

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 19th May 2022 at 7.30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY

Present: Cllr Mason, Miscandlon, Dorling, Mrs Windle, Gerstner, Wicks, Nawaz, Davies, Mockett, Boden, Whitwell

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

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

F63/22. To Elect the Mayor & Leader to the Council for the year until May 2023

Cllr Boden proposed Cllr Mason, seconded Cllr Miscandlon, there were no other nominations, Cllr Mason was confirmed as Mayor by a unanimous vote and will take office until May 2023.

I would like to thank the Council for their continued faith in me as their Mayor and Leader, to Cllr Chris Boden for proposing me and Cllr Alex Miscandlon for seconding that proposal.

The past two years that I have served as Mayor and Leader have been difficult in the wake of the Covid crisis, but I am proud to report that Whittlesey Town Council throughout that period has functioned as near to normal as possible with the added assistance of modern-day technology in the form of Zoom and Teams meetings where physical meetings have not been possible.

I would like to pay a special tribute to my Town Clerk, Mrs Sue Piergianni, who has taken on additional responsibilities in relation to the upkeep of this Town Council complex whilst maintaining a high standard of work in her general responsibilities to the Town Council and supporting me in my role. This was recognised by her receipt of the High Sheriff's Award which was richly deserved.

I would like to thank my Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs Dee Laws and her consort Mrs Kay Mayor who have stood in for me when I have been unavailable.

In addition to my duties as Leader of the Council I have attended as many Civic functions in my capacity as Mayor as possible and I wish to extend my gratitude to my wife, Mayoress Ann Mason, Cllrs Alex Miscandlon, Mrs Kay Mayor and Mrs Dee Laws who have all proved to be exceptionally talented chauffeurs.

My charitable donations have already been made earlier this evening to Whittlesey Sports Association, Sue Ryder Hospice at Thorpe Hall, Peterborough, and the Whittlesey Community Car Scheme in addition to £1,000 donated earlier in the year to the Ukrainian Relief Fund.

For the coming year my nominated charities will be Age UK Handyman Service, Good Company, and the Phoenix Youth Provision.

The coming year will present new challenges with the declining economic situation and the subsequent support that will be anticipated from many in our community. Whittlesey will do all it can to provide that support in whatever form it can.

I shall continue to spearhead the proposed Whittlesey Heritage Centre at Kings Dyke Nature Reserve and of course we all look forward to the opening of the bridge over the railway at Kings Dyke.



My wife and I will continue to represent Whittlesey at functions in adjoining towns and districts and will continue to promote the town for the benefit of all.

Finally, my term of office will only be for one year instead of the usual two years to enable the Town Council to get back on track after the unfortunate ill health of Cllr Ralph Butcher who had to retire as Mayor and Leader after one year in 2018.

My thanks to all who have supported me during the past two years, and I trust that I can continue to rely on that support during the coming year.

F64/22. To sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Mason signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

F65/22. To Elect the Deputy Mayor & Deputy Leader to the Council for the year until May 2023.

Cllr Mason proposed Cllr Nawaz as the Deputy Mayor and Leader, seconded Cllr Boden. Members requested a paper vote take place. The Clerk was asked to count the votes, the result was five in favour, three against and two abstentions. Cllr Nawaz was elected as Deputy Mayor until May 2023.

Cllr Nawaz thanked those members who voted for him to take this position for the next year.

F67/22 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Mrs Laws & Mrs Mayor (personal), Cllr Munns (work), Cllr Connor (prior engagement).

F68/22. 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.

F69/22 Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV report.

Members received the report.

F70/22 Police Report

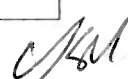
Members discussed the report and requested a letter be sent from WTC to Dale Preston, to recognise the work that has been carried out by Acting Inspector Andy Morris, Acting Sgt Joe Punton and PCSO Katrina Walker.

