

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd November 2023 at 7.30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1JT.

Present: Cllr Mayor, Boden, Dorling, Mockett, Sennitt-Clough, Nawaz, Turner, Wainwright, Wicks, Gerstner.

Officer in Attendance: Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

Recording: This is made as an aide memoir for the Clerk

Apologies:

Cllr Black and Arman. (personal)

F159/2023. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda item.

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.

F160/2023. Presentation from Helen Dodds – Social Prescriber – Lakeside Health Care / New Queen Street. (15-minute presentation)

The Chair advised members the Social Prescribers had cancelled at short notice.

F161/2023. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV report.

Members received the Street Scene Report.

F162/2023. Police Report

The next meeting is scheduled for the 5th of December 2023

F163/2023. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on 19th October 2023

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

F164/2023 Public Forum

Eleven members of the public were present.

Mr Alan Bessant – Saxongate

Representing Saxongate residents' group and with major new developments planned to the west of Whittlesey we think it is time for Whittlesey Town Council and Fenland District Council to make their positions clear on these materials and their use. CCC treat it as an aggregate, the EA monitor it is a waste, the science and risk around forever chemicals and long term-pollution risks continue to develop.

Even if a material is classed as non-hazardous it can very toxic. For example, the facility at Johnsons is not supposed to let any water or dust leave its site and the containment wall continues below ground level. They have two MCERT rated dust monitors on site. There must be a reason for these safeguards.

The regulatory position statement from the EA in England for IBAA states: -

You must make sure your activity does not endanger human health or the environment and you must not:

- use, or supply for use, IBAA underneath any residential building or garden
- store IBAA for more than 6 months before use
- cause a risk to water, air, soil, plants, or animals
- cause a nuisance through noise or odour
- adversely affect the countryside or places of special interest
- At least 95% of it must be entirely covered by a low permeability surface or building.
- The amount of IBAA you can use depends on the distance to a surface water body

The rules in Scotland and Europe are more onerous and Scotland has been becoming less in favour of IBAA we believe. It is hard for a layperson to see how the material could be described as inert given these rules and regulations.

We should note that we have yet to see Johnsons achieve the requirements of the permit and the EA continue to work with them towards full compliance. There is also the ongoing issue of water being pumped into Kings Dyke without a permit or filtration from Saxon Pit.

In the last meeting we attended the EA made it clear that they are struggling for resource and funding. We know Fenland also has budgetary pressure. CCC seem oblivious to any risk from the material and advocate its use. Given the track record in our area we think operators will see this as a green light to proceed as they see fit with these materials which could leave a toxic timebomb for this town and the water table. We are pressing the EA for answers and hope to get a response before the year end.

Saxongate would like to know to what degree this is a concern for WTC and FDC - or if they consider the materials are safe with adequate governance in place?

We remain very concerned that there is not enough consideration/no joined up overview being given to the total amount of IBA and IBAA being potentially processed, stored, and used in Whittlesey. The UK does not have the best track record with 'new' building materials which later seen to be unsafe and difficult to remove.

F165/2023 Agenda items for Discussion.

1. Budget – Cllr Boden advised members that the budget needs to be agreed at the January meeting as the precept request must be in by 5th February 2024. The additional yellow lines approved by Full Council have been inserted into draft zero. F & P in December will endeavour to quantify the next stage before bringing to December Full Council for further discussion.

Cllr Dorling advised the rate of inflation significantly higher than in previous year, however our precept has hardly changed in the last five years. The precept is therefore the funds we need to spend and not related to the rate of inflation.

Cllr Laws asked about the maintenance for bus shelters by the BDW of 15k, the Clerk advised this has not yet been received, but it would be an ear marked reserve.

