

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 19th August 2022 at 7.30pm at Peel house, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY

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

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

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

F102/22 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Boden & Munns (personal), Cllr Connor

F103/22. 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.

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.

F104/22 – Presentation from Mr Stephen Rice on Whittlesey Science & Technology Park

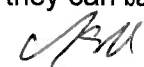
Mr Rice advised members he is a Chartered Surveyor and Managing Director of a small firm of Chartered Surveyors. He comes to this meeting wearing two hats, he is the appointed planning agent for the development of the Science and Technology Park, he is also a director of the company that has been created to take the development forwards, which is known as Whittlesey Science and Technology Park Developments.

This is one of the largest developments to have taken place in Whittlesey for a long time and will provide much needed employment. This project will take some time, due to complexity of the development and planning issues. Behind the scenes they have conducted base line assessments and deep ground works to 20M and contamination testing, all reports back are clear. Carried out ecology and investigation to ascertain if there were any protected species, Mr Rice confirmed there are no newts present and Development proposals will include both biodiversity and green space. They are at the point of moving forwards and have recently had a meeting with Nick Harding at FDC where Mr Rice requested a (PPA) Planning Performance Agreement, it sets out a rigid time frame more beneficial for the applicant that the council, FDC due to resourcing issues do not feel they can commit to the PPA now. Mr Rice is now working on a detailed report of what they will require formal pre app advice on and Nick Harding will cost it up, this is something they will hope to begin before the end of 2022, Following on from this outline permission will be sought by end of 2023 for a change of use, as there is still a permission in place for the brickworks on this site.

Science Park with drains with reeds and walkways over between the buildings to recreate an area of fenland, this assists with surface water draining in a sustainable way. This S & T park should be clearly definable as a Fenland science park which as this sits in Fenland is ideal.

Mr Rice is the only person profiling this, in order to be a S & T park there needs to be partner university, Peterborough has a new university ARU (Anglia Ruskin), he approached them approximately a year ago, but has met with some resistance, he has now had discussions with the CEO of ARU and continues with these to formulate a plan for how the university and Science Park can work together.

Communication with Nick Johnson and his team who are supportive of the project, the most important team within the mayoral office is the inward investment team & growth works, they are set up to attract external investment into the region. They have international businesses asking where they can base



themselves. The golden triangle of science parks in Cambridge / Oxford and London are oversubscribed with 20 year waiting lists. Growth works and Rosa Del Casa who heads this up are keen to start selling the Whittlesey Science & Technology Park. There is still much work to do, and he does not want to overpromise for people to be there in 2024 for something this is not deliverable that quickly.

Mr Rice is addressing a Science and Innovation Conference in London in December; this is to raise the profile of the WSTP.

Cllr Dorling – Unclear of direction of travel that Peterborough University is likely to take as this will determine what sort of companies will be attracted to the site? Mr Rice has sat in on business forums to ascertain what business want from universities e.g., more apprenticeship-based courses. . Mr Rice would like to see the science park more majored on agrotech and engineering type-based sciences and building rather than life sciences, Fenland has a long tradition with Agricultural and Engineering, ARU are focusing on agrotech and the food chain which is becoming more technical and specialised due to individuals wanting to know more about their foods.

Cllr Gerstner – Will this be phased project, and will the infrastructure be phased with it? Mr Rice advised a new access to the site which will become the main entrance for the whole of Saxon. Phasing will be dependent on how successful his profiling goes; he would hope not to phase but it will all be down to the economy.

Cllr Nawaz – How will the S & T park provide jobs for Whittlesey and will the town have any input into this development as this will have some impact on the infrastructure in the town. Mr Rice advised any development will have an impact on the town. He can deliver a link from Snoots Road which will be for a cycle, scooters, and a pedestrian this would be the sustainable route without people using the A605. They will provide a development that will create jobs the challenge is for Whittlesey to see that as an opportunity and if necessary, people may have to retrain. There will be an element of people who see this as an opportunity to retrain, apprenticeship, courses.

Cllr Mrs Laws joined the meeting 20.10.

Cllr Wicks, as this is a S&T park, are you looking at alternative energy sources? – Mr Rice advised the following. Ground source heating, possibly water source, the buildings will be built to the most up to date green standards net zero buildings, the car parks will all be under solar panels

Cllr Mason thanked Mr Rice for the presentation and looked forward to further updates.

