

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held on Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7.30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

Present: Cllr Mayor, Arman, Black, Boden, Dorling, Laws, Nawaz, Sennitt-Clough, Wainwright, Wicks, Gerstner.

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

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

F126/2023 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Mockett & Dickinson (personal)

F127/2023. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda item including confidential items under agenda item F142/2023

1. Hanging Basket Tenders.

Cllr Laws – Portfolio holder for planning at FDC and will take no part in any planning discussions but will advise if requested on planning policy.

F128/2023. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV report.

Members received the report.

F129/2023. Police Report

The confidential police report was sent to members, this must not go onto any social media platform or be disseminated to the public.

F130/2023. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 20th July 2023 and the Special Full Council Meeting held on 22nd August 2023 .

Traditionally, minutes have been, and should be, a summary of decisions made, interspersed with very brief narratives summarising points made by Councillors. That tradition has not been followed in minute F117/2023. On the basis that all Councillors should be treated equally, does the Council accept that from this and future meetings of Full Council or its Committees, any written speech on any Agenda Item which is submitted to the Clerk shall be included in full in the minutes as a verbatim record, as has been done in minute F117/2023.

Cllr Boden suggested this item discussed at a future F & P meeting.

Members requested some grammatical amendments and approved the minutes. These will be signed when the amendments are made.

The Minutes from the Special meeting held on the 22nd August were approved and signed as a true record.

F131/2023 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.

8 members of the public were present.

Mr Robertson – Not au fait with how councils work and does not know what goes on behind the scenes with regards to WTC decisions, but disagrees with them not sending out polling cards, was this a decision made by the full council or a small group of councillors.

Standing orders were suspended: Cllr Boden advised the Clerk was contacted by FDC asking WTC if poll cards were required at an estimated cost of £2614.73 plus vat, this would be on top other costs when you have a byelection, the total being approximately £10K. Cllr Boden as Deputy Leader took the decision that this was an unreasonable cost to taxpayers. In stand alone elections, the higher the turnout the greater opportunity for the party who has had a higher majority, which has usually been the case in this ward, however without poll cards, other parties may have benefited.

Mr Stephen Hodson – long term resident of the parish, there is some talk around the town of an incinerator being planned for the West of Whittlesey. Secondly surveyors have been on the bridge measuring movement and possibly repairs. Is there any truth in this?

F132/2023 Agenda items for Discussion.

1. Election of Council Leader – Cllr Boden proposed Cllr Dr Haq Nawaz, seconded by Cllr Laws, there were no other nominations, Cllr Nawaz was elected as leader.

Cllr Nawaz stated it was an absolute honour to be a leader of this council and Whittlesey and its beautiful villages.

2. Appointments to outside bodies. – Cllr Mayor advised members that some of these need amending.

a. Whittlesey Allotments & Garden Society: Members agreed unanimously to remove this group from outside bodies.

b. Burnhouse Farm: Clarification has been received that only one representative is required. At WTC's June meeting Cllrs Mockett, Nawaz, Sennitt Clough & Wainwright were elected. The Chair asked for nominations for the one position. Cllr Sennitt Clough, proposed Cllr Nawaz, seconded Cllr Boden with a vote of 6 in favour, Cllr Dorling nominated Cllr Wainwright, seconded Cllr Wicks with a vote of 4 in favour. Cllr Nawaz will be the representative.

c. Glassmore Local Environmental Fund: Two of WTC's representatives need to reside in Whittlesey, with the third residing in Coates or Eastrea. At the June meeting of Full Council, three representatives were elected who live in Whittlesey: Cllrs Dickinson, Nawaz & Sennitt Clough. One of those members should be replaced by a representative who lives in Coates or Eastrea with Cllr Sennitt Clough and Nawaz representing Whittlesey. Cllr Sennitt-Clough proposed Cllr Mockett, seconded by Cllr Nawaz, with a vote of 6 in favour. Cllr Dorling proposed Cllr Wainwright with a vote of 4 in favour. Cllr Mockett will be the third person on the panel.

d. Station Project Board: Only one representative is allowed from WTC. At the June meeting of Full Council, three were elected: Cllrs Dickinson, Black & Nawaz. Two of those three need to be removed. Cllr Nawaz proposed Cllr Black continue on the board, this was seconded by Cllr Arman with a unanimous vote in favour, there were no other nominations.

Cllr Boden suggested that when the outside bodies are discussed next year the leader ensure there is a spread representation that is fair.

e. Whittlesey Relief Road SOBC Project board: to appoint two members.

