross the road, reduce the amount of vibration caused by speeding HGV's.

Rui Chamberlain – Sir Harry Smith wished to donate £25.00 to the Mayors Charity from money he had earned working at the Big Bash.

Robert Windle - Wanted to say well done to Ruey for standing up and speaking and for the £25.00 to the Mayor's charity. Mr Windle thanked WTC for their donation to the 'Big Bash', he also advised he had thanked FDC and CCC for supporting the event as well as all the volunteers. As part of the day he had hoped there would be some legacy and advised members that the fishing had proved very popular with over 100 young people trying it. The Angling Association would like to continue promoting this and have offered free fishing to youngsters at the Manor on a Saturday morning. Mr Windle also

advised The Golden Age fair was a huge success with many people visiting the stalls. Mr Windle also donated to the Mayors Charity, with this added to Ruey's the total was £250.00.

F125/21. Agenda items for discussion.

1. High Causeway - Cllr Boden had approached the CCTV control centre with a view to record a full 6 hours' worth of vehicles that are infringing the rules of High Causeway who have confirmed they would be happy to do this. However, the support of the police is still required, Cllr Boden had been in contact with Sgt Lugg and been advised of the following. "Further investigate is needed as I am not sure we are legally able to prosecute road traffic offences from CCTV, not without legislative support, other issues would be officer hours involved in building a case, i.e. prosecution costs vs benefits and levels of risk, I have repeatedly suggested the council explores managing the problem out through physical restrictions i.e. barriers, Can you advise me of the costs involved with the installation of timed barriers, if we are able to prosecute from CCTV footage it will ultimately come down to cost analysis. Cllr Boden advised members he will ask FDC what the legal position is regarding this and will speak with CCC re the costing on a non-manned timed barrier.
2. Peel House – Councillor Mason thanked the Clerk for all the effort she has put in to resolve the leak and plumbing issues. The Clerk was asked to update members and reported that the leak has finally been traced and stopped, the areas need to dry out. The specialist boiler company have compiled a report and advised there are several issues that need addressing, one being the number of pipes that potentially have standing water and are not healthy, the water cylinder that is faulty and is constantly heating the water and the leaking valves. Cllr Mason suggested the Property Working Group commence working on all these issues. Cllr Dorling suggested if the boiler room required a major overhaul, perhaps this is the time to change to a greener option and investigate an air heat pump. The Clerk also advised that the roofing contractor is coming to site in the next couple of weeks to report on the flat roof and whether it can be repaired or may need to be replaced.
3. Local Highway Improvements (deadline of 30 September 2021).

30 mph reclassification Peterborough garage through to Coates to protect pedestrians and reduce the vibration caused by speeding vehicles.

High Causeway & A605 illegal drivers / pedestrian safety / damage to pavements. Cllr Mrs Laws suggested they should be solid bollards, also they must be equally spaced to prevent vehicles going between them. The bollards also need to go up by the side of the tanning studio as vehicles are now pulling off the A605 and parking on the grass.

These two proposals will be submitted to CCC.

Cllr Mrs Windle updated members on the existing LHI as they are at the stage of going to consultation. She informed members that Viking Way had been removed from the proposed scheme and that she would be sending an e-mail to all members within the next week to keep them updated regarding the consultation process. Cllr Boden advised members that we are still waiting for CCC guidance on the 20mph scheme and for them to agree the principal for the 20-mph zone, when obtained highways will then confirm if it can be implemented.
4. Sir Harry Smith Community College – Councillor Wicks advised Mr Digby used to attend once a year to give an update on SHS. Can the new CEO attend a Full Council meeting to advise how SHS is going to cope with the additional pupils following the increase in development? Cllr Boden advised there will be 2 new forms of entry and a new construction with additional catering and sports facilities, this would take the site to its maximum utilisation, currently these plans are waiting for approval from the secretary of state. There will be restricted entry to SHS with possibly no pupils from Thorney, Stanground or Peterborough, the local area will take precedent. A new school has been proposed to the West of Wisbech to cope with additional pupils outside of the area. The Clerk to invite someone from CCC education department and the CEO of SHS.
5. Whittlesey Big Bash - Councillor Mason thanked Mr Windle on behalf of the council for a successful day, there had been lots of community interest and the event was well received. Cllr Mason escorted the High Sheriff who thought the community spirit was amazing.

