

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23rd February 2024 at 6.30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

Present: Cllr Laws, Black, Dickinson, Dorling, Mockett, Nawaz, Sennitt-Clough

Officer in Attendance: Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

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

F14/2024. Apologies for Absence

Arman, Boden, Gerstner, Mayor, Turner, Wainwright, Wicks. (all personal)

F15/2024. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda item.

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.

F16/2023. Street Scene Officer Report.

Members received the street scene officer report.

F17/2024. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th January 2024

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

F18/2024 Public Forum

Twelve members of the public were present.

Mrs Frankham – South Green Resident of Coates regarding ongoing issues with raw sewage in gardens, they cannot use toilets, they cannot get any help from Anglian Water who say it is highways, they say it is nothing to do with it. Pumping stations responsibility lies with Anglian Water.

Mrs Goodhall correspondence from 2009 written report on the sewage issue, when Anglian water arrive, they look at the pumping stations, tell them it is working and say there is nothing they can do about it. They can only run one pipe at a time. Been going on since 11th January and it is making people ill. Effluent is floating in the dykes, they cannot have showers and cannot do washing, the water comes back up the drain.

Mrs Windle – Whittlesey Festival has new chair – Jenny Parker and Vice Chair David Bailey. Whittlesey Extravaganza had a highly successful event in December, however many of the committee are standing down, the AGM is 7th March at Peel House. A fashion show is being organised by Corrine Wooding at the Christian Church on 26th March, all proceeds will be going to Sue Ryder in memory of Marjorie Wicks. Tickets are available at a cost of £10.00 from various outlets round the town.

Zoe Drury – who has taken over the lead coordinator role for Holiday at Home in September 2023. I coordinate team of seventeen volunteers.

I would like to request council consider grant/funding opportunity towards the planned Holiday at Home August 2024.

Holiday at Home, Whittlesey was a community initiative started 7 years ago on a very much smaller scale, by volunteers within the church at Queen Street.

Since that time, the scheme has run annually (except during Covid) for three days during the month of August.

The aim of the scheme has been to offer hospitality and social interaction for local elderly people, who may otherwise face loneliness and social isolation.

The scheme offers a short break for those who is unable to holiday away from home.

The scheme offers, friendship, a meal and social interaction for 30+ guests who may have mobility issues, medical needs, sensory needs, disabilities, learning needs or impairment to memory e.g. early dementia. The guests are all resident in Whittlesey, and surrounding areas.

Transport is provided daily for those who need it.

Since its inception, the scheme has grown due to increasing demands and the volunteer support has expanded to include volunteers from Churches Together from the local area and the Local Lions group.

In the past year, we became more aware of the impact of winter on social isolation and trialled a one-day Holiday at Home attended by thirty guests and seventeen volunteers. This was very well evaluated by guests who highly valued the 'company/friendship element' and the 'meal/eating together' and 'getting out of the house'. We believe it met their need during the long winter season.

Holiday at Home has strengthened as an example of a community partnership.

Holiday at Home is ever growing, we have a waiting list now. At its core, it 'values, Hospitality and diversity'.

This may mean meeting their belief systems, dietary needs, mobility needs, needs to be quiet, need for someone to talk to when they want it. When guests are not sure we can accommodate their needs to go on the day trip, we provide creative solutions, with various modes of transport commissioned to meet their needs. Prior to the last scheme, all guests were asked about any needs or support they may require so they could feel assured it would be put in place for them.

We provide an onsite First Aider who is DBS checked and has public liability insurance. We invite people who can lead in more specialist arts and crafts, and who can deliver wellbeing activities, which provide opportunity for therapeutic touch e.g. hand massage, chiropody, nail painting.

This year we hope to include some form of Armchair exercise/yoga.

The costs of the scheme, which includes one local day trip out amount to £3500 for a 3-day holiday scheme providing a 'short break' to thirty older people. Based on thirty guests, this equates to a cost is £117 per guest for 3 days Holiday@ Home

In addition, this year we offered a one-day Winter short break which cost £1060 for thirty guests, equating to £34 per guest for the day.

Thank you for your consideration in funding support towards Food, transportation, crafts and well being activities, entertainment, first aid and towards Hall hire/heating.