Cllr Arman proposed Cllr Sennitt Clough, seconded Cllr Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Sennitt Clough proposed Cllr Mockett, seconded Cllr Nawaz with a unanimous vote in favour.

3. Actions following the August special meeting of Whittlesey Town Council relating to Whittlesea Station. Proposed resolution:

a. To make representations to FDC, the MP, the CPCA Mayor, the Leader of CCC and the Department for Transport:

- (i) to add our support to the campaign supporting the Ely North junction improvements
- (ii) to call for the capacity improvements at Ely North junction to include protection for the increase in the stopping service between Peterborough & Ely from the existing 0.5 movements per hour to 1.0 movements per hour.

b. To make representations to the operating companies Cross-Country Trains and East Midlands Railways to increase the number of trains which stop at Whittlesea.

Resolved: Cllr Boden proposed a letter with all points be sent, Cllr Boden will draft this letter, seconded by Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour.

4. Junior Councillors update – Cllr Boden reported as follows: From a legal perspective, there is no problem in accepting representatives from Sir Harry Smith's as non-voting attendees at Town Council meetings, but with speaking rights. It would only take a number of amendments to Standing Orders to facilitate this. Similarly, the establishment of a "Youth Council" to meet at Peel House involves no legal barriers. But there would in both cases be potentially significant safeguarding requirements which it may not be easy to solve without the active co-operation of teachers from Sir Harry Smith's. Meanwhile greater participation from younger people could be encouraged by establishing a public forum period at each meeting for (say) the under 25s – that would take a resolution of Full Council as well as a relatively small change to Standing Orders. Councillor Black has, I know, been continuing to attempt to engage Sir Harry Smith's on this issue and I suggest we await the results of that engagement before making any decisions. Meanwhile, this item for discussion should be carried forward to next month's Agenda. Cllr Black is looking to a presentation at the school with the PCSO's and other people, he will report back on his progress after this.

5. Culture, Arts & Heritage Committee – Cllr Sennitt-Clough - There is a new Culture, Arts & Heritage Committee (CAH) at FDC, which she will be chairing. The members and officers involved with this committee felt it would be constructive to mention it to Town and Parish Councils in order to generate awareness around these sectors. There is the potential to link-up with Town committees, such as Projects and Planning for example.

Cllr Sennitt-Clough would like to take the opportunity to emphasise the importance of this new committee to the district. It is not an overstatement to say that this is a huge achievement in FDC's development as a forward-thinking local authority. CAH are so much more than add-ons in a community. For example, a successful arts scene is indicative of a thriving community.

Participatory activities in CAH reduce loneliness and isolation. They can create a sense of community identity and belonging. They help with economic regeneration (there are several fine examples of this in Ely, the city in which I was born). CAH also increase a sense of community well-being. They promote innovation. They open up opportunities and attainment in schools. CAH can address and reduce social inequalities and build understanding between different groups.

Cllr Sennitt-Clough would be happy to look at any proposal put forward and invite any members present here this evening to the training which will take place on 3rd October at 2.30pm in Fenland Hall. This will be followed by the inaugural meeting at 4pm, which members of the public are very welcome to attend. This will also be screened live on YouTube.

6. LHI 24/25 – Application round opens end of October – Cllr Mayor

Survey submitted by the Clerk due to the deadline, members were asked to go away and think about what LHI's, what are the parameters and what are the contributions required from the Town Council. Members agreed to circulate all their suggestions to each other for discussion at the October meeting.

7. A605 / Cemetery Road Roundabout – We have received an 18-page proposal from CCC Highways to make significant changes at the A605 roundabout at Cemetery Road and Blunts Lane to enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety. The option recommended is their 'Option 2', which increases the size of the five existing refuge islands, increases the diameter of the central

