

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16th October 2025 at 6:30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

Present: Cllr Miscandlon (Chair), Bibb, Boden, Dickinson, Dorling, Laws, Mockett, Wainwright, Wicks.

Officer in Attendance: Angelika Piotrowicz (Town Clerk And Responsible Financial Officer.)

Recording: A recording is made as an aide memoir for the minutes.

F147/2025. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the absence.

Cllr Arman, Gerstner, Nawaz and Singh- Personal reason.

F148/2025. 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 F164/2025

- This item was not discussed.
- Cllr Laws Planning portfolio for FDC.

F149/2025

Social Enterprise East Of England- A presentation was given by Deb Lee. This business is for the benefit of society, with assets locked for that purpose and are non- extractive. Their aims is to grow the social economy and shape vibrant, inclusive economy and communities. They have received funding from the combined authority for a program called Vision, which includes resources, training, mentoring and networking.

Community wealth building which is made up of five pillars.

- Stimulating growth of social enterprise and community businesses.
- Optimizing the use of local assets
- Promoting fair employment practices and living wages
- Engaging larger organization through social value and procurement

Their proposal for Whittlesey is that they are interested in working with the Town Council to explore community wealth building. Their aim is to empower the community, build social capital, connect people, and inspire grassroots development. This involves utilizing local resources, supporting community assets, and keep public spending local.

They have a launch event: November 27th October at the Library from 10-12PM.

F150/2025. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV update

No street scene officer reports or CC report update was received from Fenland District Council. Member services said CCTV is not giving out reports.

F151/2025 Police Report and figures

(4 police present) **Police Sargeant** Peter Moulton, **Constable** Callum McGarvie, **Constable** Gary Stabler and **PCSO** Dan Mezzatesta

Sargeant Pete Moulton: A few changes are being considered and Sargeant Moulton will advise Whittlesey Town Council Members before being implemented.

Sargeant Moulton confirmed Fenland Market Towns with the Mayors will continue and a meeting date will be arranged.

Illegal parking is an ongoing issue and falls under anti social vehicle use. As members are aware this is not the highest priority and officers are called away to address higher category of crimes. Opportunities to manage parking is limited but when resources are available illegal parking will be addressed.

Cllr Laws said that monthly meetings are very important. Can confirm that councillors can still use the private email address.

Sargeant Moulton will look into the communication available to Whittlesey Town Councillors.

F152/2025. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council on Thursday 25th September 2025.

Cllr Miscandlon (Chairman) The minutes were agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

F153/2025Public 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.

16 Present

Peter Baxter: 2017 ex – National Westminster bank building vacated. In 2018 the Whittlesey Neighbourhood plan incorporated the Conservation Area and leading to a Management Plan that was published. Ex- National Westminster Bank located on the corner of Market Street and Queen Street as a building at risk’.

Mr Baxter quoted from a previous statement issued by Cllr Laws “important to review these areas to ensure that they are properly looked after and that significant elements are recognised and preserved correctly”.

Should understand what ramification of ‘at risk’ meant. Was law (listed building law) Law sections 47 and 48 not considered?

Chris Terrey: Land between St Andrews & 62 church St – noted that this is owned by Fenland District Council, lies within the Whittlesey Conservation area and is now identified as AREA 3 in the Whittlesey Green Spaces. Concerns were raised regarding the future ownership and

protection of the site should Fenland District Council be dissolved under proposed Local Government Reorganisation.

Provided historical context- The land was previously threatened with development in the 1970's-80's.

It was noted that although the area is maintained by Fenland, public access remains restricted, with the gate kept locked.

Linda Day: Outside body reports always listed on the agenda however only one report has ever been made. Local Government Association states key function to feedback issues. All meetings attended by councillors should be reported in the minutes. An example given - Kings Dyke bus shelter and A605 overhanging trees.

Robert Windle: Radio Fenland is more than a radio station as we have over a thousand members on our Facebook group. We try and promote good stories such as Community Police news, Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Wood, new businesses opening visited with the Mayor in Whittlesey

As volunteers we do not expect payment as this is a community activity and we are considered to be an asset to the town. For information with others its potentially costing around £300 a month.

We recently had a special guest David Proud the actor and a ground breaking interview with representatives of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Last night we had 16 cubs from Market Deeping in the Chamber to learn about broadcasting and interview role plays.

