

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2023 at 7.30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1JT.

Present: Cllr Mason, Nawaz, Dorling, Miscandlon, Mrs Mayor, Mrs Laws, Whitwell, Munns, Wicks, Boden

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

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

F01/2023 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Davies (unwell), Cllr Gerstner, Mockett & Mrs Windle (personal)

F02/2023. 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.

F03/2023. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV report.

Members received the scene officer report.

F04/2023. Police Report

Members were advised that Sgt Punton will be transferring to another force out of the area, his replacement will be A/PS Chris Arnold who will be starting with the Neighbourhood Team on 6/2/23. Due to the change, there may be a lack of meetings until he is in place. Members were advised that PCSO Katrina Walker had been issuing tickets for parking infringements around the town and will try to be in Whittlesey as much as possible but as she is the only PCSO in Fenland she is trying to cover all areas.

Cllr Boden advised that until Civil Parking is brought forward, we are reliant on the police. Cllr Mrs Laws has suggested that some evening parking enforcement is required. The Clerk to request this from the policing team.

F05/2023. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th December 2022

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

F06/2023 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.

Six members of the public were present.

Mr Bernard Gray-Esson – Parking is a problem in the villages not just Whittlesey, inconsiderate parking is the primary problem and could the police carry out some patrols in Eastrea.

Mr Robin Sutton presented a study explaining why there should not be a relief road, he is very involved in the youth club which helps with problematic children, some of the funds that were being pointed towards the manor are now being reallocated towards a feasibility study for the relief road. The relief road is not necessarily needed as the A47 is going to be duelled within the next few years. The cost of the relief road in Whittlesey is 165.9 million, the projected cost outweighs the protected value. Mr Sutton handed out his report to members.

Mr Alan Beasant Saxongate – Several of the recent planning applications granted included Mace and Johnson Aggregates have a transport plan stating no right turn to prevent vehicles coming through Whittlesey or turn left and then turn round and come back through the town. Cambridgeshire County Council have not been stipulating this condition in the permission they give due to the fact they are unable to enforce it. Johnsons have the technology to know where their drivers are at all times due to an application that is installed in the vehicle; however, they could renege on tracking the drivers at any time. He would ask that when WTC comment on any future planning from CCC they insist on a restriction insisting that no HGV vehicles come through the town.

Mr Alan Beasant - The Field of Dreams is a youth provision and highly valued by the community, they have heard is the lease not secure and the future of the site is not secure. and would ask when it is due to expire and what are the plans for the area and through their liaison group, if there are omissions coming into the town through the industrial estates increasing? there must be a benefit to the town for example retaining items like the Field of Dreams.

F07/2023 Agenda items for Discussion.

1. Whittlesey Station Adopters access CRN – The request from FDC for WTC to allow the station adopters to use the councils bank account when applying for grant funding was discussed, the council were not in favour of this, Cllr Miscandlon proposed refusal, seconded by Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote against.
2. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Mrs Laws advised members the announcement of the referendum was published today; the election will be Thursday 23 February 2023. FDC will be issuing a press release, Cllr Mrs Laws has published on social media and WTC website, the Clerk will advertise on the notice boards. Cllr Mrs Laws advised we need 51% of the vote to pursue this to FDC planning committee for adoption in May. If this does get the 51%, we would have to start the NHP from the beginning.
3. National Cycle Route 63 – When there was an issue on the A605, vehicles were using route 63 from the south of Coates to get through to Eastrea inevitably getting stuck in the mud. Cllr Boden suggested we look at an alternative cycle route as this part of the route is always used by the farmers accessing their land and therefore has very deep ruts and holes. Cllr Miscandlon advised the new cycling map shows an additional route which is to turn right when exiting the area from partridge farm, join Wype Road, turn right over the railway, then turn left down the concrete road. Cllr Miscandlon proposed this redirection of the route as a more sustainable route, seconded Cllr Whitwell, Cllr Boden advised Coates does need to be connected to this route in some way and also suggested the route along the concrete route, which is classed as the wet weather route, be made into the permanent route. Cllr Boden also suggested this proposal goes to Wendy Otter for the redesignation of the signposts advertising the correct location, members voted unanimously in favour of this proposition.

