

# WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey

**Present:** Cllr Miscandlon, Arman, Boden, Dorling, Gerstner, Laws, Nawaz, Sennitt-Clough, Wainwright, Wicks

**Officer in Attendance:**

Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

**Recording:**

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

**F173/2024 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.**

Mockett, Bibb, Singh, no apologies from Cllr Dickinson. Cllr Gerstner advised after this meeting he would not be able to attend any meeting until beginning of April.

**F174/2024. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda items.**

Cllr Laws – Portfolio Holder for Planning at FDC, will only observe or give clarification on policy issues.

**F175/2024. Street Scene Officer Report.**

The report received was the same as October report. – The Clerk to chase.

**F176/2024. Police Report – Councillor only**

The Chair advised members that we are trying to ascertain which parts of this report can be given to members of the public.

**F177/2024. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.**

**Ratified:** The minutes were approved and signed as a true record

**F178/2024 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.

Seven members of the public were present.

John Redding – Has heard that Station Road Rec is being considered for housing. Does anyone know anything about this?

Corrine Wooding– Whittlesey Christmas Extravaganza - Thanked WTC for their support and advised they sold over eight hundred wrist bands. They have received positive feedback from both attendees and businesses.

Robert Windle thanked Eamonn & Street pride team for all their work at the Christmas Extravaganza. he did advise that due to the additional funding they were able to lay on an extra ride.

Robert – Fenland Youth Radio – they are a CIC, (Community Interests Company) not for profit. No one takes any funds from the CIC, and it is there to keep the community informed. Mr Windle advised

they have a Disabled person who comes into the studio monthly, who really appreciates how the CIC have supported him and his family. They have also tackled some large issues, cohesive control and interviewed many people. Some of the councillors have been on the radio and he would encourage others to do the same. He confirmed in the past 12 months, they have been listened to in fifty-one countries by over two thousand people. They want to move this forward to the next level as it is a radio station for young people hence the creation of Fenland Community Radio.

#### **F179/2024 Agenda items for Discussion.**

1. LHI – 2 Submissions – LHI Automated Bollards / Barrier High Causeway and Coates Layby. The Clerk will work with councillors to produce the submission.
2. Bower footbridge - Suggestions for dates for the work to be done – Members asked for the proposed timescales and work schedule to enable them to make a decision.
3. Rural CAB - Cllr Miscandlon advised the CAB wish to extend the surgery hours to accommodate the increased demand from Whittlesey Residents –Cllr Miscandlon proposed agreement to this request advising there will be no additional cost to WTC. Seconded Cllr Wainwright with a unanimous vote in favour. The Clerk will discuss with Oonagh to agree a mutually convenient day.
4. King's Dyke Bridge: proposal that we as a Town Council (or one of us as a representative) write to CCC Highways requesting information on testing and repair work, to include a timeline of completion. Cllr Sennitt-Clough reported as follows:

“I am not going to speculate about how we arrived at the situation we are in with the King's Dyke Bridge. The present situation is that a lane has been closed for six months, a lane closure that was scheduled to last a little over a week. That glaring inaccuracy from Cambs County Council Highways was followed by a period of silence, until 10<sup>th</sup> October. Four further 'updates' from October to December then followed, each of which state that investigative work is taking place. The final update from yesterday then mentions that investigations are complete, and a design option is being worked on which CCC Highways will review in January.”

“I do not know about you, but I feel this is wholly inadequate as far as communications go. CCC have a legal team; they can advise exactly what can and cannot be posted publicly, and I am willing to bet it is a lot more than they have put on their Whittlesey Traffic Update page. These updates are not updates. They are slight rewordings that read as if they have been written by AI. How about some more detail about the traffic management system or what samples they are taking for their investigation, the equipment they are using etc? Whittlesey people are not needy. We just want details. We are humans whose lives and livelihoods have been impacted greatly by the lane closure and the often failure of the traffic management system at peak times.”

“My fear is that without pressure, CCC Highways will revert to form and go silent once again. Yes, they have said there will be a programme presented at some point, but remember that week-long lane closure? There's information out there (someone mentioned it was on YouTube) that suggests they knew back in July 2021 that there had been a catastrophic fail with the supports, so I may be wrong, but I suspect they knew the lane closure was going to be in place for longer. So, what I am proposing is that Whittlesey Town Council write to CCC Highways requesting further information in the form of greater transparency, more frequent and detailed updates on their Whittlesey Traffic page and as soon as possible a firm programme for the required remedial work.”

Proposed: Cllr Sennitt-Clough, seconded Cllr Arman with a unanimous vote in favour.

5. Railway Station: proposal that we request Network Rail gives us a timeline to do the upgrades, which includes removing the large concrete post and making the pedestrian walkway safer.

Money has been allocated for Whittlesea railway station improvements. Previously there has been funding, and a small amount of improvements have been made. March and Manea have seemed to benefit from the funding pot to a far greater degree than Whittlesea.

