

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL - Finance & Policy Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022 at 6pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY

Present: Cllr Miscandlon, Cllr Dorling, Cllr Wicks, Cllr Boden (6.15)

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

FP71/2022. To receive apologies from absent Members.

Cllr Davies (personal), Cllr Mockett (work)

FP72/2022. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda items.

There were no declarations

FP73/2022 - Public Forum – 15 minutes

Three members of the public were present.

Cllr Mrs Windle spoke on item FP/75, item 4 and requested that over the last couple years, there have been some donation requests, which have been misinterpreted by the F & P committee due to their lack of knowledge of the organisation, this has duly caused a degree of bad will. Cllr Mrs Windle feels every organisation should be afforded the opportunity to present to the F & P Committee if they wish.

Cllr Gerstner thanked Cllr Boden and the FDC cabinet for supporting the Freedom leisure scheme that was approved today. He would like to bring to the F & P committee some items that may come up within the next financial year and should be considered in the budget discussions.

- Handyman / Maintenance person may be employed.
- More and more voluntary groups asking for funding, WTC supports its community groups very well, however some community groups need to be mindful and should look for funding elsewhere.
- The Jubilee Platinum wood, it is very well funded at present, WTC still needs to transfer 500.00 out of 5K allocated for their trees. There are no costs for the information boards currently. Cllr Gerstner asked what will happen to the 4.5k that has not been spent out of this year's budget, he would request 2k be allocated to the fund as 50% of the trees may not grow, there will also be some maintenance that will be needed.

FP74/2022 - To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Finance & Policy Committee on Monday 14th October 2022

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

FP67/2022 – Financials.

1. Bank Reconciliations to 31st October 2022 - Members received the bank reconciliation
2. Year to date Figures – Members received the figures
3. Payment List for approval – Vouchers 180 – 205 to the value of £10,263,93 were proposed by Cllr Miscandlon, seconded by Cllr Dorling with a unanimous vote in favour.
 - o Members questioned the grass cutting of the B1040 and asked the Clerk why WTC cut the grass, the Clerk advised this was something that had been agreed many years ago. Cllr Boden suspended standing orders, to allow Cllr Mrs Kay to speak, who advised that this had been cut since prior to 1990. Standing orders were resumed. The clerk was asked to write to Whittlesey Charities to ask they could contribute to this expense.

FP75/202 - Agenda Items for Discussion

1. WTC Mission Statement – Cllr Dorling requested the wording go to Full Council in November. **“WTC supports initiatives that make our town and villages better places to live, work and raise families’**
2. EV Points – Cllr Dorling is concern, that following the site visit the company have now submitted a quote but advised we need a thicker cable. The clerk to ascertain why they are asking for another cable to be installed. The concept of the project will be put on November Full Council.
3. Budget – Cllr Boden asked members for the comments on version zero of the budget.
 - o Cllr Miscandlon suggested a precept rise due to the increased costs the council will not face, Cllr Wicks concurred with this suggestion, both agreed the maintenance budget for the offices should be increased.
 - o Cllr Boden advised that based on version zero, will have a surplus of 36K, Cllr Miscandlon suggested 8K general maintenance.
 - o Cllr Boden advised discussions with the Clerk the accounting system will show reserves for bus shelters, elections, heritage walk and platinum wood.
 - o Cllr Wicks, no provision for village activities, more are taking place and new ones will be coming online, also no provision for ‘warm hubs.
 - o Cllr Miscandlon advised that within the Burnthouse parameters, they will pay up to 4K towards the heating or 50% to buildings that are housing a ‘warm hub’
 - o Cllr Dorling there are several projects we want to support this year. Platinum Wood needs to be put in a specific reserve as this is public money and suggested the budget figure be 2k
 - o Cllr wicks proposed 7.5k in the GPC budget, and 1K for village events.
 - o Members also suggested the Kings Coronation be placed on Full Council for discussion.
4. Donation request presentations – Members discussed this at length , Cllr Boden suggested allowing this would give an extra level of accountability. The Clerk will amend the form allowing people to mark if they wish to attend to present, if this is the case, they will be allowed to present, but should questions arise after their presentation, the chair will suspend standing orders. Proposed Cllr Miscandlon, seconded Cllr Dorling with a unanimous vote in favour.
5. Chapter 8 training – The Clerk advised members that FDC have details of a course for up to 12 people, the cost is £550, the mileage charged by the company is 0.55ppm and they are based in Doncaster (approx £100.00), FDC and WTC to split the cost between them, the only additional fee would be £60.00 per person for the card and certificate, WTC would pay for their representatives, with the other organisations paying for their representatives. Cllr Dorling proposed we proceed with this, seconded by Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour. The attendees from WTC would be Cllr Dorling, Miscandlon and the Clerk. Members will be asked at Full Council if anyone else wishes to attend.

FP76/2022 – Information - There was no additional information

FP77/2022 - Donation Requests.


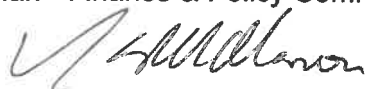
Whittlesey Cricket Club – unable to offer a donation

FP78/2022– Date of Next Meeting – Monday 12th December 2022

Meeting closed: 19:37



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Cllr Boden
Chairman - Finance & Policy Committee



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