Mr Robert Windle – Big Bash 23rd June 2024, the whole week is being classed as Big Bash Week. If anyone has any events, he can promote it on the radio. More details of the Sunday will be given out shortly. He does produce a 'whose who' group booklet so if Cllrs have any details or any new organisations wish to be included, they can email to him.

Robert Boddington - CCC failing to clear drains of weeds, this has had a significant impact on the town of Whittlesey.

Robert Boddington lack of volunteers, he did mention to a group last night to see whether young people could be encouraged to become volunteers.

F19/2024 Agenda items for Discussion.

1. **CCTV SLA** – Cllr Laws confirmed many members have attended the CCTV control room to see for themselves what it offers and how it prevents and protects Whittlesey. All the questions Cllr Laws posed when she attended were answered as well as possible. Cllr Laws proposed the SLA for the next 3 years at a cost of £10740.00. Seconded Cllr Dorling but would request that further signage is installed advising CCTV is in operation in Whittlesey, there was a majority vote in favour, with one abstention.
2. **Whittlesey Literary Festival** – Cllr Sennitt-Clough advised Whittlesey has been the poor relation in terms of delivery across Fenland from the Lead Arts organisation in Fenland (though they have been funded to deliver in Whittlesey). She would like to redress this balance by proposing that a literary festival takes place later this year. This festival, if successful, would in subsequent years serve to help put Fenland on the map, as it were, as a literary powerhouse and promote local playwrights, poets and novelists, with free creative writing workshops for residents. If successful, I would like to extend the festival to other towns in subsequent years. It could be on a rotating basis, but for now she would like to focus on Whittlesey. Cllr Sennitt-Clough has done initial costings and estimate that it will cost £4000. If there is support for this idea, then I will commence discussions with potential funders.
Cllr Mockett in favour but asked for clarification of the 4k funding. This would be to pay creatives via the society of authors and would also include the cost of venues, paying people to host

workshops and other items. Cllr Sennitt-Clough will approach funders, not WTC, these will be various other organisations including the arts council. Members were advised the event will be over a weekend as one day would be too tight. Cllr Laws asked that she be mindful of other dates / events across the other Fenland towns. Cllr Sennitt-Clough proposed the Literary Festival be organised, seconded Cllr Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

2. Junior Councillor – Cllr Black

Aim: To enable the youth of Whittlesey to engage with the Council & in turn with the local community - Junior Councillors, he has messaged SHSCC to ask if some youngsters might be elected to sit on the Whittlesey Town Council, he would like those elected to be able to include youngsters who are home schooled also so that we can draw on a wide group.

Dentistry:

With the current condition of personal dental care in the UK at its lowest for many a decade, educating our younger residents about dental care & how to prevent issues not only looks after their teeth but also takes pressure off an already overwhelmed NHS.

To enable a small group of dentist & hygienist to visit the local schools & to hold a drop in at a central position (possibly Peel House), to give a brief oral inspection for every child within the WTC area. To create a dental record, demonstrate with regard to cleaning & to provide a goody bag containing toothbrush, toothpaste, disclosing tablets, floss, interdental & an instruction leaflet.

I have spoken with a local dentist practice here in Whittlesey who would be interested in helping us with reaching out to the local schools. I know that Cllr Dee Laws has also been liaising with a team of Ukrainian dentists looking to set up practice here in Whittlesey & whilst they are in the process of having their qualifications verified for UK standards, I thought they may like to be involved.

I understand there is grant funding to help us with this & as such, if you can provide any details of how to obtain this & what the guidelines are etc.

Regarding goody bags, I would first approach Cllr Susan Wallwork as she is the portfolio holder for health at FDC or CCC as they have statutory responsibility for prevention – so I would suggest the Public Health Team at the LA, as they might be able to assist.

Westminster visit & Tour:

I would like to make available to those who are interested in being elected to the council, the opportunity to visit Westminster to understand how it works & how it is relevant to each and every one of us.

I understand that Steve Barclay has arranged this in the past & would like to know how we can do this again in the future & how we go about funding & arranging it.