2. CCTV Service Level Agreement – Cllr Boden advised the existing SLA ends on 31st March 2024. After visiting the control room, he was shown how the fast forward button would allow the police to ticket people using High Causeway and the CCTV have failed in this. Cllr Boden suggested we suspend the services until we have the funds to pay for the rising bollards. Cllr Mrs Laws does not see the cameras as a deterrent and during the recent raid on the Nationwide, she was advised that the camera was stuck in one direction and could not capture any of the footage. Following this raid, the weekend after youths were throwing bricks at the top windows and yet again this was not captured. Cllr Sennitt-Clough visited the CCTV after the ram raid and advised the camera was not stuck, but the roving camera was pointing in a different direction. Cllr Wicks excuses that have been presented by the control room, we have not had the support from the police and supports any

suspending of the SLA. Cllr Gerstner stated this is a very emotive subject, he has always supported the CCTV, however with the recent incidents and history, he would at this moment in time support the suspension. Cllr Wainwright advised after discussion with the CCTV control room manager the camera that points down Market Street would not have picked up the vehicles heading towards the Nationwide as they came via Station Road and was only on site for 3 minutes. Cllr Mockett advised the footage in general they had been shown at the CCTV room was good quality and if the council wish to proceed with the rising bollards on High Causeway, we need to continue with the CCTV.

Councillors requested that Sgt Chris Arnold is invited to a meeting to discuss the CCTV and request that the PCSO attend the control room to review the CCTV and issue tickets.

Cllr Nawaz asked how long can we suspend the service for and how can we reinstate. Cllr Dorling stated that CCTV needs to be for prevention and prosecution, there is no signage advising we have this in the town and once people realise that WTC are considering withdrawing the funding there is a danger of increased crime. Cllr Boden this is not something the town council should be paying for and should be paid for by the police. Further discussions are needed on this, Cllr Boden proposed a letter to CCTV manager, advising 'we as WTC are minded suspending the SLA until we have sufficient funds to pay for the bollards and we would like to invite Mr Locks and a local Inspector' to the next meeting. WTC should also investigate other agencies that could monitor the bollards should we have to go down the route of suspending the CCTV. Cllr Gerstner advised that the police in the past have confirmed they could issue fixed penalties on vehicles using High Causeway via the CCTV. Cllr Mrs Laws advised members the CCTV control centre has an officer working full time who could assist with the monitoring of vehicles on High Causeway. Cllr Boden's proposal was seconded Cllr Wainwright. Unanimous invite to full council meeting or separate meeting.

3. Planning Committee Members – Cllr Mayor advised planning committee short of a member, Whittlesey Northwest is not being represented, Cllr Mayor proposed Cllr Turner become a member of the planning committee, seconded Cllr Nawaz, unanimous vote in favour.
4. Whittlesey Target Shooting Club – Cllr Mockett advised members that with the potential refurbishment of the Manor, the club were being ignored and need to be recognised and were not under any lease agreement. A two-year lease agreement is being drawn up by FDC and they will be included when any decisions are made at the Manor, the club have already spent 15k on refurbishment, they work with the youth, disabled etc. Cllr Mockett proposed we support them where we can when any redevelopment takes place.

Cllr Boden advised we do not know what is happening at the Manor leisure centre at last cabinet meeting 100k was set aside to review the leisure centres in March, Wisbech and Whittlesey. Whittlesey will require the works to take place first, he would be reluctant to say the shooting club would be in the same location if the Manor is not a viable option, but they must be retained within the town. Cllr Dorling advised the membership has increased from approximately 90 to 150 when other clubs are ending. Cllr Mayor seconded the proposal with a unanimous vote in favour.

5. WTC meeting dates and times – Cllr Mayor advised this item to be further discussed at F & P, the clerk to send another list with all committee meetings being on a Monday. Cllr Mrs Mayor requested that all comments regarding changes be sent to the clerk.
6. Platinum Wood update – Written by Cllr Dorling

As per the Neighbourhood Plan, we have established a community orchard within the parish of Whittlesey. Cllr Gerstner and I have actively maintained and promoted the project.

In December 2022, 105 trees were planted by volunteers (mainly Street Pride). FDC recognised this in the 2023 Awards ceremony as per the Best Street Scene Project on page 1 of the October Environment update.