I know the leader Councillor Jason Mockett and Councillor Dorling when speaking some months ago at another function said quote you are an asset to the town and I'm sure we would like to help you as a radio station because we are not for profit.

Cheryl Wright: resident of Whittlesey North West Ward. The upcoming election I am disappointed the local Conservatives have put out literature advising or asking residents to vote tactically rather than on merit as a candidate. There's been literature posted out advising that basically two candidates seem to have been discounted by the majority of councillors as they are non entities.

As far as their concerned, they don't stand a chance in the election and they're advising people to vote tactically to stop the Reform UK candidate obtaining a seat on Whittlesey Town Council and Fenland District Council.

Stephen Hodson: several times recommend Whittlesey Town Council to contact UK Infrastructure Bank regarding funding for the Southern Relief Road. But as I know Councillors haven't contacted them I was encouraged to contact them myself. I wrote to Dan Mansfield who was a transport coordinator and received an immediate response who confirmed that schemes for local authorities could be obtained up to £10 million is available. Another organisation for Whittlesey Town Council to contact is the National Infrastructure Service Transportation Authority set up last year which might be helpful if Councillors involved would contact these organisations.

Patrick Nightingale: Can Whittlesey Town Council apply pressure to bear on Cambridgeshire Highways Agency owing to the dangerous conditions of our Fenland Roads in particular B1040. Recently it was reported a car left the road along the B1040 and I consider this will not be the first or last accident that will occur and this will be down to the road surfaces.

Councillor Boden requested standing orders to be suspended

Councillor Boden clarified It's not Highways Agency, its Cambridgeshire County Council Highways department. The problem is a significant amount of money over the last four and a half years has been systematically shifted from the general repairs in Fenland to repairs taken place in Cambridge City and just around Cambridge City. Its an absolute disgrace.

But I mustn't be too political at the moment because there's an election taken place. But your absolutely right about the state of the roads. We all know that what the state of the roads are like and it's actually a result of a deliberate movement of funds away from Fenland.

Standing orders resumed

Cllr Dorling: departing councillor 'clowns with crayons'. Too often meetings led like a muppet show. Many times residents come with researched reports and are frequently met with silence. Discourteous. Erodes public trust. When feedback ignored transparency suffers. Every speaker should receive a written response within 5 days. Demonstrate engagement.

Recently, a departing Councillor was quoted in newspapers and on social media as saying that WTC is run by "clowns with crayons."

While I would never choose such words myself, I understand the frustration behind them. Too often, our public meetings have resembled a Muppet Show — where reasoned and sincere voices from the gallery are dismissed or ignored, and critical issues raised by our community fail to receive the attention they deserve. (Statlor & Wordorf)

Time and again, residents have come before this Council with carefully researched and passionately delivered presentations. These individuals take the time to engage, to contribute, and to strengthen our decision-making — yet they are frequently met with silence. This is not simply discourteous. It signals a closed mindset, stifles learning, and erodes the public's trust in us as their elected representatives.

Our community chose us to listen, respond, and act on their behalf. While it is our duty to scrutinise and sometimes challenge the suggestions we receive, it is equally our duty to acknowledge them — openly, respectfully, and transparently. When feedback is ignored, transparency suffers, and with it, the credibility of this Council.

Therefore, I propose that, with immediate effect:

Every speaker in the Public Forum should receive a written response within five working days of their presentation.

Copies of those responses should be circulated to all Councillors.

This simple measure would demonstrate courtesy, accountability, and genuine engagement — values we claim to uphold but too rarely show in practice.

[public applause]

F154/2025 Agenda items for Discussion.

Proposal: Proposal that Whittlesey Town Council define how green spaces and other assets that currently belong to Fenland District Council are integrated into Whittlesey Town Council so that obligations of ownership can be planned in the future. Especially (but limited to) the transfer of Platinum Wood. – ED

Its an item that I brought up on the 20th of March 2025 where I asked the simple question, is it possible that Fenland District Council could be dissolved within the next three years. What happens to the assets, liabilities and obligations? I want to receive a reply to this question in writing.

Councillor Boden- the fact is its not actually for Whittlesey Town Council to plan this its for Fenland District Council to plan. And I can promise members a lot of work is going on behind the scenes, but we are waiting to see exactly what is going to happen, if anything is going to happen with Local Government Reform.

There are effectively two phases in Local Government Reform at the moment across the country. The first phase is split in two.

The first part of the first phase is Surrey County Council.

