

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 20th June 2024 at 6.3pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

Present: Cllr Miscandlon, Arman, Dickinson, Dorling, Gerstner, Sennitt-Clough, Wicks, Wainwright

Officer in Attendance: Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

Recording: This is made as an aide memoir for the Clerk

F81/2024 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Boden, Laws, Mockett & Nawaz (personal)

F82/2024. 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 F99/2024.

- Residential Flats – CB
- Honorary Award - AM

F83/2024. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV report.

Members received the Street Scene Officer Report.

F84/2024. Police Report

Members were advised the next meeting will be sometime after 4th July 2024, the date to be confirmed.

F85/2024. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Annual Council Meeting on Thursday 23rd May 2024.

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

F86/2024. To appoint members to Committees.

Details of the proposed committees had been circulated to members.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Cllr Mockett
Cllr Gerstner
Cllr Arman
Cllr Dickinson
Cllr Dorling (Substitute)

Usually, quarterly

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Miscandlon
Cllr Wainwright
Cllr Nawaz
Cllr Dickinson
Cllr Singh-Gill
Cllr Arman

Usually Twice Monthly

FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

Cllr Boden
Cllr Dorling
Cllr Wicks
Cllr Mockett
Cllr Arman
Cllr Sennitt-Clough
Cllr Nawaz

Usually, Monthly

First meeting of all committees Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed.

The committees were proposed Cllr Wainwright, seconded Cllr Arman with a unanimous vote in favour.

F87/2024. To appoint members to Outside Bodies – This item will be deferred to the July meeting.

F88/2024 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.

Nine members of the public present.

Patrick Nightingale – Could WTC please confirm what the correct procedure is at council meetings for public to speak.

It was explained by the chair at the last WTC meeting that those wishing to speak had to confirm as such prior to the allotted 15mins. Duly those that requested to speak was allowed, however at the end of the last speaker another member of the public audience (FDC councillor Steve Tierney) indicated to speak and was invited by the chair to do so, surely this is out of process otherwise why have the request at the beginning. This person was allowed to attack the previous speaker (Peter Bibb) and that previous speaker was not allowed to counter the other's comments leaving him at a disadvantage. It felt to myself as a bystander that this was a deliberate attempt by WTC to silence a member of the public sharing his and I am sure many other thoughts, due to the very articulate and specific points he raised on that particular subject.

I find this behaviour unacceptable, undemocratic and in truth bullying. My understanding is everyone has the right to their opinion even if it does not sit with the majority. This incident did not show the proceedings of a WTC in a good way and certainly falls way below the standard I would expect of representatives of my hometown.

Stephen Robertson – At the meeting on 22nd June 2023 the Council elected a Leader and deputy leader, and we, by which I mean the public and the councillors who were not involved with the decision, we were given an explanation as to how this would benefit the council and the town.

During the public forum at the meeting on 20th July I asked the question. "In order to show that this isn't just a position in name only, could the new leader of the council come to the full council meeting prepared to say what their objectives are for the coming year and how they plan to achieve them." Subsequently the elected councillor resigned and on 21st September councillor Nawaz was elected to the post, and apart from a statement from him that "it was an absolute honour to be a leader of this council and Whittlesey and it's beautiful villages" - nothing.

At last month's council meeting, when a new Leader of Whittlesey Town Council was elected, I asked if Councillor Nawaz could summarise what he had done as leader and what Councillor Mockett intended to do in the role. As neither of these incumbents has tabled an agenda item in this respect, to explain or justify their roles, we, the public, can only conclude that the role actually is a position in name only, as we suspected, and it is a somewhat pointless exercise.

Stephen Hodson – Why does Whittlesey not have a Beacon, also Max Skelton from the Rifle club and should received some form of recognition.

Standing Orders were suspended, the Chair advised the Beacon is being discussed by the Royal British Legion and Fenland District Council.

The Chair responded to Mr Nightingale advising under his chairmanship behaviour like this will not be tolerated.

Standing orders were resumed.

Robert Windle – The Big Bash is Sunday and is free to everyone, classic vehicles, bands, stalls, entertainment. Due to the recent tragedy, there will not be a fly past, however they will pay tribute to Squadron Leader Mark Long at 1.16 which is when the Hurricane was due to fly over. The 2024/25 Sports and Community guide is out. Mr Windle also wanted to mention his thanks to Roy Bridson (Water Bailiff), Cllrs Dorling & Gerstner and Mr Robin Sutton for their endeavours with the installation of the fishing platforms. Members were also advised that a great afternoon was had by all at Willow Court for the Big Bash Olympics.

F89/2024 Agenda items for Discussion.