4. Whittlesey Station Project Board – Cllr Mason asked members to consider joining this committee as we do need representation, the meetings are between 40 mins to 60 mins on teams every couple of months.
5. Mayors Collar & Chain – Cllr Mrs Laws proposed that we purchase the platinum jubilee medal in memory of the Queen and the coronation medal for HM the King. Cllr Laws also advised the collar the chain sits on does not fit properly and therefore a new collar is needed. The Clerk will email Fattorini and obtain some costings.
6. Boiler – Cllr Boden advised members that lengthy discussions had been held at the F & P committee regarding the boiler and members had voted unanimously to have a new boiler installed to ensure the whole system is future proofed. This was proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour. Members accepted that 11K part payment be paid to the contractor immediately.
7. Heritage Centre Grant Funding – Cllr Mason read the following statement.

In October 2022 I announced that the Whittlesey Heritage Centre project was suspended due to an increased funding gap which was considered to be unattainable at that time.

The estimated costs of building the Heritage Centre had risen to £964,000 without any allowance for contingency costs against a budget allocated by the Growing Fenland Group of £500,000 of which £45,000 in consultancy fees had been invested in producing a final design and plan for the Centre.

The remaining £455,000 of the Heritage Centre budget has since been allocated elsewhere by the Growing Fenland Group.

Therefore to continue with the Heritage Centre a budget in excess of £1 million would now be required.

I have now been in contact with a local professional Grant Funding organisation known as Can Do Communities and held a meeting with one of their Directors, Mr Marvin Symes earlier this week to discuss the possibilities of obtaining funding for the Heritage Centre.

A proposal has been made by Mr Symes that he is willing to work with Whittlesey Town Council to enable him to lead on producing an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for grant funding to make the Heritage Centre and project legacy happen. The Expression of Interest is the new process of applying in the first instance with the funder.

Mr Symes fee as a professional Grant Bid Writer is £325 per day which will consist of three days' work (£975 total no VAT), reading, researching and writing the Expression of Interest to be submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The fund to be approached is that of the £250,000- £5 Million Heritage Fund.

Should the Expression of Interest be successful then negotiations with Whittlesey Town Council would proceed to enable Mr Symes to make a full application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund on terms to be agreed between Can Do Communities and Whittlesey Town Council.

Cllr Boden advised he would like to see more detail about the individual, he is concerned that the individual is not registered for VAT. He does not want to lose an opportunity and requested this be discussed again the next meeting.

8. Eastrea Road Bus Shelter – Westbound between the houses and Aldi, and eastbound move the location towards the cottages. Cllr Mrs Laws is going to speak to BDW to obtain the best solution that is acceptable to everyone.
9. Rachel Hutchinson PC 0320 Speed Patrols – Cllr Mrs Laws advised members that a speed patrol had been carried out on Stoned Road and Drybread Road, she has no feedback to report from Drybread Road, PC Hutchinson did engage with residents on Stonald Ward and concurred that a speed reduction scheme would be advantageous. Cllr Mrs Laws advised this road does not lend itself to any chicanes due to the number of junctions, and the installation of sleeping policeman would be a constant disturbance to residents. Members asked if a letter could be sent to Rachel thanking her for her work but please do not discuss traffic reduction schemes with the residents, please leave it to the ward Cllrs and the town council. Members also agreed they did not know about the speed patrol until after it had happened, we were previously advised by Darryl Preston that we would be contacted before the event so that councillors could attend. Cllr Mrs Laws further advised members that the PC also advised residents that the speed reduction scheme could be carried out by the Town Council.

