

# WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 6.30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

**Present:** Cllr Miscandlon, Arman, Bibb, Boden, Dickinson, Gerstner, Laws, Nawaz, Sennitt-Clough, Singh-Gill, Wicks

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

**Recording:** the recording is made as an aide memoire for the Clerk.

## **F71/2025. To Elect the Mayor of the Council for the year until May 2026**

Cllr Alex Miscandlon was nominated by Cllr Laws, seconded Cllr Nawaz, there were no other nominations, Cllr Miscandlon was duly elected as the mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.

## **F72/2025. To sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

Cllr Miscandlon signed the declaration.

## **F73/2025. To Elect the Deputy Mayor of the Council for the year until May 2026.**

Cllr Diana Dickinson was nominated by Cllr Nawaz, seconded Cllr Boden, there were no other nominations, Cllr Dickinson was duly elected as the Deputy Mayor with a unanimous vote in favour.

## **F74/2025. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.**

Dorling, Mockett & Wainwright (Personal)

## **F75/2024. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda items discussed later in the agenda and the Council to decide which items are to be discussed as confidential under agenda item number F92/2025**

Cllr Laws – Portfolio Holder for Planning at Fenland District Council

Confidential Minute from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Fenland Community Radio

## **F76/2025. To Elect a leader for the year until May 2026**

Cllr Jason Mockett was nominated by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Laws, there were no other nominations. Cllr Mockett was duly elected as Leader with a unanimous vote in favour.

## **F77/2025. To Elect a deputy leader for the year until May 2025**

Cllr Chris Boden was nominated by Cllr Nawaz, seconded Cllr Laws, there were no other nominations. Cllr Boden was duly elected as Leader with a unanimous vote in favour.

## **F78/2025. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV update.**

The Clerk was asked to update members on the fly tipping on Long Drove, she reported that forty items of evidence were found and FDC are now moving forward with prosecution, however this will be a lengthy process.

## **F79/2025 – Police Report and figures**

Cllr Gerstner – There has been significant parking on Buttercross and Market Place, and he is having

Cllr Laws offered thanks to the police for the tickets that had been issued, but requested, more on St Mary's Street and Orchard Street.

Cllr Miscandlon will speak with the Sgt and advise that we require more presence in Whittlesey.

**F79/2025. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

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

**F80/2025 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.

Thirteen members of the public were present.

Alan Bessant (SRG) Saxongate Residents group - SRG has written to the council twice with no response. In a November liaison meeting it was noted that there was evidence that dust was not leaving the Johnson's Aggregates Recycling Ltd site at Saxon Pit. The EA, who was at that meeting, have confirmed there is no such evidence. Given the imminent planning meeting to nearly double the production capacity they think this is a key point. Residents have strong concerns about possible chemical contamination, especially as pumping continues into King Dykes Dyke from the pit without a permit (which has been highlighted for 7 years, including by the MP). They also ask why is modelling still being used in the new application and not real-world data from the 2 years+ of operation. The EA refuse to release dust and real-world data from the MCERT monitors for example. Saxongate have noticed that JARL, who say they are industry experts now say they were 42% out in overestimating how much material their HGVs could carry in their 2021 application. The numbers are not adding up.

Peter Baxter – Royal Haskoning 2021 report produced advising sound strategic case for a Whittlesey bypass. March 2023 FDC appointed Mot McDonald for the SOBC and assembled the project board. May 2025 strategic outline business case released. May 2025 FDC also agreed the next steps, but needed 220k to proceed, they are going to explore if the CPCA can assist or look for a third-party investor.

Stephen Hodson – Cabinet meeting Monday at FDC relief road is supported, currently scheme not viable, there is a new government national wealth bank, replacing the UK investment bank, chance for us to apply for a second survey to fund this second phase.