1. Communications – Cllr Dorling proposed that we establish what methods of communication we will proceed with in addition to Post, telephone, and the WTC website. Specifically, whether social media will be used, how it will be regulated, and whether any additional forms of communication will be equally accessible to all members of WTC. Secondly (dependent on the outcome of 1) is the establishment of a social media policy (for example, based on the LGA policy template). Seconded Cllr Gerstner. Cllr Sennitt-Clough reconfirmed that the Facebook page could never be official as the Clerk does not administer it. Cllr Wainwright advised that the Facebook page had been known for some time as 'The official WTC Facebook page' this was in the description of the page. Cllr Miscandlon advised it must have been misnamed and this will not happen again. Cllr Gerstner confusion from the beginning was the name, later or it was changed to unofficial page, the concern still is the trademark of WTC has been tarnished. Cllr Sennitt-Clough, at its inception the majority of councillors were registered on the page, and it worked well for 10 months. The person who named the page is not present tonight, that person should be able to speak on the matter. Cllr Arman asked for ideas as to the new name of the Facebook page. Cllr Dickinson social media is extremely popular and widely used. Cllr Arman has sent details of a new website to the WTC working group but has been advised not to do anything. Cllr Gerstner social media is a modern way of communicating. Cllr Miscandlon proposed this item be passed to F & P for full discussion, seconded Cllr Arman unanimous vote in favour.
2. Weeds – Cllr Boden – defer to next meeting.
3. Councillor Conduct & Respect – No proposal was submitted to the Clerk, Cllr Miscandlon requested a proposal be submitted so it can be included on the Full Council agenda.

F90/2024. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

- Whittlesey Street Pride – Cllr Dorling
- Helping Whittlesey – Cllr Dorling
- Community Pantry – Cllr Dorling

F91/2024. To receive the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 20th May 2024 and report the minutes from Monday 17th June 2024

Ratified: The Minutes from Monday 20th May 2024 were approved and signed as true record and the minutes from Monday 17th June 2024 were reported.

F92/2024 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st May 2024.
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments Vouchers 13-39 to the value of £21055.80, proposed Cllr Dorling seconded Cllr Arman with a unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the year-to-date figures (31st May 2024)
- Whittlesey Festival Donation Request - £4500.00 proposed Cllr Gerstner, seconded Cllr Sennitt-Clough with a unanimous vote in favour.

F93/2024. To receive the minutes from the Planning meeting on Monday 20th May 2024 and report the minutes from Monday 17th June 2024

Ratified: The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 20th May 2024 were approved and signed as a true record and the minutes from the 17th of June 2024 were reported.

F94/2024. Consultations

- Proposed Reservoir – Cllr Miscandlon encouraged everyone to view the website and make comment as this is a public consultation. Cllr Sennitt-Clough sits on Liaison group and can take any points forward.

F95/2024 Information only.

There was no information.

F96/2024 Invitations.

27th October Mayors Civic Service.

8th March 2025 Mayors Charity Ball at the Manor

F97/2024. Date of next meeting –Thursday 18th July at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed: 19.40.



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Cllr Alex Miscandlon
Chairman
Whittlesey Town Council



Whittlesey Town Council

PAYMENTS LIST

12 July 2024 (2024-2025)

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
49 Website	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Website SLA	SG Computing	E	140.00		140.00
50 MVAS	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	MVAS Maintenance	SG Computing	S	1,250.00	250.00	1,500.00
50 Office Maintenance	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	MVAS Maintenance	SG Computing	S	400.00	80.00	480.00
51 Subscriptions	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc		Talk from Mr Andrew Mortlock	Andrew Mortlock	E	50.00		50.00
52 Allotments	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc		Allotment 27A Key Return	Sam Coiten Bootle	E	30.00		30.00
53 Music Festivals	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc		The Big Bash	Groove Cartell	E	850.00		850.00
54 Pensions	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Pension contribution	Cambs Pension Scheme	E	840.05		840.05
55 PAYE & NI	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Tax & NI	HMRC	E	902.41		902.41
56 Office Maintenance	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Window Cleaning	H20 Pure - Mark Nicholas	E	30.00		30.00
57 Office Cleaning	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Office Cleaning	Clare Lynch	E	207.00		207.00
58 Staff Salaries	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Salaries	Sue Piergianni	E	2,331.35		2,331.35
59 Office Gas	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Office Gas	British Gas Lite	L	251.25	12.56	263.81
60 NNRD	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	NNDR	Fenland District Council	E	120.00		120.00
61 Photocopier	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Photocopies	Ethos	S	1.88	0.38	2.26
62 Office Electricity	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Office Electric	British Gas Lite	L	99.89	4.99	104.88
63 Bank Charges & Interest	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Bank Charges / Interest	Barclays	E	8.50		8.50
64 Phone & Internet	24/06/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Telephone & Internet	CF Corporate finance	S	274.00	54.80	328.80
							Total	7,786.33	402.73	8,189.06