Our priority has been to establish the plantation. Out of 105 trees planted, only three did not survive – remarkable and a testament to good planting is supportive maintenance. These three will be replaced – probably next month.

Additionally, fifteen more trees biased towards nut trees, such as Walnut and Sweet Chestnut, will be consolidated with five fruit trees in the community orchard. We anticipate that Street Pride will conduct this work.

Meanwhile, responding to suggestions from residents and dog walkers – we have cleared the vegetation in the centre of the plantation in preparation for sowing wildflowers in Spring 2024.

Having taken advice from experienced horticulturists and environmental specialists, we have been made aware that the soil is richer in nutrients than it needs for wildflowers and poppies. Therefore, the cuttings will be taken off-site to farmland that can be used better. Whether we sow seeds in a sharp sand mixture or scrape the topsoil into a bund is still under discussion. Still, the aim is to promote pollination of the nearby community orchards and gardens by planting flowers and herbs that attract insects.

This will form part of the planned green corridors in many Cambridgeshire villages and towns. This promotes biodiversity and helps our community assets.

Consequently, modest costs have been incurred, but some ongoing maintenance and preparatory work will be paid for from a ringfenced budget. Additionally, we have applied for a grant from the Peterborough Environment City Trust to assist in our pollination aspirations; this might also include the addition of a beehive.

In conclusion, if you have not visited the project, I recommend that you do; if you have any suggestions or concerns – please share them with Cllr Gerstner or myself. Meanwhile, we will create a team to take on the project in the guise of a Friends of Platinum Wood or similar voluntarily on behalf of WTC.

F166/2023. To receive Councillor & outside body written reports.

Members were asked to make comment to Cllr David Connor – Cllr Boden proposed we pause this to see the costs and what the developer contributions were for the speed reductions on the A605.

F167/2023. To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 13th November 2023.

The draft minutes were reported.

Proposed Cllr Boden to cease cutting the grass verges of the B1040, seconded by Cllr Mockett. Cllr Wainwright advised that highways cut one metre from the road. Members voted by majority to cease cutting. Cllr Mayor took no part in the vote.

Peel House Flat A – Cllr Boden requested a proposal for the decoration to flat A at a cost of £715.00, proposed Cllr Mockett, seconded Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour.

Peel House Oil Tank removal – Cllr Wicks proposed the removal of this at a cost of £645.00 plus VAT, seconded Cllr Mockett with a unanimous vote in favour.

Clerks Salary – Annual pay aware – Cllr Boden advised members the annual award from NALC equates to £1.00 per hour and proposed this be agreed, seconded Cllr Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

F168/2023 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st October 2023. Cllr Boden proposed approval, seconded Cllr Wainwright with a unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments – vouchers 163 to 189 – to the value of £9175.26. proposed Cllr Boden, seconded, Cllr Mockett with a unanimous in favour.
- To report the year-to-date figures 31st October 2023 – Members received the YTD figures.

F169/2023. To report the draft minutes from the Planning meeting on Monday 13th November 2023 and receive the minutes from Wednesday 1st November 2023.

Ratified: The minutes form Wednesday 1st November were received and the draft minutes from Monday 13th were reported.

F171/2023. Consultations

Cllr Boden advised there will be a public consultation on CPCA precept.

Cllr Boden advised that the polling places consultation has been completed, Turves polling district will be retained, this will be agreed at FDC, a large private property in Turves with large turning area has been offered by the owners.

Whittlesey North West ward - A mobile polling station is accepted and will be located at the Baptist Church.

F172/2023 Information only - War Memorials Bulletin


F173/2023 Invitations.