What concerns me most is that pedestrians (and I have video evidence) are having to walk into a lane of traffic because of the obstruction of a large concrete post and because the pedestrian gates are rarely opened. I have visited the station several times and have been told by railway staff that the locked gates cannot be opened for pedestrians to cross the level crossing because there is not the time, that the crossing guards have to prioritise vehicular traffic. Ideally, the traffic gates would be automated. But for now, what I am proposing is that we as a Town Council write to Network Rail and Greater Anglia requesting that they prioritise the safety of pedestrians crossing the level crossing by ensuring that the pedestrian gates can be opened, thus preventing them from walking in the flow of traffic. I have been told that there is a mechanism they could put on the gates that could solve this issue.

Proposed Cllr Sennitt-Clough, seconded Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.

6. Budget 2025/2026 – Cllr Boden presented the budget advising members he had received two requests (1) 25K to allotments for a fence on the Eastern boundary and (2) 1K for a sign for Eastrea village. These were proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Wicks for inclusion in the budget with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **F180/2024. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.**

Citizen's Advice Rural Cambs – report attached.

#### **F181/2024. To receive the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November and report the minutes from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Ratified:** The minutes from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December were accepted and Minutes from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December were reported.

#### **F182/2024 To report the financial documents.**

- To report the bank reconciliation to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Members received the balanced bank reconciliation.
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments - Vouchers 152 – 208 to the value of £41959.91 Proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Dorling with a unanimous vote in favour
- To report the year-to-date figures – Members received the YTD figures.

#### **F183/2024. To receive the minutes from the Planning meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November and report the minutes from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.**

**Ratified:** The minutes from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December were accepted and Minutes from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December were reported.

#### **F184/2024. Consultations**

There were no consultations.

#### **F185/2024 Information only.**

Letter from CCC regarding Glyphosate for Weed control - response to WTC letter.  
Letter from Middle level regarding desilting - works on Middle Level  
Report from Cllr Laws regarding refurbishment of Whittlesey Moorings.

**F186/2024 Invitations.** - There were no invitations.

**F187/2024. Date of next meeting –Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025**

**Meeting Closed: 20:15**



Cllr Alex Miscandlon  
Mayor of Whittlesey

# Whittlesey Town Council

## PAYMENTS LIST

17 January 2025 (2024-2025)

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
209	21/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	dd	Telephone & Internet	EVAD	S	101.47	20.29	121.76
210	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Travel Expenses	Sue Piergianni	E	54.59		54.59
210	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Travel Expenses	Sue Piergianni	E	21.00		21.00
211	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Website SLA	SG Computing Ltd	E	140.00		140.00
212	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	MVAS Maintenance	Fenland Electrical	S	550.00	110.00	660.00
213	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Stationery	Peterborough Office Suppl	S	26.83	5.37	32.20
214	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Window Cleaning	H20 Pure - Mark Nicholas	E	35.00		35.00
215	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Tax & NI	HMRC	E	947.44		947.44
216	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Repairs to communal areas	Fenland Electrical	S	100.00	20.00	120.00
217	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Office Cleaning	Clare Lynch	E	278.87		278.87
218	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Allotment Water	Wave - Anglian Water	S	129.82	25.97	155.79
219	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Office Water	Wave - Anglian Water	S	191.33	38.27	229.60
220	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Salaries	Staff Salaries	E	2,401.67		2,401.67
221	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Pension	Cambs Pension Scheme	E	869.09		869.09
222	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Phone Lease Rental	Shire Leasing PLC	S	52.00	10.40	62.40
223	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	NNDR	Fenland District Council	E	120.00		120.00
224	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Office Electric	British Gas Lite	L	154.53	7.73	162.26
225	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Office Gas	British Gas Lite	S	415.95	83.19	499.14
226	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	dd	Telephone & Internet	EVAD	S	1.54	0.31	1.85
227	18/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	dd	Bank Charges / Interest	Barclays	E	12.46		12.46
<b>Total</b>								<b>6,603.59</b>	<b>321.53</b>	<b>6,925.12</b>

# Whittlesey Town Council

17 January 2025 (2024-2025)

## RECEIPTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total	
68	02/12/2024		Barclays Reserve Acc	online	Bank Charges / Interest	Barclays	E	217.48		217.48	
69	31/12/2024		Metro Bank Current		Bank Charges / Interest	Metro Bank	E	0.09		0.09	
70	04/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Commercial Rent	ISA-cam	E	220.00		220.00	
71	04/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Commercial Rent	Fenland Electrical Services	E	330.00		330.00	
72	04/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	online	Allotment key deposit	John Marshall	E	30.00		30.00	
73	12/12/2024		Barclays Current Acc	16	Office Cleaning	Adec Market place project	E	72.00		72.00	
<b>Total</b>								<b>869.57</b>			<b>869.57</b>