

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL -Community Projects

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 6.00pm at Peel House, 8
Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chair), Bibb, Branton, Laws and Dorling (Substituting)

Officer in attendance: Angelika Piotrowicz- Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

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

CP51/2026. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the absence.

Councillor Arman- work

Councillor Gerstner- holiday

CP52/2026. 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.

Councillor Laws- Portfolio holder for planning at FDC.

CP53/2026. To confirm and sign the minutes from the Community Projects Committee held on Monday 2nd February 2026.

- Councillor Laws proposed the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2026, seconded by Councillor Bibb.
- Councillor Wainwright signed the minutes as a true record.

CP54/2026 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.

Joe Jennings- Representing Whittlesey Food Bank, working there for 11 years, taking chair next week. Mr Jennings is seeking support for accommodation to run the food bank. We don't have a council who is trying to support us to get accommodation. The food bank is there to help people who get far less money than they deserve from the government.

- Suspend standing orders- cancelled.

Julie Windle- Echoed Mr Jennings statements. Positive news from the County Council regarding Scaldgate. Possible option for Clarion to buy and renovate Scaldgate for multiple groups to rent.

- Suspend standing orders, so that Councillor Laws can answer some queries.

Councillor Laws- Conversations have been happening behind the scenes regarding the food bank. Difficulty for departments outside Whittlesey understand the need for two food outlets. Scaldgate is the main focus for accommodation.

- Standing orders resumed.

Councillor Miscandlon- Asked a question at Full Council and received a positive reply.

BW

Chris Terrey- Chamber audio system. Four main reasons for the problem: room acoustics, layout, councillors turning away from the public, and some councillor not projecting their voices. Installation of an audio system would help the public hear the proceedings.

1. **Robert Windle-** suggestions for room layout to improve audibility. Clarification that Fenland Community Radio is not interested in moving to Scaldgate. Mr Windle spoke about the food pantry. Also spoke about the duck race needing a proper launch with a photo session with the mayor. Inquired about whether the current audio supplier for the Remembrance Service has been consulted about improving their service. And expressed interest in having a team from Germany for the Walldürn Cultural Links for the event in the summer.

CP55/2026 Agenda Items for discussion.

2. Events

o Duck Race

- Duck race tickets have arrived, tickets will be distributed to local shops. Four selling points: The Little Tea Room, Dawson's, Coles Barbers, Antiques. They will receive 10 books each.
- Councillors take five books each to sell, unsold books usually are sold on the day.
- St John's ambulance wants a gazebo, Robert Windle will provide this.
- Fire Service need to be contacted.

o Civic Service

- Councillor Laws mentioned that there has been some difficulty making contact with Sadie at Childers regarding catering.
- Mel from The Little Tea Room will provide the buffet, cups, saucers, and a water urn.
- Paper plates will be used for easier cleanup.
- Arrangements for the service need to be made.
- A seating plan will be created, and the clerk will be taken to the church to understand the layout.
- The readers have been confirmed.
- The collection money is normally split 50/50 between the council and the church.

o Mayor's Charity Dinner Dance

- Venue and the caterers have been booked.
- Invitations have been sent out with menus and wine list.
- Letters are going out for raffle prizes.
- Toastmaster and band is booked.
- Chair covers and bows come from the bowling club. The clerk needs the bowling club's number to order them.
- Lucy's flowers have been booked. Councillor Miscandlon needs to see Lucy to choose the flowers.
- Volunteers will be needed on the day to help set up in the morning.
- 5 different colours of raffle books need to be ordered.

o Remembrance Service

- St Andrews Hall, Highland band, and St Johns Ambulance is booked.
- An email needs to be sent out to request the Deputy Lieutenant for the parade.
- Need to find out if Steve Barclay is attending this year.
- See if Paul Bristow will attend.

BEW

3. Music on the Square

- All bands are booked, with the DJ in between.
- Waiting for confirmation on the trailer from Wayne.
- A premises license has been applied for, covering midday to 10pm Saturday and Sunday.- Blue notices are on the market square.
- The police have responded with suggestions for voluntary conditions, including a risk assessment.
 - The suggestions are subject to a risk assessment.
 - The risk assessment will determine if qualified bouncers are needed or if the normal six marshals will suffice.
- There were 3 choices for ice-cream vans. Carry on and use Frank's Ices for all 3 music events.

4. Volunteering Drive

- Whittlesey Volunteer fair is scheduled to take place for Saturday 14th March 2026 from 10.00am until 1.00pm. There have been 11 organizations who have signed up.
- Sarah Hall and Marija Lysak will engage with major employers to discuss VTO initiatives.
- Flyers will be distributed.
- It was agreed that the council will pay for the printing to be done if costs are required.

5. The Future of WEFA

- Social Enterprise East of England are getting involved.
- There is a possibility that Scaldgate Club might be purchasable.
- A session will be held in the library on 26th March 2026.
- This item will remain on the agenda until things are resolved.

6. Yellow Lines PFLHi

- The matter went before Full Council
- The Council is in the process of getting designs and costings from Cambridgeshire County Council.

7. Chamber Audio System

- Chris Terrey pinpointed four critical barriers that hinder the ability of Whittlesey Town Council
 1. Inadequate acoustics.
 2. Inefficient layout.
 3. Undirectional speaking.
 4. Inadequate voice projection.
- Councillor Dorling circulated a document that provides seven things to look at.
 - 1- Microphones
 - 2- Amplification systems
 - 3- Sound reinforcement
 - 4- Hearing assistance solutions
 - 5- Induction loop control system
 - 6- Training and support
 - 7- Recording capabilities
- The proposal is that the Property Working Group research solutions with quotations for the Projects Committee.
- Concerns were raised about moving microphones and fixed wiring.
- A suggestion was made to try to have the mayor sit at the end of the table with his back to the public.
- A suggestion was made to use the corners for seating.

BUO

- It was suggested to turn the tables sideways.
- It was suggested to use a roving mic.
- The system Fenland uses is radio mics that go to the central unit.
- This matter will be referred to the Property Working Group.

8. Walldürn Cultural Links

- Contact has been made with all the primary schools.
- A suggestion was made to use Zoom to forge links.
- The matter will eventually go to Full Council.

9. Seasonal planting – hanging baskets, standalone planters for Whittlesey Town Centre & the Villages

- This is the last year of the seasonal planting contract.
- This agenda item is to discuss whether to look at hanging baskets just in the Town Centre or ask local businesses to contribute.
- Sustainable planters were discussed.
- The £1,400 for annual plants is supportable, but the cost of watering is not.
- The solution would be: To reduce the number of baskets watered, seek businesses for support, or fundraise.

Allotments were also discussed.

- Invoices for the new season (starting in April) need to be sent out soon.
- The current charge is £47 per year for a full allotment and £27.50 for a half allotment, plus annual water charge. This rate has been in place since at least 2018.
- Due to a water leak that wasn't addressed promptly the water bill was over £3,000.
- It is proposed to restrict the water charge to £10 this year, with the Town Council absorbing £2,600.
- Propose increasing the annual allotment rental to £50 for a full allotment and £25 for half allotment.

CP56/2026. Date of next meeting- Monday 2nd March 2026 at 6.00pm.

CP57/2026– 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.

Meeting Closet at 7.30pm.

 30/03/2026
Barry Wainright

Chairman

Community Projects