

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL- Full Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23rd July 2026 at 6:30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

Present: Councillors Miscandlon (Chair), Bibb, Boden, Branton, Dickinson(arrived at 6.36pm), Gerstner, Laws, Nawaz, Wainwright and Wicks.

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

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

F311/2026. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the absence.

Councillor Mockett- Work

Councillor Singh- Holiday

Councillor Arman has resigned from the Council.

F312/2026. 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 and the Council to decide which items are to be discussed as confidential.

Councillor Laws- Portfolio holder for planning at Fenland District Council.

Councillor Gerstner- Anything relating to planning.

Councillor Boden- Councillor Boden stated that it would be inappropriate to speak or vote on the item concerning transactions or potential transactions between Fenland District Council and Whittlesey Town Council.

- **It was decided that the Copier Agreement will be discussed under a confidential session- it was agreed unanimously.**

F313/2026. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV update

- No Street Scene Report
- CCTV Report- Circulated via email.
- No Street Scene Officer's Report was provided for the second consecutive month.
- CCTV was sent via email. Councillors noted the update.

F314/2026 Police Report and figures

- No Police Report

PCSO's have issued a number of tickets in Whittlesey, including for a vehicle parked on the pavement on a double yellow line outside the library.

Councillor Nawaz has circulated a document for members of the council and members of the public.

F315/2026. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council on Thursday 18th June 2026.

F316/2026. 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.

Steven Hodson raised concerns regarding the NatWest building, noting that the deadline set by the court for the owner had expired.

- **Councillor Miscandlon suspended standing orders, so that Councillor Laws can answer.**

It was noted that the period granted by the Court for the owner of the NatWest building to undertake remedial works will expire on the 1st of August.

The works undertaken to date, including removal of satellite dishes and cabling, were considered insufficient by officers.

It was confirmed that enforcement action remains ongoing and that the matter is progressing through the legal process.

- **Standing orders resumed.**

Clive Vaughan: Concerns were raised that the Southern Relief Road Committee had only met once during the year, primarily to elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

There were raised outstanding questions regarding the proposed route, access points, construction methods, and potential funding.

- **Councillor Miscandlon suspended standing orders, so that Councillor Boden can raise some points regarding the Southern Relief Road.**
- **Standing orders were resumed.**

Robert Bonnington: Second month with no street scene report.

Rober Windle: Concerns were raised regarding the general cleanliness of the town, including significant number of cigarette butts in the gutters, grass and debris within the drainage channels, and the condition of the High Street Bollards, which were noted to be rusty and in need of maintenance. It was also questioned the frequency of the street cleaning and street scene services.

Concerns were also raised regarding reports of ducks being injured or killed by individuals using catapults and ball bearings at the Bower. Residents were encouraged to remain vigilant and report any incidents to the police.

Mr Windle sadness at the departure of Councillor Arman and thanked him for his contribution to Council events and for brining younger representation to the Council.

F317/2026. Agenda items for Discussion.

1. Debit Card Update

The RFO was requested to complete the necessary application for a business debit card. Councillor Dorling offered assistance with the application.

The Council agreed that the debit card should be obtained as soon as practicable.

Councillor Boden proposed that a Business Debit Card should have a limit of £1,000, seconded by Councillor Laws, unanimously agreed.

2. To discuss the transfer of FDC-owned and shared ownership assets to Whittlesey Town Council- ED

Councillor Dorling proposed that Whittlesey Town Council urgently develop a strategy for the transfer of green spaces and other assets currently owned or jointly owned by Fenland District Council into Whittlesey Town Council ownership.

The importance of establishing clear ownership arrangements was discussed, particularly the valued community assets including Platinum Wood.

The initial matter was raised in March 2025 but no clear timescale had subsequently been provided. Concerns were expressed that continued delay could leave the community vulnerable and that there had been limited tangible progress.

The relevant Local Government Reorganisation finance guidance concerning community asset transfers was considered, including the need for an appropriate policy, early engagement and agreement between relevant authorities.

Members discussed the possibility of engaging with the relevant programme team and future shadow authority to ensure that assets are considered part of any transfer arrangements.

Councillor Boden declared that he would not speak or vote on the matter, stating that he did not consider it appropriate for him to do so at this stage.

Members discussed the impact of the proposed unitary authority arrangements on the transfer of assets.

It was noted that there is a limited timeframe for the preparation of the local plan before the new unitary authority arrangements take effect. Open spaces identified within Whittlesey's Neighbourhood Plan have been accounted for within the emerging local plan, providing some protection.

Members noted that there was currently no shadow authority or shadow councillors in place, with elections not anticipated until May 2027. Consequently no shadow authority with which to formally negotiate asset transfers.

The decision regarding unitary authority pairing had been deferred and was potentially expected in October, although further delay could not be ruled out.

Members agreed assets jointly owned by Fenland District Council and Whittlesey Town Council, together with FDC-owned assets that may be appropriate for transfer, should continue to be identified and recorded.

The current position was described as a stalemate due to the absence of the shadow authority with which formal discussion could take place

F318/2026. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

- None

F319/2026. To report the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 20th July 2026.

Members noted that Council policies would be reviewed systematically over the following 12 months starting in September.

The proposed schedule included:

September: Financial Regulations, GDPR and Freedom of Information.

October: Grant Applications Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

Members noted that written agreements were now in place with all commercial tenants within the Council building.

Grant Application: Playground Proms

- **Councillor Boden brought this application forward to be declined, seconded by Councillor Wicks with one abstention.**

F320/2026 To report the financial documents.

- No financial documentation to present.

F321/2026. To report the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 20th July 2026.

- Nothing to feed back.

F322/2026. To report the minutes from Community Projects meeting on Monday 6th July 2026.

Councillor Wainwright has two items to bring forward from Community Projects Committee.

1. Councillor Wainwright recommended expenditure of approximately £150 on materials to repair the remaining picnic benches at the Manor Centre. This was seconded by Councillor Bibb, unanimously agreed.
2. Councillor Wainwright recommended to refuse purchase of a chrome cup for the new allotment holders, seconded by Councillor Laws, unanimously agreed.

Action: A correction to the Community Projects minutes regarding refusal of the new allotment holder cup.

F323/2026. Consultations

- No Consultations

F324/2026. Information only

- No other information

F325/2026 Invitations.

- No invitations

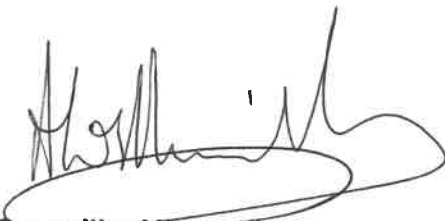
F326/2026. Date of next meeting – Thursday 24th September 2026 at 6.30pm.

F327/2026– 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 **F312/2026**

- Copier Agreement
- **This was discussed under confidential session, confidential minutes will be provided.**

Meeting closed at 8.23pm.



Councillor Miscandlon
Chairman
Full Council