Peterborough Science & Technology public viewing 1st December 2pm – 8pm, 2nd December 9am – 1pm at Christian Church

West of Whittlesey 'WOW' vision 2nd December 1.30 – 5pm – at Christian Church

F174/2023. Date of next meeting –Thursday 21st December 2023

Meeting Closed: 9:15



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Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor
Mayor of Whittlesey

Whittlesey Town Council RECEIPTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
47 Jubilee Wood	17/10/2023		Barclays Reserve Accc	Tree donation tangent	Platinum Trees	Tangent	E	50.00		50.00
48 Jubilee Wood	17/10/2023		Barclays Reserve Accc	Tree donation Randall	Platinum Trees	Karen Randall	E	50.00		50.00
49 Jubilee Wood	17/10/2023		Barclays Reserve Accc	Tree donation Randall	Platinum Trees	Pauline Randall	E	50.00		50.00
50 Commercial Rent	16/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	Monthly Ren	Commercial Rent	Fenland Youth Radio	E	110.00		110.00
51 Commercial Rent	16/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	Monthly Rent	Commercial Rent	Fenland Electrical Services	E	220.00		220.00
52 Commercial Rent	16/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	Monthly Rent	Commercial Rent	ISA-Cam Rent	E	330.00		330.00
53 Office Maintenance	16/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	10454	Trade Recycling	Fenland District Council	E	60.64		60.64
Total								870.64		870.64

Whittlesey Town Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Tot
163 Jubilee Wood	17/10/2023		Barclays Reserve Acco	donation	Platinum Wood	Tangent	E			
164 Phone & Internet	31/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	DD	Phone & Internet	EVAD	S	76.57	15.31	91.
165 External Audit	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	DD	External Audit	PKF Littlejohn	S	630.00	126.00	756.
166 Staff Salaries	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Staff Salaries	Staff Salaries WTC	E	2,150.16		2,150.
167 PAYE & NI	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Tax & NI	HMRC	E	911.57		911.
168 Office Maintenance	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Window Cleaner	H20 Pure - Mark Nicholas	E	30.00		30.
169 Sundry Parish Maintenance	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	keys for noticeboard market pl	The Lock Shop	S	115.00	23.00	138.
170 Office Cleaning	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Office Cleaning	Clare Lynch	E	138.00		138.
171 Office Consumables	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	consumables	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	93.04	18.61	111.
172 Local Highway Improvement	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	LHI Contribution - A605	Cambridgeshire County Coun	E	689.13		689.
173 Subscriptions	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Subscription	NSALG	S	55.00	11.00	66.
174 Stationery	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Stationery	Peterborough Office Supplies	S	39.39	7.88	47.
175 Mayors Allowance	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Mayors Allowance	Kay Mayor	E	450.00		450.
176 Allotments	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Allotment Keys	The Lock Shop	S	370.00	74.00	444.
177 Civic Expenses	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Civic Wreaths	Royal British Legion	S	166.67	33.33	200.
178 Website	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Website SLA	SG Computing	E	140.00		140.
179 Residential Rent / Costs	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Bathroom light flat b	Fenland Electrical Services	S	120.00	24.00	144.
180 Office Cleaning	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Office Cleaning	Clare Lynch	E	166.75		166.
181 Allotments	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Keys and locks	The Lock Shop	S	60.00	12.00	72.
181 Office Maintenance	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Keys and locks	The Lock Shop	S	111.98	22.40	134.
181 Office Maintenance	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Keys and locks	The Lock Shop	S	165.00	33.00	198.
181 Office Maintenance	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Keys and locks	The Lock Shop	S	15.00	3.00	18.
182 Civic Expenses	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Civic Service refreshments	Housdens Caterers	E	400.00		400.
183 Travel Expenses	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Mileage	Kay Mayor	E	93.60		93.
184 Christmas Extravaganza	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Donation	Whittlesey Extravaganza	E	1,000.00		1,000.
185 Travel Expenses	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Travel Expenses	Eamonn Dorling	E	79.98		79.
186 Office Maintenance	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Drain Clearance	Superior Plumbing Services	S	245.00	49.00	294.
187 Office Maintenance	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	NINDR	Fenland District Council	E	60.00		60.
188 Office Electricity	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Office Electric	British Gas Lite	L	135.61	6.78	142.
189 Bank Charges & Interest	26/10/2023		Barclays Current Acco	online	Bank Charges / Interest	Barclays	E	8.50		8.
Total								8,715.95	459.31	9,175.