F105/22 - Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV report.

Members received the Officers report.

F106/22 Police Report

Cllr Miscandlon advised members that he has written to Darryl Preston asking why the speed awareness day is in March, and why not in Whittlesey.

Cllr Mrs Mayor wrote to Sgt Punton regarding High Causeway, he has advised he has some red tape he has to get through, he is of the opinion that WTC need to install bollards / barrier at the Eastgate end to prevent vehicles going onto high causeway between the hours of 10 and 4pm. Cllr Mason suggested this be discussed at a future meeting.

F107/21. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 21st July 2022

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



F108/22 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.

Nine members of the public were present.

Mr Hodson representing Saxongate residents' group, wished to ask Mr Rice some questions, but agreed to do it via email directly with Mr Rice.

Mr Windle – One of the successes of the Big Bash was free fishing for youngsters, eighty have attended over the last few weeks, and a local fishing lake has now offered one day's free fishing for youngsters. Mr Windle has discussed with others, and they are now looking provide some free girls' football at the manor, for five weeks commencing the 31st of August, further to this, he has been speaking to people about starting a group 'Friends of the Manor' 8th Sept at 7pm

Mr Windle also suggested a calendar of events for the town that people can add their events to, this would prevent clashes
, this could be hosted on the WTC website.

F109/22 Agenda items for Discussion.

1. Music Events

Cllr Mason advised in 2013 during my first term as Mayor the buses were relocated from The Buttercross to the new bus points in Grosvenor Road which caused a fair amount of public resentment. The justification that I and other Councillors at the time put forward revolved around cleaning up the Buttercross from oil slicks and fumes to providing an area in the heart of the town where the general public could enjoy cleaner air.

A further consideration was that The Buttercross would be able to stage more community activities for the benefit of all, not least the traders in the immediate vicinity.

To show commitment to this the Music Festivals were born, and I attended a Safety Advisory Group Meeting with Cllr Ray Whitwell to set the Music Festivals in motion supported financially by Whittlesey Town Council. Over the years these Festivals have proved to be an overwhelming success and not only for traders around The Buttercross.

To contemplate moving these Festivals to other locations would in my opinion be a mistake and would not achieve the objective of supporting local businesses and in addition would reduce community activity at The Buttercross.

An independent Music Festival is to be arranged for Coates in August 2023, to assist the village businesses on a date that will not clash with the Music on the Square in Whittlesey.

The switching of Big Bash to the traditional Music Festival Day in June 2023 was regrettable and had been taken without full consultation. I understand the decision was taken to appease Chatteris and their Midsummer Festival, an event that few if any Whittlesey people attend. As a compromise, the Whittlesey Music Festival will be moved to a date later in June 2023 on its traditional site on The Buttercross which will not clash with either The Big Bash or Coates Fete.

In summary all Music on the Square Festivals in Whittlesey will proceed in June, July, and August 2023 on revised dates with an independently organised Music Festival held in Coates and a Big Bash event at the Manor Leisure Centre held on alternative dates in June and August 2023, respectively.

Cllr Mockett has been asked to organise a music event in Coates, the 23rd of July, they have three main sponsors, they will put a grant in to WTC for a small donation. This will be independently run. Cllr Mason thanked Cllr Whitwell for all his arduous work over the years.



2. Manor Leisure Centre

In 1972 the Manor Leisure Centre was opened and over the years the venue has hosted a variety of sports and activities which have been enjoyed by many of our citizens today and by those of previous generations.

Whilst the swimming pool and gymnasiums, skatepark, bowls club and children's play area attract good, regular use and enjoyment there are other facilities that have been in decline for some time. Whittlesey Town Council will now make the relaunch of the Manor Leisure Centre a priority over the coming months to enable it to return as a sporting and community hub for all. We have recently held preliminary talks with officials of Fenland District Council and Freedom Leisure to determine the way forward and whilst final details need to be confirmed I hope to be able to report next month on a new location within the Manor Leisure Centre for Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid following a breakdown of talks with Cambridgeshire County Council in securing a site behind Whittlesey Library. Similarly, negotiations have begun on Whittlesey Town Council locating the Heritage Centre within the Manor grounds. We are also requesting Fenland District Council to consider the siting of a permanent meeting place for Phoenix Youth Club within the Manor complex.