roundabout island from 11.8m to 16.5m and decreases the number of traffic entry lanes from the western side of the A605 and from the southern side of Cemetery Road from 3 lanes to 2 lanes. The traffic survey (conducted in September 2022) indicated that there would be no additional delay to traffic from these reductions in road space approaching the new, reduced road width, roundabout. The proposed improvements to road safety for those crossing the road at this roundabout are welcome, much needed and overdue. However, there are three factors which may not, either fully or at all, have been taken into account in the traffic flow analysis accompanying this proposal: 1. The traffic survey was conducted at a time when we still hadn't recovered from the COVID-induced reduction in traffic volumes. According to the Department for Transport's provisional road traffic estimates for October 2021 to September 2022, in the quarter ending September 2022 motor traffic generally was still 4.9% below pre - pandemic levels and was still 2.7% below the levels seen in September 2017. For A Roads such as the A605, that percentage reduction was even greater, at 6.8% and 4.1% respectively. 2. The amount of residential new build taking place, or proposed to be taking place, on or near to the A605 is ever increasing and appears not fully to have been taken into account in this report. Indeed, the latest new application on the A605 for 249 more houses (not in the local plan) has been lodged only this month. 3. The A605 roundabout with the B1040 (the 'Kelly vision Roundabout') has been recognised as exceeding capacity at peak hours and has been projected to create significant peak hour queueing by the end of this decade, with knock-on queueing implications for the Cemetery Road roundabout. This appears to have been completely ignored in assessing the traffic flow implications of Option 2 Council is requested to respond to this consultation raising those three points, requesting that the traffic flow calculations be re-done in the light of those three factors.

To assist, it is suggested that the Southern Relief Road inception report is submitted to CCC Highways, highlighting the table showing projected peak-hour delays at the two A605 roundabouts near the Town Centre. Proposed Active Travel Improvements – KM/CB submit Royal Haskoning Inception Report Proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Mayor with a unanimous in favour.

8. Permanent Memorial – AVRO Lancaster Eastrea – Cllr Wainwright advised CCC do not appear to have records regarding ownership of the land. If they confirm they do not have anything, they would be happy for WTC to install on the Eastrea land, the target date is 19/4/2024, that will be 80th anniversary of the crash. Cllr Mayor advised she recollects FDC giving planning permission for the memorial. Cllr Laws suggested Cllr Wainwright contact the Storers group and she will be in touch when she has any further information regarding the ownership of the land, and also if she can obtain the ownership.

6. Scouts Environmental Badge – Poster Competition – littering, fly tipping, dog waste, FDC portfolio holder Cllr Murphy is happy to support, he would like confirmation that WTC will also support this initiative. Members voted unanimously in favour of this project.

7. Jubilee Wood update and Phase II - Cllr Gerstner – overwhelming support from the public about the project. He has been asked to start at phase 2, plant approx. 25 more trees, a communal herb garden. Third part of phase 2 to clean up the centre section and prepare it as a poppy field. He understands there is still a significant pot of money available. Cllr Laws asked if in future she, Cllr Sennit-Clough and Boden were kept informed as this is on their ward. Cllr Gerstner advised further works will not touch the attenuation ponds or the dog walking areas.

F133/2023. To receive Councillor & outside body written reports.

There were no outside body reports.

F134/2023. To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 18th September 2023 and approve any donation requests.

Ratified: The minutes were reported.

Cllr Boden reported that F & P advised members, the Clerk will be moving £130K into a 1-year bond with 5% interest providing we meet the criteria. The Clerk will also endeavour to find an instant access account with a better rate of interest than we currently receive.

Whittlesey Christmas Extravaganza £1000.00 Donation, was proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded by Cllr Sennitt-Clough with a unanimous vote in favour.

F135/2023 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st July and 31st August 2023. (Cllr Boden requested that August to go the October F & P)
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments. Vouchers 107 – 138 to value of £17,777,71 were proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Mockett with unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the year-to-date figures (31st August 2023) - The year-to-date figures were reported

F136/2023. To report the draft minutes from the Planning meeting on Monday 18th September 2023 and receive the minutes from Wednesday 30th August 2023.

Ratified: The minutes from the 30th of August were received and the minutes from the 18th September 2023 were reported.