**F81/2025 Agenda items for Discussion.**

**Proposal:** This council will institute a standing agenda item on all full council meetings henceforward to report the outcomes of any liaison meetings concerning potential pollution. The results of all monitoring of all pollution factors will also be reported publicly during this item. – Proposed Cllr Bibb, seconded Cllr Wicks.

Cllr Boden advised as far as the results of monitoring or pollution factors; there is a lot of data and will be more in the future. If we passed this resolution, it would be very onerous for the Clerk. FDC are best placed to compile this data. The monitor at Hallcroft will be put back imminently and the date will be available on a real time basis. The information from the liaison groups is not always available for public consumption due to commercial sensitivity, also they are not obliged to hold these meetings. The government have advised that Whittlesey air quality management area needs to be terminated. Any air quality management area depends on a source of pollution being identified and the source of pollution continues to exist, once the source of pollution ceases to be a source of pollution for more than five years, the air quality management is meant to automatically terminated. We have had more than 10 years since the chimney at Saxon Pit has been producing any pollution, therefore our air quality management area is more that five years over the termination date. The Government have instructed this now be terminated, Cllr Boden is working hard with a member of the public to try and get a new air quality management area produced to replace the current one, the AQMA must have

under different type of EA licence. Cllr Boden is trying to find an alternative way to get the new AQMA. It is discussions about things like this that cannot always be in the public domain. WTC and residents must continue to report any pollution issues. His suggestion is we take this proposal to F & P to discuss how we achieve a greater amount of reporting but more selective to report to F & P, also publish on WTC website.

Cllr Laws confirmed monitor is back in place, and waiting for contractor to make it live.

Cllr Gerstner – New sources have been identified, not just pollution; it is the amenity of the residents living adjacent to the industrial area. It has caused mental stress to residents. We cannot obtain details of who is suffering with respiratory issues, the health service will not release this information. We must continue to report any issues.

AQMA there are certain statutory requirements that must be met to have the new AQMA, and mental health is not one of them.

Cllr Boden – Planning applications are taken in isolation, so we cannot use one against another. CCC passed the application and are primarily responsible for enforcement but are now saying some of the conditions that were passed are not enforceable.

Modify proposal to go to F & P better way of having a monthly agenda item, seconded Cllr Wicks, unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Bibb asked if the data available from FDC but not shared with WTC. The council would be far more transparent. He still thinks this would be an agenda item. Cllr Boden suggested it go to F & P to agree the best way to move forward with this and get a regular item on the agenda. Cllr Bibb agreed with this and approved the modified proposal, seconded Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Boden suggested a link to FDC website whereby the data from the monitor is located.

**Proposal:** That this council, deploring the proposed cuts to rural bus services to the south and east of Whittlesey, work urgently to urge Stagecoach and the CPCA mayor to find a resolution that will maintain a viable public transport service for the affected areas – Cllr Wainwright, seconded Cllr Wicks.

Cllr Boden suggested a revised proposal - Revised proposal from Cllr Boden: That this council deplore the proposed cessations of and reductions to 31/33 bus service and resolved to write to the CPCA Mayor, asking that he work urgently to find a resolution that will seamlessly maintain a viable public transport service from the affected area, and asking that he advises Whittlesey Town Council, prior to the June meeting of Full Council, of his progress in achieving this objective. Seconded Cllr Nawaz unanimous favour. Members discussed this at length and agreed the revised proposal from Cllr Boden with a unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Wicks suggested that the villages councillors have some input in the submission to the CPCA Mayor.

#### **F82/2025. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.**

QEII Platinum Wood project update – Report attached from Cllr Dorling – Cllr Laws advised this is a WTC project and therefore the name should be WTC QEII Platinum Wood Report on Climate Leaders – April 2025 – Report attached from Cllr Dorling

#### **F83/2025. To report the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 12 May 2025**

The draft minutes were reported.