6. Coates Fete - Councillor Wicks thanked WTC for supporting the event, this turned out to be a lot larger than expected with positive comments from many people, after their wash up meeting, they will ensure that any issues will be dealt with. They wish to hold next year's event on the 9th of July as they wish to hold a graduation for the children in Coates who are moving onto to SHS.

F126/21. To receive councillor and outside body representative reports.

Cllr Connor advised there is a public meeting in Pondersbridge on Monday 27th September at 6.30, regarding traffic calming as one these measures will have to be removed and possibly the second one too.

Cllr Boden – Wishes the boundary in Pondersbridge to be changed so all the residents will come within Whittlesey and Fenland. He will be moving this forward. The parliamentary boundary may change in 10 to 15 years' time.

F127/21. Finance and Policy.

There are no minutes to report; however, the following matters, under agenda item 128/21, require approval.

F128/21. To consider the financial documents.

- a. Bank reconciliation to 31 July 2021 and 31 August 2021 – Proposed Cllr boden, seconded Cllr Miscandlon and approved by members.
- b. Cllr Boden advised members that once the Heritage Centre project starts the cash flow will be monitor closely as WTC will have the expenditure before being able to claim back the stage payments. The Clerk advised quarterly VAT returns could be carried out to ease any issues.
- c. To approve the list of payments and uncashed payments for July and August 2021. Proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Miscandlon with approval by all members. (These are attached at the end of the minutes)
- d. The year-to-date figures for 2021 were received.
- e. Cllr Boden advised members the External Auditor report had been received and all works met with the Audit and Accountability Act.

F/129/21. To report the draft minutes of the Planning meeting held on Tuesday 31 August 2021 and to receive the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 August 2021.

Ratified: The Planning minutes from the 4th of August were approved and signed as a true copy and the draft minutes from the 31st of August 2021 were reported.

F/130/21. To report the draft minutes of the Community Projects meeting held on Tuesday 31 August 2021.

The draft minutes were reported.

F131/21. Information Only.

There was no information

F132/21. Invitations.

Mayors Civic Service 24th October 2021.

F133/21. Date of next meeting – Thursday 21 October 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Whittlesey Heritage Centre.

In 2017 the Whittlesey Town Council Property Working Group consisting of Cllrs David Mason, Alex Miscandlon and Eamonn Dorling were invited to be part of a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from Peterborough City Council, Peterborough Vivacity, Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council, Historic England, British Museum, University of Cambridge Archaeological Society and Forterra plc to determine the way forward concerning the conservation and display of the Must Farm artefacts.

It is fair to say that at this time as a Property Working Group we were rather distracted by the purchase of the former police station in Whittlesey and plans to convert this into new Council Offices and were less than enthusiastic in supporting a scheme headed by Peterborough Vivacity which essentially proposed extending the facilities at both Peterborough Museum in Priestgate and Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre.

A multi-million pound bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund, subsequently known as "Project A", was rejected.

At this stage the three Whittlesey Town Councillors suggested an alternative scheme which proposed not only the idea of preserving and displaying of the Must Farm finds but also incorporating a Heritage Centre in Whittlesey which would tell the Story of Whittlesey. This became known as "Project B", to include such examples as the Brickworks, Straw Bear, Sir Harry Smith etc.

To progress this idea a smaller Steering Committee was formed consisting of representatives from Whittlesey Town Council, Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire County County Council, Peterborough City Council and Forterra plc.

