

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL- Full Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2026 at 6:30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

Present: Councillors Miscandlon (Chair), Boden, Branton, Dickinson, Dorling, Laws, Singh Jolley, 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.

F328/2026. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the absence.

Councillor Bibb- Personal
Councillor Gerstner- Holiday
Councillor Mockett- Work
Councillor Nawaz- Personal

F329/2026. Lattersey Ward By Election.

Councillor Miscandlon warmly welcomed Councillor Rita Jolley back to the council chamber.

F330/2026. 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: Planning portfolio holder at Fenland District Council.

Councillor Miscandlon declared personal interests in the following:

1. The rights of way survey, which is located two hundred yards from their residential property.
2. The proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A605.

F331/2026. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV update

- The monthly Street Scene Officer's report was received and reviewed as part of the council pack.

Cllr Wainwright: raised concerns regarding lack of enforcement action, noting that the report stated no enforcement notices were served during the reporting period.

Cllr Laws: clarified that enforcement proceedings regarding Grade II-listed buildings on the Market Place are currently in progress.

Action:

- The Clerk is directed to contact Fenland District Council to request an official explanation as to why no formal enforcement notices were served.
- No CCTV report was presented for this month's meeting.

Action:

- The Clerk was instructed to send an email to Aarron Locks requesting an immediate update report regarding local CCTV operations.

F332/2026 Police Report and figures

- The quarterly police report was not due during this session.
- Mayor's meetings have not been held despite multiple requests submitted to the local Police Sergeant.

Action:

- The Clerk will draft and send an official email from Whittlesey Town Council formally requesting the resurrection of these liaison meetings.

F333/2026. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council on Thursday 23rd July 2026.

Councillor Miscandlon signed the minutes as a true and correct record.

F334/2026. 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.

19 members of the public present.

1. **Cllr Fisher:** Raised a formal concern regarding the non-attendance of nomination County and District Councillors at the three bodies.
- Metal Recycling Liaison Group, The Southern Buttress Liaison Group, and The Johnson's Aggregates.

It was noted that Councillor Bibb was the only one who attended the meeting on the 23rd of September 2026.

Cllr Fisher asked the following question:

- What arrangements are being put in place to ensure that when nominated councillors cannot attend, appropriate substitutes are available?
2. **Clive Vaughan:** Raised concerns regarding the ongoing redevelopment of the Manor Leisure Centre, stating that the 60-year-old swimming pool requires complete replacement and that the current design scheme is fundamentally flawed and not working.

Questioning the timing of the official redevelopment announcement, highlighting that it occurred exactly four days after the Lattarsey Ward Election

3. **Paul Dickinson:** Raised concerns regarding the insufficient budget allocated for the Manor Leisure Centre redevelopment project.
Requested the following: "Will Whittlesey Town Council formally ask Fenland District Council to confirm the date on which was first aware of this?"

Requested that this specific question be recorded in the official minutes, a formal written response be obtained from Fenland District Council, and that the response be made fully available to the public.

4. **Steven Hodson:** Asked if the automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) survey scheduled for last year took place and, if so, whether the results are available to be published.

Suggested that the council should spend £4-6 million to repair and retain the existing old Manor buildings instead of pursuing the new development scheme and recommended removed the proposed padel courts as the existing tennis courts are already underutilised.

Commented on Fenland District Council's food collection service, recommended the purchase of higher- quality, more durable bags that do not split.

5. **Peter Baxter:** Shared written feedback from Dr James Laird regarding the Whittlesey Southern Relief Road project, stating that "as it stands represents very poor value for money" and suggested that the project should focus more on the economic value of the town's health and well-being.
6. **Mark Cross:** Reported that he has contacted Cambridgeshire County Council and the Environmental Agency suggesting that the Knotholes at the King's Dyke should be converted into water reservoirs if the site closes.

Contacted Cambridgeshire Highways to report issues with waste and debris spilling from transit lorries leaving the Saxon Pit site.

7. **Alan Bessant:** Reported a massive increase in vehicle activity, noting that approximately 70 heavy goods vehicles were observed leaving Saxon Pit in the mornings, and confirmed he has reported this activity to the Environmental Agency.

Raised concerns about Victory Pit operating as an uncontrolled, temporary truck park for the past 2-3 years without any dust mitigation measures in place.

F335/2026. Agenda items for Discussion.

1. Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Survey, PDF of questions

- Multiple Councillors expressed extreme difficulty regarding how to complete the survey due to its poor design.
- Councillors discussed that Whittlesey area contains an incredibly diverse mix of paved, unpaved, urban, rural, footpath, and bridleway paths that cannot be evaluated under uniform questions.

Action:

- Councillor Miscandlon will coordinate and draft a single, consolidated response document to send back to Cambridgeshire County Council. All Councillors are requested to send their individual thoughts and ward-specific path comments directly to him.
- Specific comments regarding individual rights of way that are currently in need of a physical upgrades or maintenance will be integrated into the final response.
- The two County Councillors present were requested to formally speak with CCC officers regarding the poor quality, lack of clarity, and overall format of their rights of way surveys.

2. Johnson's Aggregates' planning appeal

- The Committee was advised that Johnson's Aggregates had lodged an appeal against the County Council's refusal of the expansion application. The date of the appeal hearing is yet to be confirmed.
- Members discussed the need for robust evidence regarding traffic and highway capacity, particularly the cumulative impact of existing and approved developments on the A605.
- It was requested by one of the Committee members that CCC Highways install a traffic survey equipment to the East and West of Whittlesey to obtain independent data on HGV movements.
- Members also raised concerns regarding increased HGV movements through surrounding villages and the availability of traffic of recent traffic survey data for the B1040.

3. New (not Saxon Pit) proposed recycling application in Whittlesey.

- A new proposal involving the processing of 50,000 tonnes of material under a "novel method of recycling" is expected to be formally submitted for a location within Whittlesey.
- It is expected that this will be submitted as a County Council application rather than a Fenland District Council application.
- The key discussions around this were that the Town Council must begin compiling traffic and environmental data in advance to prepare a strong response.

4. Local Government Reorganisation

- The Committee received an update on the proposed Local Government Reorganisation for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The process is currently on hold pending further Government review, with an announcement expected in October.
- Members discussed the potential financial and operational impacts, including costs incurred to date and staff retention issues arising from uncertainty.
- It was noted that the Fenland District Council and Whittlesey Town Council elections are expected to proceed in May, although the future term of office remains unclear.

5. MVAS

- The Committee received an update on the condition of the Council's MVAS units; however, no data has been provided. The Town Clerk will gather this data for the next meeting.
- Members noted that several units require repair or replacement batteries and that the existing equipment is limited to recording vehicle speed.
- Members discussed available A605 average speed camera data and agreed that updated information would assist the Council in understanding traffic speeds.

Action:

- Clerk to submit a Freedom of Information request for updated A605 average speed camera date.

6. Proposed A605 speed limit reduction from Coates to the A141

- The council considered the County Council consultation (close date 13th October) to reduce the A605 speed limit between Coates and the A141 from 60mph to 50mph, following concerns expressed by CCC regarding the history of serious accidents.
- Members discussed potential safety benefits and concerns that a reduced speed limit could increase driver frustration and therefore increase dangerous overtaking. It was also noted that temporary 50mph signage had already been installed because of the poor state of repair of the road.
- Councillor Boden proposed that the Town Council should respond to the consultation by opposing the reduction of the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph on two grounds: (a) a reduced speed limit would increase driver frustration, increase overtaking and therefore have a negative effect on road safety (b) that the reduced speed limit was just an excuse to reduce road maintenance expenditure as a 50mph road need not be maintained to the same standard as a 60mph road
- An amendment was proposed by Councillor Miscandlon to include in the response a recommendation to extend the existing 40mph limit on Long Gravel by one hundred yards towards C69/A605 junction, due to concerns regarding the blind corner and reported near misses. This amendment was accepted.

Councillor Boden proposed that the Town Council oppose the proposed reduction of the A605 speed limit from 60mph to 50mph and to include the amendment extending the 40mph limit on Long Gravel by one hundred yards, seconded by **Councillor Wainwright, unanimously agreed.**

F336/2026. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

1. Public Health Liaison meeting - industrial pollution

- The Council received an update on the Public Health Liaison Group's work regarding potential health impacts of industrial activity around Whittlesey, including Saxon Pit. An initial survey identified a concentration of reported health concerns in properties closest to the pit. Further work will establish a baseline to monitor changes overtime.
- The Council also discussed independent dust monitoring and analysis.

Councillor Boden proposed in principle to fund approximately £5,000 for suitable monitoring equipment and analysis with Councillor Mockett to consult with FDC and Environmental health to identify appropriate and cost-effective equipment and ensure results can be made publicly, **Seconded by Councillor Singh, agreed unanimously.**

F337/2026. To report the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 21st September 2026.

