

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL - Finance & Policy Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 19th June 2023 at 6.00 pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

Present: Cllr Boden, Mockett, Dorling, Sennitt-Clough, Wicks, Arman

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

P32/2023. Election of the Chairman

Cllr Mockett proposed Cllr Boden, and Cllr Sennitt-Clough seconded this. Cllr Dorling nominated himself and was seconded by Cllr Wicks. Members voted to elect Cllr Boden as Chairman.

P33/2023. Election of the Vice Chairman

Cllr Boden proposed Cllr Arman, Cllr Mockett seconded this. Cllr Wicks proposed Cllr Dorling for Vice Chairman. There was no seconder for the is proposal. Members voted to elect Cllr Arman as the Vice Chairman.

FP34/2023. To receive apologies from absent Members.

Cllr Nawaz was not present, and no apologies were given.

FP35/2023. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests concerning any agenda items discussed later in the agenda.

There were no members of the public present.

FP36/2023 - Public Forum – 15 minutes

Cllr Gerstner – Grants given by WTC to organisations. ~There should be more accountability from the groups and reports or presentations given to the Council on what the funding has been spent on.

FP37/2023 - To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Finance & Policy Committee on Monday, 13th March 2023

Ratified: The Minutes of the meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

FP38/2023 – Financials.

As some of the members were new to the F & P Committee, Cllr Boden advised he and the Clerk would give more detailed explanations on items.

1. Bank Reconciliations to 31st May 2023 - The Clerk advised she has emailed the Monmouth BS to obtain a better interest rate but to no avail. Cllr Boden proposed that the Clerk and Cllr Dorling investigate better rates and move the 50K from the Monmouth plus an additional 30K to one of these accounts. Cllr Sennitt-Clough seconded this with a unanimous vote in favour.
2. Year-to-date Figures – members received the YTD figures to 31st May 2023.
3. Payment List for approval – Vouchers 23 - 60 to the value of £30,830.39. Proposed Cllr Dorling seconded Cllr Wicks. Unanimous vote in favour.
4. Internal Auditor Report – Cllr Boden presented the Internal Auditors report and thanked the Clerk for her work on all the Accounts. The Clerk requested a proposal to reappoint the existing

Internal Auditor for another year. This was proposed by Cllr Wicks, seconded by Cllr Dorling with a unanimous vote in favour.

5. Cllr Boden requested the 'donation process' be an agenda item at the next meeting.

FP39/2023 - Agenda Items for Discussion

1. School Road restrictions – Cllr Dorling, We need to make the areas around schools safer and the air cleaner. The basic premise is that if we can put in restrictions and provide opportunities for people to do things differently, we can improve the lives of people living near school and people taking their children to school. Could people who live far away park further out and walk in? Cllr Boden advised there is some support from CCC, and some work has been undertaken with schools in Cambridge City. This is a very emotive subject. Most of our schools do have parking restrictions, which are only enforceable by the police. If civic parking comes to fruition, fines could be issued by FDC. However, CCC has advised approximately 90% of signs and lines do not meet the criteria. WTC/Chatteris and March have put in 400k towards this project. However, CCC contractor Milestone is increasing the costs substantially, the cost of the signs and lines currently stands at 900K, and the proposal for CPE will not happen for at least 18 months.

Therefore, we have two possible options: a gate on either side of the restricted area or having automated systems close the road. Any children in mainstream schools with disabilities or SEN may need to be taken to the school by car. Cllr Boden advised that Sir Harry Smith has limitations on the restrictions that could be put in place. Cllr Wicks suggested that there should be no right turn in or out. This would assist with the congestion on the A605. Cllr Boden advised AJS is equally difficult to do anything with due to the number of households using this road. We could not restrict this or have a 'No movement zone'. The traffic volume will increase when the new entrance to SHS opens on Drybread Road. Cllr Dorling suggested we prevent cars from parking on both sides of the road. Park Lane School has issues and restrictions that could cause further problems. New Road School only has two or three properties nearby. Cllr Mockett advised it does not seem to be an issue at the school. However, the problem is parking on the corner of Bellmans Road, and when the children are released, they exit the school nearer to Bellmans Road. Cllr Boden suggested that restrictions would be possible at New Road but would require further investigation. Cllr Wicks advised Coates has an issue as they must drive into the residential area to drop the children off. There is a cut-through from North Green to the school. Residents have expressed concern when using the crossing on the A605 to get to the school. Cllr Boden advised ANPR could be an option, but it would have to be financed from CCC. The only schools this could happen at would be Coates and New Road. This item will be discussed further at the next F & P meeting. Cllr Sennitt-Clough will be bringing forward further information to the full Council.

1. Business Cards – Cllr Wicks presented this item in Cllr Wainwright's absence. It was suggested that the Councillors who only represent the town might be interested in business cards and they should liaise with the Clerk as the cost is approximately £40.00 per councillor. Cllr Boden proposed this, and seconded Cllr Sennitt-Clough with a unanimous vote in favour.
2. Standing Orders (public presentation) – Cllr Boden proposed to members that if members of the public wish to make a presentation outside of the 15 minutes allocated at Full Council, they present to either the relevant committee or put their request in writing to the Clerk, this will be discussed at the next Full Council meeting and if members vote in favour of allowing this, the Clerk will contact the resident and advise of the next meeting date available. The Clerk and Cllr Boden will submit wording to the next F & P for approval and then to Full Council for approval and to change our standing orders.
3. Review of WTC Mission Statement – Cllr Arman suggested the following: 'Alone we can do little, together we can do so much' Quote by Helen Keller. Defer this item to the next F & P meeting.

FP40/2023 – Information

There was no further information.

FP41/2023 - Donation Requests.

Young Technicians CIC – Members discussed the proposal in depth. Cllr Dorling proposed we decline to offer a donation at this time, seconded by Cllr Mockett with a unanimous vote in favour of this proposal.

Whittlesey Christmas Lights – Cllr Mockett proposed we offer £7,500.00 but requested that the Christmas Lights Committee feedback on how the funds were spent, this was seconded by Cllr Dorling with a unanimous vote in favour.

Whittlesey Indoor Bowls – This item was discussed, and the following was Proposed by Cllr Mockett, seconded by Cllr Sennitt-Clough. The indoor bowls club should approach phoenix youth and Whittlesey Charities and see if they can offer any funding then come back to the Council with results, and WTC will consider the request again.

Whittlesey Table Tennis Club – Cllr Boden suspended standing orders to allow Cllr Gerstner to speak. The rent on the indoor bowls club was 12k per year, going up to 16K per year, and was unsustainable.

Standing orders were resumed.

The Clerk was asked to write to them and request they ask the Whittlesey Charity, Burnthouse Farm, The Police & Crime Commissioner fund, Sport England, and the National Lottery. Payment to them is subject to them applying to others and we need to know what they have received. When they receive all of these responses, they can resubmit their application to the Council.

Whittlesey Extravaganza – Cllr Dorling proposed we ask for more information to be discussed at next month's meeting, what was included within the 'Misc.' figures from last year? Have they received any funding from the Whittlesey Charity, and have they approached CCVS or anyone else for funding?

FP42/2023– Date of Next Meeting – Monday 17th July 2023

Meeting Closed: 20.25


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Cllr Boden
Chairman
Finance & Policy Meeting.