A consultancy known as Fourth Street who had a track record of involvement in major projects such as the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site and Alexandra Palace were commissioned at a cost of £40,000 in 2018, the costs being shared by the members of the new Steering Committee.

A Final Report published in June 2018 suggested six options for a Heritage Centre to be sited at the edge of the Kings Dyke Nature Reserve in Whittlesey on land granted to Whittlesey Town Council by Forterra plc.

The preferred option consists of a 150 sqm single storey building split equally between a Visitor Centre, Classroom and Events/Exhibition space.

It is anticipated that links with Peterborough Museum and Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre will continue offering the public a total experience of the Must farm artefacts should they desire.

Pre-planning advice was sought from Fenland District Council and was welcomed in writing by the Head of Planning.

At this time the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority negotiated a £1 million package for each of the four Fenland Market Towns to encourage the economic development for each town. As part of Whittlesey's allocation it was agreed by a working party headed by Cllr Mrs Dee Laws that £500,000 be set aside for the Heritage Centre. This Commercial Funding Agreement was confirmed by the Combined Authority in May 2021.

Since that time the WTC Property Working Group has been negotiating with a series of Architects and Project Managers to select suitable applicants to take on this project. Initially four architects were interviewed along with two project

Covid 19 has set back original timelines for funding purposes from the Combined Authority and new timelines have been submitted as follows;

Autumn 2021 - Appointment of Architect and Project Manager
Signing of lease Agreement with Forterra plc

Spring - 2022 Completion of surveys and design work
Submission of Planning Application

Summer 2022 Construction Work

Autumn 2022 Opening of Heritage Centre

At this stage we have had difficulty in recommending the appointment of a single organisation to carry out architectural services, project management and contract management.

As a Property Working Group we are therefore making the following recommendation for the approval of Whittlesey Town Council:

Appointment of Urban Edge Architects of Stamford

Standard Architectural Fee & Scope of Services

£35,000 + VAT

Appointment of CJB Management of Evesham

Project Management and Council Agent

£23,100 + VAT

Report Authors

Cllrs David K M Mason, Alex Miscandlon and Eamonn Dorling

Cllr Miscandlon added there had been a lack of interest from some of the parties who were approached, Some only wanted to cherry pick some of the project.

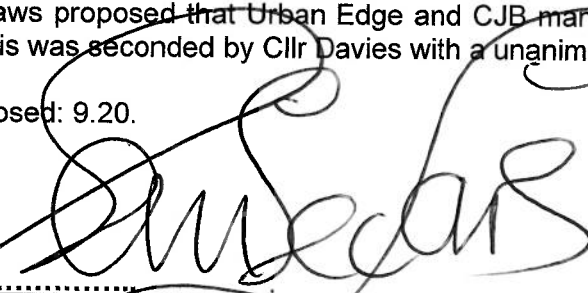
Cllr Dorling advised the Heritage Centre is more than just Must Farm but is also what is going on in Whittlesey and it could showcase many things, the green way of doing things, the construction of the building and the energy used in doing this.

Cllr Mrs Laws commented we have the opportunity in Whittlesey to give the story of the brickyards and the communities associated with them plus this would also be a good display area for the museum. The important thing from the planning perspective is that it is a team, that will have all the sub-contractors as part of their team to ensure the project runs smoothly.

Cllr Boden, we do not need additional slippage on this project, as we do not want to lose the funding. He is concerned about project creep as we think of more and more things, we can do with the Heritage Centre and asked the council not to commit to additional costs without the assurances that we have means to fund them. Jones brothers have expressed interest in having some legacy in Whittlesey so perhaps offering something or putting up a display of how Kings Dyke Bridge was engineered.

Cllr Mrs Laws proposed that Urban Edge and CJB management be appointed to move the project forward, this was seconded by Cllr Davies with a unanimous vote in favour.

Meeting closed: 9.20.


Cllr David Mason
Mayor of Whittlesey.

Dee Law