This can be arranged by our office Children's tours are booked directly through the Education Tours Office as they cater to the age of those attending, they would also advise if a travel subsidy would be available. <https://learning.parliament.uk/en/session-workshop/tours-and-workshops/>

I know Northeast Cambridgeshire falls under travel subsidy B - 50% of receipted travel costs, up to a maximum claim of £1,000.

Work Experience & Apprenticeships:

Involving local employers to highlight what they are looking for with regard to future recruitment, giving work experience & apprenticeship programmes to involve our youngsters.

Working with Whittlesey & District Business Community

Need to reach out to all local employers - all sectors.

The apprenticeship and business contacts sound very positive.

CCTV:

On a recent presentation to the Whittlesey Town Council, it was discussed that we could arrange for small groups of local youths can visit the CCTV control room, to understand what it is that they do, what detail they can pick up & to show the benefits of the system to the Town. This enables a young person & their family members to appreciate the safety that they experience living here in our Market Town.

Cllr Sennitt-Clough asked how many Junior Councillors there would be. Cllr Black suggested perhaps 2- 4 from SHS and others from the primary schools. Consideration would need to be given to safeguarding, etc if they were to attend the Full Council meeting. Cllr Sennitt Clough suggested strategizing about how it is going to work, and she would not be happy voting on something until this was fully completed. Cllr Dorling advised we need information several days before the full council so it can be understood and digested. Cllr Nawaz, this is a great idea, however the logistics may be complicated. Members agreed that Cllr Black do carry out further investigation then bring back to the full council for consideration.

3. Coates War Memorial – Cllr Laws emailed Whittlesey Charities with no response, officers at FDC have found paperwork from when WTC was the Whittlesey Urban District Council. The Chapel is excluded, FDC are responsible for the space included the war memorial Land. The Charity are the owners of the soil. Cllr Laws has registered the War Memorial with CCC, it is not in ownership of anyone. She has received confirmation that it is not statutory listed however would be considered to be a non heritage designated asset and no development could go anywhere near it. CCC are mapping heritage sites, this would add further protection to the memorial, and it is in a conversation area.

Cllr Laws requested it be minuted and a letter sent to Mr Stuart Potts for the ongoing maintenance of the memorial and surrounding area to a very high standard for which we are very grateful.

4. Council Chamber Furniture – Cllr Black explained the different layout of the chamber for tonight's meeting would be a two-fourths-week trial. Two new tables would need to be purchased for the Mayor & Clerk. Cllr Nawaz suggested the arrangement with Cllrs sitting in rows like FDC as this would be less confrontational and less personal and we use the furniture we have. Cllr Mockett preferred the current layout and advised he would not like to look at people's heads and wants to see how people are voting. Cllr Black advised members that the new format would allow thirty members in the viewing area. Discussions took place regarding the assorted designs for tables and chairs etc, Cllr Mockett proposed the existing layout be kept this was seconded by Cllr Sennitt-Clough, Cllr Laws proposed the details of the chairs and table be discussed and agreed at F & P, seconded by Cllr Mockett with a unanimous vote in favour.

F20/2024. To receive Councillor & outside body written reports.

There were no outside body reports.

F21/2024. To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 19 February 2024 and receive the minutes from Monday 15th January 2024

Cllr Laws expressed her disappointment that the application for Holy Trinity had been refused. Cllr Mockett suggested no funding should be given to churches as they have large reserves. Cllr Dorling concurred with this comment as did Cllr Nawaz.

The donation requests for CamSar of £340.00 and Poppy Blitz of £1000.00 were ratified following approval at F & P on 19th February 2024.

F22/2024 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st January 2024 – Members received the bank reconciliation
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments. Vouchers 240 – 261 to the value of £9694.25
- To report the year-to-date figures – Members received the figures

F23/2024. To report the draft minutes from the Planning meeting on Monday 19th February 2024 and receive the minutes from Monday 15th January 2024.

Ratified: The draft minutes from Monday 19th February 2024 were reported and the Minutes from Monday 15th January 2024 were approved and signed as a true record.

F24/2024. To report the draft minutes from the Community Projects meeting on Wednesday 8th February 2024 and receive the minutes from 4th October 2023.