F137/2023. Consultations

1. Weed Spraying by CCC - Cllr Boden Suggested the following response be sent to CCC. "In April 2023, with neither consultation nor (so far as we are aware) notice, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) decided to cease all cyclical spraying to suppress weeds on our pavements, roads and in our gullies. On September 8th a letter was sent by Frank Jordan, Executive Director for Place & Sustainability at CCC, to all Councils in the county, recognising "that the County Council should have engaged with its partners in district and parish councils more effectively at the time when this policy change was being considered, and then when it was implemented, and that is something we wish to improve upon" and advising that CCC is "reviewing the impact of the change in both rural and urban areas" and that CCC "will be considering changes to [their] approach when [they] have the assessment results and presenting this to members" of CCC. Many residents have complained that our roads and footpaths have already become unsightly as a result of this new policy to cease cyclical spraying on our highways. Council notes with concern the reports in September after periods of intense rain in Whittlesey that road surface water did not drain as quickly as would otherwise have been possible because drains and gullies were blocked or impeded by weed and grass growth which was a direct result of the change of policy stopping cyclical spraying, creating a safety hazard for road users, and increasing flood risk in adjacent properties. This was particularly noted in King's Delph and Aliwal Road, the Council further notes the spurious justification for the policy to cease cyclical spraying that glyphosphate, the most commonly used chemical for this purpose, is unsafe. We note that the use of glyphosphate as a weed suppressant is approved in the UK and by the European Union, and that a recent study showed that glyphosphate is less toxic to humans than vinegar or table salt. In failing to take preventative action to suppress weeds, a significant increase in roadside Ragwort has been noticed. Ragwort is poisonous to ruminants generally and to horses in particular. The County Council as Highways Authority is under a statutory duty to remove Ragwort within fifteen metres of any field containing ruminants and within fifty metres of any field where agricultural crops are grown. Council therefore agrees to respond to CCC advising them of the contents of this resolution and our desire to see cyclical spraying recommenced to suppress weeds on our roads, pavements and in our gullies.". Proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Wainwright, unanimous vote in favour.

2. PR0959 – Proposed Traffic Calming – 20 mph Speed limited and waiting restrictions Drybread Road and Bassenhally Road – Cllr Boden proposed we accept this recommendation, seconded Cllr Nawaz. Vehicle's may be displaced, or people may walk. Unanimous vote in favour.

PR0968 – Proposed 30mph Speed Limit – A605 Eastrea Road and Drybread Road Whittlesey
We have received a consultation document from CCC Highways to reduce the speed limit along

the A605 between the existing 30mph limit and Drybread Road from 40mph to 30mph, and to reduce the speed limit along the section of Drybread Road closest to the A605 from 60mph to 30mph, to facilitate the building of up to 249 additional houses (which are not included on the local plan) opposite the Aldi store. I propose that we respond as follows: "It is premature to consider imposing these speed restrictions in order to facilitate the building of a new housing estate when that proposed new housing estate has yet to be considered for planning approval by the FDC Planning Committee. WTC however welcomes the proposed extension of the 30mph limit along the A605 covering the approaches to the new Aldi store as there have been several near misses as a result of vehicles slowing down or stopping to turn into the Aldi store from the A605, or as a result of vehicles leaving the Aldi store to join the A605. There is no merit, however, in restricting traffic speed on the proposed section of Drybread Road unless the planning application for the development of the proposed new housing development there is given planning permission by FDC. WTC, therefore, at this time, opposes the proposal to reduce the speed limit on that section of Drybread Road to 30mph."

The above response was proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

4. Licensing application – The George Whittlesey - This is a pavement licensing application by the George Hotel at Market Place to install 16 picnic benches in the pedestrian square in front of the George from 8am until 11pm each day (although only 6 of them would be installed on Fridays, being market days). Proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

5. Licensing application – Eldernell Events Venue - There is a new licensing application about to be considered by FDC for premises at 102 Eldernell Lane to allow a late licence for the sale of alcohol, and for indoor and outdoor live and recorded, amplified and unamplified music. Refreshment provision and live and recorded indoor and outdoor music times sought are from Noon until 1am daily, with an extension on Friday and Saturday nights until 2am, but with alcohol not being supplied before 4pm nor being served within two hours of closing time. In open countryside such as this, the sound of late-night music can travel many miles and can annoy thousands of residents. I would therefore ask the **Council to recommend to the FDC Licensing Committee** that, if any license at all is granted, no music should be permitted, nor should any alcohol be permitted to be served, beyond 11pm each night, and that the premises should close no later than midnight each night. I would further ask the Council to make the following representations to the FDC licensing committee: The proposed operation of these licenced premises would have a significant effect on the current or any future residents of the residential premises at 88, 94, 120, 124 and 126 Eldernell Lane because of the numbers of people who would need to access and egress the proposed licensed premises by using the privately-owned track that runs outside their properties. This can only really be appreciated by visiting the site, which we would encourage the FDC licensing Committee to do. The private track is not owned by the person seeking this proposed license. On the website promoting the premises, the capacity for the venue is given as 200, which is a massive number given the location. The effect of having 200 patrons at such a location will clearly be substantial, especially since virtually all patrons and staff will need to access the premises by car along a very narrow road (Eldernell Lane) and then a very narrow privately owned track. The premises do not appear to have any planning permission to operate as a business. Is it appropriate for premises to be granted a license without consideration having previously been given, and planning permission having been granted, for any non-agricultural business use whatsoever of the premises? On the basis of the last three paragraphs, Whittlesey Town Council would strongly oppose the granting of this license. Cllr Boden proposed opposition to this application seconded Cllr Sennitt-Clough. Cllr Boden did advise that he had a conversation with the applicant regarding this matter and will hopefully be meeting them in the next few weeks. The majority of Cllrs voted in favour of this proposal; Cllr Mrs Laws abstained.