10. Budget – Cllr Boden advised members as follows:

The V2 budget surplus was £17,521. The proposed additional changes are as follows (decreased expenditure and increased income are shown as negative figures) :

Precept: increase from £172k to £174k (-£2,000)

Election Reserve: remove entire adjustment to Revenue, as a Reserve Account has already been set up (+£12,000)

Neighbourhood Plan: remove entire budget provision (-£3,000)

Hanging Baskets: increase £6,600 budget provision to match this year's actual spend (+£757)

Village Events: Remove proposed new budget provision as GPC provision is increased (-£1,000)

Maintenance contractor: create new budget provision (+£6,000)

CAB, they had submitted a request for an additional 300.00, Cllr Boden proposed the budget figure be increased from £6800.00 to £7100.00.

The net effect of these six proposed changes is to reduce the proposed budget surplus by £12,757.00 to £4,464.00

The above proposals amendments were proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded by Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.

F08/2023. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

Cllr Mrs Laws advised members the water level sensors at Stanground sluice identified in 2022 that water has been seeping into our washes. EA do not have the finance to put in a completely new sluice, EA will now be making repairs to this.

Cllr Mrs Laws – Morton's Leam will continue to be dredged as this was not complete in 2022 due to the amount of rain.

Cllr Mrs Laws – Middle Level navigation committee, they are moving forward with their first prosecution, this is initially for unlicensed boats. Any unlicensed boats will be prosecuted. They are also dealing with abandoned boats. Any abandoned boats not claimed and in good condition will be sold at Auction.

Cllr Mrs Mayor is the substitute on the CCTV partner liaison meetings, Cllr Mockett is the representative, Cllr Mrs Mayor has spoken to CCTV Manager and asked that both attend.

F09/2023. To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 16th January 2023 and receive the minutes from Monday 12th December 2022.

Ratified: The minutes from the meeting on Monday 12th December were approved and signed as a true record and the draft minutes from Monday 16th January were reported.

1. Solar Panel update - Members were reminded that we have 30 panels on the roof, however due to the inverter not working they are not generating energy. The original company did not register them correctly, so we have no warranty on the panels or the inverter. Two new companies were invited to review the system, one has responded and advised that they would be able to take all the panels off take the optimisers off reconnect the panels in the desired strings and fit another inverter, (10kw 3 phase inverter with 5 year warranty). An additional 5 year warranty was £350.00 giving 10 years in total. Included in all this under MCS they would give a 2 year works carried out by them warranty. They would also ensure that the display is set up to allow the Clerk to monitor remotely via the Solis app, The total cost is £5450.00 + VAT. Members discussed this in depth and were advised costs saved on the electric would allow payback in two years, the new cost was proposed by Cllr Miscandlon, seconded Cllr Mrs Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.
2. EV Point – Cllr Dorling gave a in depth presentation regarding the new regulations on EV points, the conclusion being. Smart EV charge points are desirable for long term management of the electricity load. The regulations could make compliance an additional demand on the Town Clerk and additional involvement with users. Cllr Dorling suggested that whatever the decision the council made it could be reviewed later. Cllr Miscandlon proposed we remove the EV chargers but retain the cables boxed should the decision be changed in the future, this was seconded by Cllr Boden with a unanimous vote in favour. The Clerk advised that this item has been originally approved at Full council and therefore this was a rescission of a resolution covered under item 11 sections A & B in WTC Standing orders. The Clerk reminded members that the item could not be discussed for six months. Cllr Mason thanked Cllr Dorling for the research he had undertaken.
3. Citizens Advice Rural Cambs (CARC) – Cllr Miscandlon proposed the donation of £7100.00 which included a 4% cost of living increase, seconded by Cllr Dorling, members were advised the Clerk to discuss a service level agreement with the CAB to save them going through this process every year, it would also benefit both parties to know there is commitment moving forward.
4. Whittlesey Festival – Cllr Miscandlon proposed £4500.00, seconded by Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour.

F10/2023 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st December 2022 – Members received the bank reconciliation.
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments – vouchers 226 – 266 to the value of £16989.89 were proposed by Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the year-to-date figures (2022)

F11/2023. To report the draft minutes from the Planning meeting on Wednesday 11th January 2023 and receive the minutes from Wednesday 7th December 2022.