The second part includes Counties like Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Others.

Theres a second phase which included Fenland.

And on our timetable, the schedule is something like Government tells us what their plans are in May or June next year, with a view to elections to a shadow authority the following May, with a transition from the old system to the new system of the first of April 2028.

That the timetable we have been given and it's a tight timetable. But the timetable is even tighter for those Councils during the first phase and Surrey is the first part of the first phase.

The government was meant to announce its plans for Surrey at the beginning of September or the end of August, they failed to do so.

They are now saying they hope to do so before the end of October 2025.

And the time scale is getting so tight now, and there is a considerable -possibility that we will see that Local Councils will seek judicial review on the decision which are made by government or the preferences which are indicated by government.

We don't actually know if Local Government Reform is going to go ahead at all and if it does, what the timetable will be.

I am working on the assumption that the government is still going to keep to the timetable that its set for us. I may be wrong.

They are those who say that government haven't got a chance of doing it, but I've got to work to the assumption that is going to happen.

As such, it is important that once we know that it is going ahead, that we have a strategy in place, not merely for Whittlesey, but for the whole of Fenland, to ensure that assets which belong to the people of Fenland through Fenland District Council, that those assets don't end up being swallowed up by a larger organization, quite possibly controlled effectively by Peterborough City, and then they just sell off the assets in order to pay for things primarily in Peterborough

Councillor Boden mentioned that he is worried about all the assets that are in Whittlesey. There is a plan in place which will be announced at the appropriate time.

Councillor Laws said it would be advisable to put an application in to Fenland District Council to say about the Jubilee Wood as that should officially be registered to Fenland District Council.

Councillor Bibb mentions that it is imperative for us to give the local flavour because no single person in this room understands the particular situation of all the different spaces that we'd like to protect.

Councillor Mockett states that we need an asset register.

Councillor Mockett also mentions about varies number of emails that have been received regarding the gate being locked at the park near the Letter B. As this is a public area.

Councillor Laws says the reason why it is locked is to prevent illegal encampments.

Councillor Boden will take this action forward and report back in the next full council meeting.

F155/2025. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

- **Councillor Mockett** handed a copy of outside body report.
- **Councillor Boden** objects to these minutes that were handed out due to at the meeting Johnson's Aggregate did not receive any complaints regarding dust.

F156/2025. To report the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 13th October 2025

F157/2025 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to September 2025.
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments.
- To report the year-to-date figures

Councillor Boden took over as temporary financial officer until the new Town Clerk would take over in 3 working days after she started.

Councillor Boden will go through with the Town Clerk of all the transactions to go onto the scribe system for July, August and September so that training is provided with guidance.

October will also be done together, then once this is finished hopefully the new Clerk will do most of it by herself. But she will always have guidance from other councillors.

As a result the bank reconciliations first of all were produced to 30th September 2025. They are not produced on scribe because we haven't yet got all the VAT invoices to go on to scribe. We were eight short as of the last Finance and Policy Meeting. We are now three short.

So within the next period of time, we hope to get those remaining three items as well and then put them all on the scribe system.

Bank reconciliations have been circulated at the Finance and Policy meeting, there are the total amount of money that we held in different forms on 30th of September 2025 was just short of 188,000. That is a relevant figure because 30th September and 31st March each year

are the low points in our cash position. This will allow us to have liquidity for any emergencies to be dealt with.

There are no year-to-year figures until we have the items put on deck. They will be produced in the next meeting.

The payment list has been created not on scribe, and they have been circulated and had been in the Finance and Policy meeting. 66 payments which are shown as P1 to P66 and it was agreed by Finance and Policy to recommend these for approval, subject to three of them needing further explanation and further report back to Finance and Policy. One of them appears to be in the state where we appear to have paid one invoice for £100 twice and we will get to the bottom of this. And three others were direct debits which we currently can't explain for the two out of three.

A conditional approval was made for these minutes to be signed, seconded by Councillor Wicks

Councillor Boden- There was a proposal that was brought to Finance and Policy for a new cleaning contract which was recommended for full council. This is for a permanent cleaning contract and they would operate Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for two hours a day. Councillor Mockett and Laws would organise this with a view of coming back to full council in November for the contract to be awarded with the idea of a start date 1st December.

Seconded for approval by Councillor Dickinson

Diagram and further technical information regarding the improvement of our hot water energy storage system.