Chamber Use proposal - Proposal chamber use proposal, proposed Cllr Boden, seconded by Cllr Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

Donation Requests – From Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 F & P Committee

Whittlesey Christmas Extravaganza £7500.00  
Whittlesey Sports Association £950.00  
Busfest £600.00  
Armed Forces Day £1000.00  
Henry VIII Used to Hate us £150.00.

Cllr Boden proposed the recommendations from F & P on all the above donations were accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Laws with a unanimous vote in favour.

**F84/2025 To report the financial documents.**

- To report the bank reconciliation to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments. Vouchers 1 -17 to the value of £11298.76. proposed Cllr Boden, Seconded Cllr Arman with a unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the year-to-date figures - The figures were received

**F85/2024 – AGAR (Annual Governance & Accountability Return)**

The RFO must sign and date 'Section 2 – Accounting statements 2024/25 before it is presented to the authority. Proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Arman with a unanimous vote in favour.

- a. Consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 Part 3')
- b. Consider and approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 Part 3')
- c. Ensure the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting at which the approval is given.
- d. Internal Auditor report for information

The Clerk was thanked for her hard work.

**F86/2025. To report the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May and receive the minutes from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Ratified: The minutes from the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April were approved and signed as a true record, seconded Cllr Laws, with a unanimous vote in favour.

**Ratified:** The minutes from 28<sup>th</sup> April were received and the minutes from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May reported.

**F87/2025. Consultations**

There were no consultations.

**F88/2025 Information only.**

There was no information.

**F89/2025 Invitations.**

There were no invitations.

**F90/2025. Date of next meeting – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**F91/2025 – Exclusion of the press & public**

Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, it is resolved that, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of items to be discussed at F92/2025

**F92/2025. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F75/2025**

Confidential Minute from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – The minute was approved.

Commercial office three will be offered on a rolling monthly contract at a rate of £110.00 per month for a period of 6 months. Proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Bibb with a unanimous vote in favour.

Meeting Closed: 20:55

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Cllr Alex Miscandlon  
Mayor of Whittlesey

## Whittlesey Town Council PAYMENTS LIST

Account Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
17 Phone & Internet	08/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Phone & Internet	Meracki Communications L	S	49.69	9.94	59.63
8 Staff Salaries	10/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Salaries	Salaries SPC	E	2,401.87		2,401.87
9 PAYE & NI	10/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Tax & NI	HMRC	E	1,027.92		1,027.92
4 Office Gas	10/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Office Gas	British Gas Lite	S	373.57	74.71	448.28
5 Office Electricity	10/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Office Electric	British Gas Lite	S	69.36	13.87	83.23
6 Office Cleaning	10/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Office Cleaning	CDS Cleaning & Domestic	E	301.87		301.87
7 Stationery	10/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Stationery	Peterborough Office Suppli	S	68.61	13.72	82.33
10 Office Maintenance	10/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Expenses	Sue Pierglanni	E	97.20		97.20
12 Residential Rent / Costs	10/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Flat Communal Area Cleaning	CDS Cleaning & Domestic	E	145.00		145.00
11 Music Festivals	10/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Expenses	Sue Pierglanni	E	63.00		63.00
2 Phone & Internet	15/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Phone System Hire	Shire Leasing PLC	S	62.23	12.45	74.68
3 Bank Charges & Interest	15/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Bank Charges / Interest	Barclays	E	8.50		8.50
1 NDR	15/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		NDR	Fenland District Council	E	180.00		180.00
14 Payroll Admin	30/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Payroll Costs	Hills Chartered Certified Ac	S	320.00	64.00	384.00
16 Pensions	30/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Pension Contribution	Cambis Pension Scheme	E	869.06		869.06
13 Office Maintenance	30/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		VE Day Flag	Hampshire Flag Company L	S	60.16	12.03	72.19
15 Summer Festival	30/04/2025		Barclays Current Acc		Summer Festival Grant	Whittlesey Festival	E	5,000.00		5,000.00
<b>Total</b>								<b>11,098.04</b>	<b>200.72</b>	<b>11,298.76</b>