Ratified: The draft minutes from 8th February 2024 were reported and the Minutes from the 4th of October, were signed as a true record.

F25/2024. Consultations

There were no consultations.

F26/2024 Information only

There was no information.

F27/2024 Invitations.

- Last Night at the Proms – Saturday 9th March 2024 at 7.30pm, Whittlesey Indoor Bowls Club.
- Whittlesey Extravaganza AGM – Peel House, 7.00pm, all Cllrs welcome. Cllr Mockett and ESC
- Parish & Town Councillor invite to the North Level Drainage Tour – 2 representatives.

F28/2024. Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st March 2024

Cllrs Mockett & Laws offered apologies for this meeting.

Meeting closed: 20.19.

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Cllr Dee Laws
Deputy Mayor
Whittlesey Town Council

Whittlesey Town Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
240 IT	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Office IT	The Computer Man	E	79.99		79.99
241 Remembrance	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Remembrance Band	Peterborough Highland Band	E	400.00		400.00
242 Subscriptions	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Subscription	Rural Services Partnership Lt.	E	36.00		36.00
243 MVAS	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		MVAS	Fenland Electrical Services	S	420.00	84.00	504.00
244 Office Cleaning	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Window Cleaning	H20 Pure - Mark Nicholas	E	30.00		30.00
245 Office Maintenance	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Alarm Maintenance	Business Watch	S	35.00	7.00	42.00
246 IT	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		IT Issues	The Computer Man	E	25.00		25.00
247 Office Maintenance	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Alarm Maintenance	The Computer Man	S	75.00	15.00	90.00
248 Office Maintenance	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Window Cleaning	H20 Pure Cleaning	E	30.00		30.00
249 Civic Expenses	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Mayors Chair	Whittlesey Trophies	E	20.00		20.00
250 Travel Expenses	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Travel Expenses	Sue Piergianni	E	41.75		41.75
251 Travel Expenses	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Travel Expenses	Kay Mayor	E	49.05		49.05
252 Training	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Training	Fenland First Aid	S	80.00	16.00	96.00
253 PAYE & NI	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Tax & NI	HMRC	E	943.67		943.67
254 Pensions	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Pension	Cambd Pension Scheme	E	840.05		840.05
255 Staff Salaries	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Salaries	Sue Piergianni	E	2,290.09		2,290.09
256 Office Cleaning	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Office Cleaning	Clare Lynch	E	258.75		258.75
257 Bank Charges & Interest	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Bank charges	Barclays	E	21.78		21.78
258 NDR	30/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		NDR	Fenland District Council	E	60.00		60.00
259 Office Gas	15/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Office Gas	British Gas Lite	S	593.94	118.79	712.73
260 Office Electricity	15/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Office Electric	British Gas Lite	L	286.07	14.30	300.37
261 Phone & Internet	31/01/2024		Barclays Current Acco		Phone & Internet	EVAD	S	77.52	15.50	93.02
Total								6,693.66	270.59	6,964.25

Whittlesey Town Council RECEIPTS LIST

4 April 2024 (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
70 Aldi Bus Shelter	17/01/2024		Barclays Current Acc		Bus Shelter Contribution	Cambridgeshire County Co	E	20,554.02		20,554.02
71 Commercial Rent	15/01/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Commercial Rent	Fenland Youth Radio	E	110.00		110.00
72 Training	31/01/2024		Barclays Current Acc		Community Talk	Forterra	E	100.00		100.00
73 Remembrance	12/01/2024		Barclays Current Acc	S Barclay Wreath	Wreath Description	Parliament	E	25.00		25.00
74 Residential Rent / Costs	31/01/2024		Barclays Current Acc		Flat A & B Rent	Peterborough city council	E	1,390.04		1,390.04
75 Commercial Rent	31/01/2024		Barclays Current Acc		Commercial Rent	ISA-Cam Rent	E	330.00		330.00
76 Commercial Rent	31/01/2024		Barclays Current Acc		Commercial Rent	Fenland Electrical Services	E	220.00		220.00
77 Bank Charges & Interest	31/01/2024		Barclays Current Acc		Bank Charges / Interest	Barclays	E	2.66		2.66
Total								22,731.72		22,731.72