Seconded for approval by Councillor Dorling

Bicycle rack

Seconded for approval by Councillor Laws

Proposal Christmas extravaganza donation was approved.

Seconded for approval by Councillor Laws

F158/2025. To report the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 13th October 2025.

Minutes signed by Councillor Miscandlon (Chair)

F159/2025. To report the minutes from Community Projects meeting on Monday 8th September 2025.

No minutes were signed.

F160/2025. Consultations

Fens Reservoir Consultation- Online presentation.

Councillor Miscandlon shows interest with being a middle level commissioner.

All details to be posted on Whittlesey Town Council Website.

Anglian Water are doing a presentation in Whittlesey.- Email to be sent to Councillor Laws from Councillor Dorling so this can be posted on the Whittlesey Town Council Website.

F161/2025 Information only.

Update on Manor Leisure Centre- CB

The day before the consultation was meant to take place, before the Full Council Meeting, Fenland District Council pulled away with no explanation and no information given to anyone in Whittlesey. This Consultation was suspended because of the by election which is taking place next week and it is a matter for the returning officer to decide whether he believes an item would be potentially politically prejudicial and he made the decision.. That means that no consultation can even be announced until after 23rd October 2025.

We have to have the report from the cabinet by the 9th of November, for which it means the papers need to be published by the 2nd November

Decisions have already been made behind the scenes and we know that they are going through the process of having a consultation.

Councillor Boden is looking for some significant change to occur from what is currently being suggested. So this subject can only come out by the 23rd October. Which this will be a real public consultation and ultimately the choices will be made by Fenland Councillors not officers.

Councillor Miscandlon advised to listen to the consultation and to have your say.

Councillor Boden said that there will be various social media posts regarding this.

Councillor Laws wanted to add that she has emailed the portfolio holder and cabinet members, we have had a message back he would do his utmost to spread the word widely and have asked that possibly the manor leisure centre will be available from 4:30pm so it gives people and opportunity after work to see the presentation and also make themselves available on the marketplace on Friday.

Update on A605 Kings Dyke Bridge- CB

We have persuaded Cambridge County Council to communicate effectively with the public and we have had communication failures over the course of the last 18 months, as it was during that time that we got an announcement from Cambridgeshire County Council that they were going to institute one way working on the bridge but for just over a week. Which was from the effect of 2024 during the summer time.

The concerns have been made clear that hoping for a two way working would be opened again as soon as it reasonably can due to now being in October and the possibility that at any time we may have flooding events, which means that the closure of North Bank or even worse could close the B1040.

And if that were to happen again with the bridge working at such minimal capacity, this would cause chaos with the traffic. What I have been asking for many months now is for a scheme to be put in place to try minimize the disruption.

I have asked for consideration be given in those circumstances to removing the barriers and to reinstating even for a temporary basis for a two way movement of traffic. As there is no safety reason to continue.

The officers have got further and they are now seeking professional engineering advice about how soon the two way temporary lights would be removed regardless of the flooding issues, as the vast majority of work has now been done, however there is still some work to be completed. More earth nails to be inserted. There is also some drainage work to be done and shotcreting work to be done. Once the structurally relevant items have been completed, I can see no logical reason why the temporary traffic lights couldn't be removed. And officer have been consulting on that. However no results of that have been received.

Councillor Fisher has been helping on the technical side to do with what happens afterwards. We don't want Jones Brothers just to walk away from this at the earliest opportunity, we don't believe that Councillor Fisher has been getting the technical side on this. March 2026 would not be the right time to terminate, Jones Brothers should be absolved of any further responsibility. This continues to be pushed by Councillor Fisher.

Two reports a week are being provided from County Council.

Thorney Running Club- ED

Thorney running club has adapted to the lower lights levels, they have high visibility, with flashing lights which enable them to see their way around whilst running, with the poor street lights. Showing a positive way.

The group has put together a plan to overcome the negative outcome of the lightning.

Councillor Boden mentioned that this is highly credible but also an indication of what we as ordinary residents will need to do also. We will not be going to have these streetlights put back to the previous level of illumination, at least not until local government reorganization.

F162/2025 Invitations.

27th November 2025 at the library- Launch event.

F163/2025. Date of next meeting – Thursday 13th November 2025

F164/2025– 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 F148/2025 for Peel House Flats.

:- This Item was not discussed

F165/2025. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item

:- No agenda item was discussed.

**Councillor Miscandlon
Chair
Full Council**