Whilst costs are an issue and funding streams need to be sourced and explored, Whittlesey Town Council would dearly love to encourage a wide range of sporting activities at the Manor Leisure Centre once more. We accept that cricket, football, and tennis clubs have relocated elsewhere but with public support new sporting avenues could be explored at a time when the country has been enthused by the success of the Ladies England Football team in the recent Euros and the highly acclaimed Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

To enable any new activities to be successful dedicated volunteers are needed to enthuse young and old alike in healthy and rewarding activity.

If there is anyone who would be prepared to give up their time in this cause and if they have a skill and passion for a particular activity, then we would love to hear from you. There are numerous activities to choose from, but we would be especially interested in promoting athletics or rugby if sufficient interest was apparent.

Cllr Jason Mockett on behalf Cllr Munns has been chasing FDC for details of the lease on the land and pavilion and whether there is a lease in place, Cllr Mason will consult with Cllr Munns.

3. Publicising Whittlesey

Cllr Dorling suggested that WTC need to stand up and say what they are doing for the town and what they plan to do over the next few years, we should be working to put a document together showing the priorities of this council, what our aspirations are. This would be our Mission Statement; F&P are working on this.

4. Queen Street Doctors Surgery

Cllr Gerstner proposed that Whittlesey Town Council invites a senior member of NQS or Lakeside to present to Council how they are addressing the CQC and Patients Survey to allay patients' confidence of the surgery, seconded Cllr Mason with a unanimous vote in favour.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Mrs Laws advised draft plan consultation expires 1st September 2022. The next step will be to assess the comments, the plan will go for examination in October. Early 2023 the team hope to have the NHP adopted.

6. Whittlesey Heritage Walk

Cllr Mrs Laws advised the launch is Thursday 20th October starting on the Market Place, the time to be confirmed. There are two walks a short and long one. New benches are being installed around the town; information boards will be erected shortly. Two schools will be invited to the launch.

7. Nat West Bank

Cllr Mrs Laws reassured people that FDC have issued the S215 notice, the owner is going to be prosecuted for failure to comply. There is a backlog at the courts hence the delay in this process.

8. Coates War Memorial

Cllr Mrs Laws advised Coates Memorial is not at risk and is covered under the NPPF, she has been in contact with the memorials trust, they are looking into adopting it, if they do, they will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the memorial. Cllr Mrs Laws needs to obtain the following information, if there is a committee currently responsible for the memorial, a constitution, bank details, cheque book and funds.

9. LHI update

Cllr Connor was unable to attend, this will be deferred to the next meeting.

F110/22. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

Cllr Mrs Mayor advised the town council hanging baskets and the Whittlesey in Bloom barrier planters were amazing, she had received many compliments from the public

F111/22. To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 15th August 2022.

The draft minutes from the F & P meeting on Monday 15th August were reported.

Donations.

Street pride - The Chairman advised members that that the Street Pride donation had been refused as they had already received the funding for this project from Glassmore Bank.

Magpas - £500.00 was proposed by Cllr Gerstner, seconded by Cllr Davies with a unanimous vote in favour.

CamSAR – The Chairman advised that F & P were unable to offer a donation at this time, no member challenged this decision, so the vote was unanimous to refuse the request.

Whittlesey Christmas lights – Lengthy discussions took place regarding the request, it was proposed by Cllr Davies to offer 5K, seconded by Cllr Mockett, Cllr Mrs Mayor voted against this decision, all other members were in favour, however members asked if a representative from the Christmas lights could attend the F & P meeting and advise members what else they would be doing with the full funding of 7.5k,, ie new lights, costings etc. This would then be discussed at the Full Council on Thursday 15th September.

F112/22 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st July 2022 – Members received the bank Reconciliation, the Chairman thanked the Clerk for the professional presentation once again.
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments – vouchers 90 – 114 to the value of £17,076.50, these were proposed by Cllr Mockett, seconded by Cllr Dorling with a unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the year-to-date figures (2022) – The year-to-date figures were reported.

F113/22. To report the draft minutes from the Planning meeting Monday 15th August 2022 and received the minutes from Wednesday 3rd August 2022

Ratified: The minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd August 2022 were approved and signed as a true record and the minutes from Monday 15th August were reported.

F114/22. To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects meeting on Wednesday 3rd August 2022.

The minutes from the meeting on the 3rd of August 2022 were reported.