Policy Review:

- The committee reported that a review of the Council's policies and procedures is being undertaken on a monthly basis, with a further review after approximately six months to establish a suitable schedule for future reviews.
- The **Grant Application** Form was reviewed, with no amendments required other than updating the Town Clerk's name, which has already been completed.
- The **Safeguarding Policy** was also reviewed. It was identified that:
 - **Section 6.4** did not specify alternative reporting arrangements when the Town Clerk was absent. It was proposed that safeguarding matters be reported to the Mayor or, if both the Town Clerk and Mayor were absent, to the Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee.
 - **Paragraph 8.1** did not specify the procedure for dealing with an allegation against the Town Clerk. It was proposed that such allegations be reported to the Mayor.

Councillor Boden proposed the above amendments to Full Council, seconded by **Councillor Laws**, unanimously agreed.

Councillors Home Addresses:

- Councillor Laws raised the security and safety of councillors and proposed that councillors should have the option to remove their home address from the Council website and public notices, replacing it with Care of Peel House. Councillors wishing to retain their address could do so. – this was **proposed by Councillor Boden** and seconded **by Councillor Laws**.
- **Councillor Boden** recommended to go out to tender and receive 3 different quotes for the fire door. Seconded by **Councillor Wicks**, unanimously agreed.
- **Councillor Boden** recommended that Councillor Rita Jolley be appointed to the following committees: Planning Committee and Southern Relied Road Committee. **Unanimously agreed**, with Cllr Jolley not taking part in the vote.
- **Councillor Boden** proposed that draft minutes be published on the Council website and office copy as soon as practicable. Seconded by **Councillor Wainwright**.

Grant Applications:

1. Golden Age: Retrospectively approved £150 for the Golden Age Fair.
 - **Councillor Boden** proposed this application for approval, seconded by **Councillor Singh**. Unanimously agreed.
2. Whittlesey Summer Library Reading Challenge.
 - Councillor Boden recommended to full council to request CCC regarding plans for the library before donating further funds. – unanimously agreed.

F338/2026 To report the financial documents.

Councillor Boden recommended that the bank reconciliation's up to 31st July 2026 be approved by full council, seconded **Councillor Dorling**, unanimously agreed.

- Reconciliation's for Monmouthshire and Metro accounts were not yet available.

Year-To-Date Figures:

- Figures up to 31st July 2026 were presented.
- SumUp card machine payment receipts were temporarily categorized as unallocated/unidentified sundry receipts because the Town Clerk could not precisely identify them before production. These will be properly analysed and individually identified by the next report. No vote was required today.

Payment List:

- Vouchers 1 to 30- April 2026
- Vouchers 31 to 64- May 2026
- Vouchers 65 to 100- June 2026
- Vouchers 101 to 136- July 2026

Councillor Boden recommended vouchers 1 to 136 to be approved, seconded by **Councillor Dorling**, unanimously agreed.

F339/2026. To report the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 21st September 2026.

- Government decision taking effect October 31st 2026: Local Councillors will no longer have any say on the overwhelming majority of planning applications which are put in by local residents, by businesses or by whoever.
- Very few applications will go to Fenland District Council's planning committee. Most decisions will be delegated to officers.
- Town and Parish Council meetings will remain the only public forum for members of the public and elected councillors to discuss these applications.
- Consideration needs to be given to establishing a procedure to record and pass detailed feedback to the deciding officer. The Planning Committee will consider this at it's next meeting.

F340/2026. To report the minutes from Community Projects meeting on Monday 7th September 2026.

Music on the Square:

- Three events are planned, with dates published on the Town Council website.
- The budget for these events will increase due to additional costs incurred this year.

Coates Event Collaboration:

- The Coates Fate Committee chair requested a collaborative event to coincide with their fate.
- The council gave a tentative expression of interest without commitment. The event would be on a smaller scale.

Remembrance Parade:

- Fenland District Council has mandated a full event management plan, including escape routes.
- The plan is nearly ready for submission.

- Councillors and volunteers will need to take on additional roles.

F341/2026. Consultations

- **Spoke previously about within the agenda items.**

F342/2026. Information only

- Platinum Wood- Circulated in the pack.

F343/2026 Invitations.

Mayor's Harvest Ball- 26th September 2026.

F344/2026. Date of next meeting – Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.02pm.

Councillor Miscandlon

Chairman

Full Council