Ratified: The minutes from the committee held on Wednesday 7th December 2022 were approved and signed as a true copy and the draft minutes from the 11th of January 2022 were reported.

F12/2023. To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects meeting on Wednesday 11th January 2023 and receive the minutes from Wednesday 7th December 2022

Ratified: The minutes from the committee held on Wednesday 7th December 2022 were approved and signed as a true copy and the draft minutes from the 11th January 2023 were reported.

F13/2023. Consultations

There were no consultations.

F14/2023 Information only.

There was no information.

F15/2023 Invitations.

Dinner dance Saturday 18th March 2023

F16/2023. Date of next meeting – Thursday 16th February 2023

Cllr Mason advised he will not be available for the February meeting and asked the deputy Cllr Nawaz to take the chair.

Meeting Closed 9.30



.....
Cllr Dave Mason
Mayor of Whittlesey

Whittlesey Town Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
257	09/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Bank Charges / Interest	Barclays	E	10.00		10.00
258	23/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	ONLINE	Plant Room Boiler	Superior Plumbing Services	S	9,166.67	1,833.33	11,000.00
259	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	ONLINE	Mayors Allowance	Dave Mason	E	900.00		900.00
260	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	ONLINE	Office 365 licence	The Computer Man	E	79.99		79.99
261	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Rural CAB	Rural CAB	E	1,700.00		1,700.00
262	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Window Cleaning	H20 Pure Cleaning	E	10.00		10.00
263	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Website SLA	SG Computing Ltd	E	140.00		140.00
264	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	MVAS Maintenance	Fenland Electrical	S	180.00	36.00	216.00
264	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	MVAS Maintenance	Fenland Electrical	S	360.00	72.00	432.00
264	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	MVAS Maintenance	Fenland Electrical	S	60.00	12.00	72.00
265	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Window Repair to flat B	Peterborough Window Repair	E	160.00		160.00
266	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Donation	Whittlesey Christmas Lights (E	2,500.00		2,500.00
267	23/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Office Cleaning	Clare Lynch	E	177.50		177.50
268	23/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Clerks & Councils Direct	SLCC enterprises	E	52.30		52.30
269	23/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Window Cleaning	H20 Pure Cleaning	E	10.00		10.00
270	26/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Salaries	Staff Salaries	E	1,880.51		1,880.51
271	26/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Pension	LGSS Pension	E	703.52		703.52
272	26/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Tax & NI	HMRC	E	710.98		710.98
273	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Stationery	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	19.98	4.00	23.98
273	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Stationery	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	19.25	3.85	23.10
273	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Stationery	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	10.38	2.08	12.46
273	20/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Stationery	Peterborough Office Supplies	E	6.37		6.37
274	23/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Solar Panel maintenance	Will Guy electrical Limited	S	1,142.92	228.58	1,371.50
275	17/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Phone & Internet	EVAD	S	68.94	13.79	82.73
276	17/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Office Electric	opus	S	532.67	106.53	639.20
277	24/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Office Gas	Total gas and power	S	562.25	112.45	674.70
Total								21,164.23	2,424.61	23,588.84

Whittlesey Town Council RECEIPTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
94 Office Maintenance	14/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	Online	PAT Testing	ISA-cam	E	40.50		40.50
95 Insurance	17/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	Claim 27210000536	Insurance Claim flat b water le	Zurich	E	2,710.00		2,710.00
96 Commercial Rent	04/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Office Rent	ISA-Cam Rent	E	300.00		300.00
97 Commercial Rent	16/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Office Rent	Fenland Youth Radio	E	300.00		300.00
98 Bank Charges & Interest	08/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Bank Charges / Interest	Barclays	E	0.30		0.30
99 Residential Rent / Costs	31/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	511061	Flat A & B Rent	Peterborough city council	E	1,390.04		1,390.04
100 Allotment Key Deposits & Re	23/01/2023		Barclays Current Acco	pin 113	Allot 50 key deposit	simon glasgow	E	30.00		30.00
Total								4,770.84		4,770.84