F71/21. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 21st April 2022

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

F72/22. To appoint members to Committees and working party (Outside bodies will be appointed at June FC meeting)

<u>Community Projects</u>	Cllr Mockett Cllr Mrs Windle Cllr Munns Cllr Gerstner Cllr Mrs Mayor Cllr Davies Cllr Whitwell
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<u>Planning</u>	Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Munns Cllr Whitwell Cllr Gerstner Cllr Davies Cllr Nawaz Cllr Mrs Windle
<u>Finance & Policy</u>	Cllr Boden Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Davies Cllr Dorling Cllr Mockett Cllr Wicks

WORKING PARTIES

<u>Neighbourhood Plan</u>	Cllr Mrs Laws Cllr Munns Cllr Whitwell Cllr Dorling
<u>Heritage Centre</u>	Cllr Mason Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Dorling
<u>Human Resources</u>	Cllr Gerstner - Chair Cllr Mason Cllr Mrs Windle
<u>Website</u>	Cllr Mrs Laws Cllr Mrs Mayor
<u>Property Working Group</u>	Cllr Mason Cllr Miscandlon Cllr Dorling

Members agreed the committees on block, the first order of business at the individual meetings will be the election of the Chairman.

F73/22 Public Forum

To allow any member of the public to address the council. Time allowed 15 minutes in total to be split equally between the total amount wishing to speak.

Stephen Hodson part of the Growing Fenland Forum – Can they have an update on the Heritage Centre and what is the day of action on the A605.

Mr Robert Windle – Whittlesey sports association was created four years ago when Cllr Mrs Windle was Mayor. They have held It's a Knockout, The Big Bash one and The Big Bash 2 The sequel (26th June), is being held now. He thanked the mayor for the charity donation. There are many events over the course of a few days to allow people to try different things. One of the legacies from last year was the fishing for children, they had over 100 people come and have a go. Due to the success the sports association have been given a grant from 'Get into fishing' this will help to get people into fishing, of all abilities and mobilities. They are also open to ideas and suggestions from everyone.

W Windle

F74/22 Agenda items for Discussion.

1. LHI – Results and Applicant Costs – The installation of cast iron bollards at North End of High Causeway to prevent unauthorised vehicles – proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Mockett unanimous vote in favour. 2. A605 through Kings Delph – Kings Delph, discrepancy as they are asking for 49% of the cost. Cllr Boden will investigate and report back.
2. Parking at Peel House – Cllr Wicks advised that WTC have experienced unsociable parking at Peel House, parking on double yellow lines and blocking people in, this has been brought to the attention of the police, but they have parking enforcement as a lower priority. This will only get better after civil enforcement comes into play. Cllr Mockett asked how many parking tickets have been issued, the Clerk will request this information.
3. Charging Points – There have been more issues with the charging points and the abuse of them. The Clerk has been abused by members of the public. The Clerk will speak to Fenland Electrical to ascertain the best way forward with these.
4. Civil Parking Enforcement – Cllr Boden advised progress from CCC since change in administration has been very slow. CCC have to agree to move forward with the proposal, South Cambs and Hunts have different schemes to us but want to move forward with theirs. At the next meeting of the highways committee the application should be reviewed and hopefully will move forward to the next stage. At This stage an audit will be undertaken of every sign and road marking this will take approximately 9 months. Once this has happened an application must be made to the Secretary of State, the applications can only be made on specific dates, every 6 months, it could take the Secretary of State up to a year to make a decision, Cllr Boden envisaged civil parking enforcement will commence around the end of 2023 but more likely 2024. FDC will decide who deals with enforcement and the issue of penalty notices. Cllr Gerstner asked if there would be any additional funding required. Cllr Boden advised funding is already in place that has been provided by a contribution from each market town as part as the CPCA funding.

8.30- Cllr Mockett and Davies left the meeting.

5. Southern Relief Road – Cllr Boden advised The CPCA is not doing a great deal and the budget is in abeyance, he is unaware that the application for the stage 1 report may not be in the CPCA budget for this year 22/23. This appears to have been side-lined by the CPCA, despite 89% of the consultation being in favour. The costs may have increased for the stage 1 report, it would have been somewhere north of 150K when this was discussed 2 to 3 years ago. WTC orchestrated the Stage 0 report (Inception report). Cllr Gerstner mentioned that with the new application for Victory works, there will be more pressure on the A605, he has many concerns as the figures in the initial inception report are inaccurate and did not include additional planning applications for more businesses at Victory.
Cllr Boden advised there is a specific levelling up fund for the transport, however where there is CPCA involved, they decide where the funds will be spent, they were presented with ready to go schemes for Fenland. They have decided to use it on 'prettying up Peterborough Station. The Leader of CCC is pushing this and not selecting the ready to go schemes in Fenland.