F115/22. Consultations

There were no consultations.

F116/22 Information Only.


There was no information

F117/22 Invitations.

1. Chairman – Fenland District Council Coffee Morning – 29th September 2022

F118/22. Date of next meeting – Thursday 15th September 2022

Meeting Closed 21:30


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Cllr Dave Mason
Mayor of Whittlesey



Whittlesey Town Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minuta	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
148 Office Consumables	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Consumable	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	66.68	12.06	78.74
149 Postage	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Postage	Peterborough Office Supplies	E	68.00		68.00
150 Stationery	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	103940	Stationery	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	38.37	7.67	46.04
151 Office Maintenance	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Trade Recycling	Fenland District Council	E	125.94		125.94
152 Civic Expenses	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Flowers HM the Queen	Dawsons Flowers	E	20.00		20.00
153 PAVE & NI	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Tax & NI	HMRC	E	673.52		673.52
154 Staff Salaries	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Salary	Sue Piergianni	E	1,765.66		1,765.66
155 Office Maintenance	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Fire service	Bridges Fire & Security	S	480.00	96.00	576.00
156 Allotments	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Flowers - Allotment Judge	Kay Meyer	E	20.00		20.00
157 Subscriptions	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Clerks & Councils Direct	Communitcorp	E	12.00		12.00
158 Office Maintenance	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Alarm Maintenance	Bridges Fire & Security	S	285.00	57.00	342.00
159 Office Maintenance	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Window Cleaning	H20 Pure Cleaning	E	10.00		10.00
160 Allotments	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Trophies	Whittlesey Trophies	E	27.59		27.59
161 Travel & Expenses	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Mileage	Dave Mason	E	36.45		36.45
162 Website	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	SLA	SG Computing	E	140.00		140.00
163 MVAS	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	MVAS Maintenance	Fenland Electrical	S	135.00	27.00	162.00
164 Office Maintenance	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	PAT Testing	Fenland Electrical	S	340.50	68.10	408.60
165 IT	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	IT support	The Computer Man	E	25.00		25.00
166 External Audit	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	External Audit	PKF Littlejohn	S	600.00	120.00	720.00
167 Office Maintenance	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Mourning Crovette	Hampshire Flag Company Lin	S	52.93	10.59	63.52
168 Hanging Baskets	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Hanging basket watering	T I Mathers	E	5,712.00		5,712.00
169 Pensions	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Pension	LGSS	E	658.61		658.61
170 Office Electricity	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Office Electric	Opus Energy	L	257.23	12.85	270.08
171 Office Cleaning	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Salary	Clare Lynch	E	122.50		122.50
172 Bank Charges & Interest	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Bank Charges / Interest	Barclays	E	8.50		8.50
173 Phone & Internet	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Phone Lease Rental	CF Corporate	S	314.00	62.80	376.80
174 Photocopier	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Copier Lease	CF Corporate finance	S	506.25	101.25	607.50
175 Phone & Internet	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Telephone & Internet	EVAD	S	64.97	12.99	77.96
176 MVAS	23/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	MVAS Maintenance	Fenland Electrical	S	360.00	72.00	432.00
177 Office Cleaning	23/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Consumable	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	84.31	16.86	101.17
178 Staff Salaries	23/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Salary	Clare Lynch	E	80.00		80.00
179 Allotments	08/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Allot Certificate Frames	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	11.97	2.39	14.36
Total								13,102.98	679.56	13,782.54

Whittlesey Town Council RECEIPTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
66 Commercial Rent	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Fenland Youth Radio	Fenland Youth Radio	E			
67 Commercial Rent	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	Online	ISA-CAM Rent	Isa-cam	E	300.00		300.00
68 Heritage Centre	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	online	Heritage Centre	CPCA	E	3,975.00		3,975.00
69 Allotment Key Deposits & Re	22/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	online	Allot 22 Key deposit	Allotment Holders	E	30.00		30.00
70 Precept	30/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	online	Precept	Fenland District Council	E	86,000.00		86,000.00
71 Residential Rent / Costs	30/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	online	Flat A & B Rent	Peterborough city council	E	1,390.04		1,390.04
72 Jubilee Wood	30/09/2022		Barclays Current Acco	22/9/2022	Platinum Trees	Dave Connor	E	50.00		50.00
Total								91,745.04		91,745.04