F138/2023 Information only.

Showman's Guild – New Dates – 13/14/15th October 2023.

F139/2023 Invitations.

Action on Energy Launch Event – Cllr Dorling will attend with Cllr Mrs Laws as the backup.

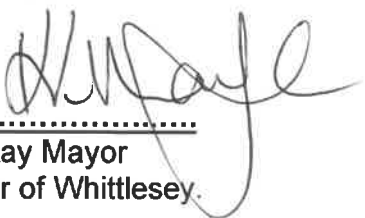
F140/2023. Date of next meeting –Thursday 19th October 2023

F141/2023. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

F142/2023. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F127/2023

Acceptance of Tender B was proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded by Cllr Wainwright, with a majority vote in favour. Cllr Dorling voted against the hanging baskets. The council selected Purple, Gold and Green as the colour scheme for plants.

Meeting closed: 9:40



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Cllr Kay Mayor
Mayor of Whittlesey.

Whittlesey Town Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
139	29/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Phone & Internet	EVAD	S	75.32	15.06	90.38
140	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Allot Certificate Frames	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	6.75	1.35	8.10
140	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Allot Certificate Frames	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	13.47	2.69	16.16
141	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	First Aid Cover music festival	St Johns Ambulance	S	438.90	87.78	526.68
142	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Allot 56B refund	Rosemary Mitchley	E	30.00		30.00
143	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		SLA	Bridges Fire & Security	S	513.60	102.72	616.32
144	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Trophies	Whittlesey Trophies	E	13.60		13.60
145	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Clerks & Councils Direct	Communicorp	E	14.00		14.00
146	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		SLA	SG Computing Ltd	E	140.00		140.00
147	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Laptop renewal	The Computer Man	E	549.99		549.99
148	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Annual Service Plan	Business Watch	S	257.50	51.50	309.00
149	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Alarm repairs	Business Watch	S	150.00	30.00	180.00
150	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Car boot banner & signage	Print services	S	130.00	21.00	151.00
151	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Allot Water	Wave - Anglian Water	E	272.05		272.05
152	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		MVAS	Fenland Electrical Services	S	1,000.00	200.00	1,200.00
153	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Pension	LGSS Pension	E	796.75		796.75
154	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Salaries	Staff Salaries WTC	E	2,150.36		2,150.36
155	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Office Gas	Total gas	L	120.72	6.04	126.76
156	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Office Cleaning	Clare Lynch	E	149.50		149.50
157	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		NNDR	Fenland District Council	E	60.00		60.00
158	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Bank charges	Barclays	E	8.50		8.50
159	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		PHONES LEASE	CF Corporate	S	314.00	62.80	376.80
160	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Tax & NI	HMRC	E	911.37		911.37
161	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		Window Cleaner	H2O Pure Cleaning	E	15.00		15.00
162	26/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco		copies	Ethos (formally Walters)	S	2.35	0.47	2.82
Total								8,133.73	581.41	8,715.14

Whittlesey Town Council RECEIPTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
39	04/09/2023		Barclays Reserve Acco	Reserve Account Inter	Bank Charges / Interest	Barclays	Z	219.54		219.54
40	04/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	residential rent	Flat A & B Rent	Peterborough city council	E	1,390.04		1,390.04
41	04/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	Rent	Commercial Rent	Fenland Electrical Services	E	220.00		220.00
42	04/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	Rent	Commercial Rent	ISA-Cam Rent	E	330.00		330.00
43	04/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	Rent	Commercial Rent	Fenland Youth Radio	E	110.00		110.00
44	15/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Training	SLCC	E	102.00		102.00
45	21/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Precept	Fenland District Council	E	87,000.00		87,000.00
46	29/09/2023		Barclays Current Acco	Online	Flat A & B Rent	Peterborough city council	E	1,390.04		1,390.04
Total								90,761.62		90,761.62