F75/22. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

Outside Body Report – Cllr Eamonn Dorling - St Ives EcoAction AGM

I observed the progress made in two years by a highly energetic community-based group that engages with business and elevates this historic area.

Speakers included Dr Nik Johnson CPCA Mayor and Professor Brian Eversham (CEO of Beds Cambs & Northants Wildlife Trust).

The synergy of linking cultural and environmental issues with a community-based facility such as the planned Whittlesey Heritage Centre could hardly have been demonstrated better.



As the WTC representative on the Cambs Climate Emergency group, I represented WTC in a non-voting capacity on Thursday 12th May 2022.

Cllr Gerstner advised members he had attended a meeting today to facilitate the setting up of the Ukrainian hub.

F76/22. Finance & Policy

To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy meeting held on Monday 16th May 2022 and received the minutes from Tuesday 19th April 2022.

Ratified: The minutes from the 19th of April 2022 were approved and signed as a true record and the minutes from Monday 16th May 2022 were reported.

F77/22 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 30th April 2022 – Members received the balanced bank reconciliation.
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments – vouchers 1 - 26 to the value £20,277.59
- To report the year-to-date figures (2022) – the figures were reported.
- Cllr Boden presented the following donations that were discussed at F & P on Monday 16th May 2022
 1. St Jude's Catholic Church – Members discussed the revised application, following careful consideration they agreed they were unable to offer a donation.
 2. Summer Reading Challenge – Members agreed a donation of £500.00 – with a unanimous vote in favour.
 3. Whittlesey Street Pride Group – Members reviewed this application and felt that a new boat should not be purchased, and Street Pride should try and find a second hand one or one that can be donated. Members were unable to offer a donation to this project, and voted against it with one abstention

F78/22. AGAR

The RFO must sign and date 'Section 2 – Accounting statements 2021/22 before it is presented to the authority.

- a. Consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 Part 3')
- b. Consider and approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 Part 3')
- c. Ensure the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting at which the approval is given.
- d. Internal Auditor report for information

Cllr Boden thanked the RFO for all her hard and quick work in producing the end of year figures for this meeting.

F79/22. To report the draft minutes from the Planning meeting on Monday 16th May 2022 and receive the minutes from Wednesday 4th May 2022

Ratified: The minutes from the Planning meeting on the 4th May were approved and signed as a true record, the draft minutes from Monday 16th May were reported.



F80/22. To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects meeting on Wednesday 4th May 2022.

Ratified: The minutes from the Meeting on the 4th of May 2022 were reported.

F81/22. Consultations

1. CCC Transport Stakeholder engagement Survey 2022 – Cllr Boden summarised about what the objections should be of this plan, the first priority should be to promote the health of residents encouraging them to walk or cycle. The second priority is getting people to work shopping etc, the third being the rural isolation. Cllr Boden suggested their priorities are in the wrong order. Cllr Wicks express concern about the disabled and totally agreed with Cllr Boden about the priorities. Objectives and priorities are in the wrong order.
2. LGBCE – Consultation – Cllr Boden advised members the Initial report agreed with our proposals for district council wards in Whittlesey and recommended WTC continue to support those proposals which have been put forward by the LGBCE in this consultation with three statutory requirements. 15 communities and their boundaries respected within the town. Kings Delph could go in with Whittlesey Northwest, but reason for continuing to support it goes into Whittlesey South as it meets with the quota. The A605 provides a clear boundary through the town. In the Northern part of Whittlesey, school grounds of Sir Harry Smith and Alderman Jacobs provided a clear boundary between two areas. Coates Village is too large for a single member Ward, but with Eastrea and Turves is too small to be a two-member ward. The removal of Benwick are more suited to Whittlesey. The Town council wards, we support their proposals, but where a town council ward is co terminus with a district council ward, it should have the same name, but where it is not co-terminus, it should not have the same name.

F82/22 Information Only.

1. HM Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting Project. – The letter was read out to members, and Cllr Mason thanked Cllr Gerstner for his work on this project

F83/22 Invitations.

There were no invitations

F84/22. Date of next meeting – Thursday 21st July 2022.

Meeting Closed: 21.20.



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Cllr David Mason
Mayor of Whittlesey.