

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2024 at 6.30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1JT.

Present: Cllr Miscandlon, Bibb, Boden, Dickinson, Doring, Gerstner, Laws, Mockett, Singh-Gill, Wainwright, Wicks

Officer in Attendance: Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

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

F155/2024 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Arman, Nawaz, Sennitt-Clough (personal)

F156/2024. 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 F172/2024.

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

- Confidential Minute from Full Council Thursday 17th October 2024
- Confidential Minutes from F & P Monday 14th October 2024.

F157/2024. Street Scene Officer Report.

The Street Scene Officer report was received.

F158/2024. Police Report – Councillor only.

The report was received, members were advised the next meeting is 2nd December 2024.

F159/2024. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting on Thursday 17th October 2024.

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

F160/2024. Update on the Leaders role by Cllr Jason Mockett.

The mayor's role is the Civic Role, the Leaders role in the main is the day-to-day administration and running of the office with the Clerk. This can take a lot of time up for the clerk, so it is useful for someone to be there to support the Clerk. We also get a fair amount of members of the public wishing to raise issues about councillors, they are advised by the Clerk of the correct procedure, if they do not wish to escalate to Fenland District Council, for example it could be councillors not calling residents back, or not being able to give the answers the resident wants. This is something that the Leader will assist with. The leader also works with the Clerk on the content of the agenda.

Cllr Mockett advised if anyone had any other questions to contact him directly.

F161/2024 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.

Five members of the public were present.

Stephen Hodson – Can the police report be made public or some of the information.



Robert Windle – Offered comments for the future leader role – should be the best person for the job not just a member of the majority party. Moving forward could the leader initiate projects to promote the town, look at grants for outside bodies, look at best practice in other areas, why reinvent the wheel when others are doing it, set aims and goals where do we want the council to be in 6 months, 1 year, 2 years etc. How does the council look at this growth and how does it manage it.

Robert Windle – Disappointed why the allotment awards did not happen this year, or no community projects meeting since February. Commend the Town Clerk for organising an exceptional Remembrance Parade and it was a privilege to be part of it.

Robert Windle - Congratulations to Cllr Boden for his hard work giving regular updates on the Ralph Butcher Causeway and the pressure put on CCC to conduct the remedial works to get the B1040 reopened.

F162/2024 Agenda items for Discussion.

1. Bower Footbridge – Cllr Boden – Intention of CCC highways to repair the Bower footbridge in next financial year 2025/26, however due to the cost of the repairs it will be more cost effective to replace. The Town council would be approached for a suitable date between 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026. The summer may not be a great time, so the question would be do the Town Council have any opinion on what the best time of year would be. The Clerk to email Adam Cobb asking for the specification of the bridge, materials etc, also email all Cllrs and ask if they have any thoughts on closure. The Clerk to also advise Mr Cobb that there must be a platform to ensure disabled access.
2. LHI – New Road School – Cllr Mockett explained that New Road primary pretty much have zero health and safety outside the school, the yellow lines that are present were there prior to the school being extended, there are no yellow lines from Bellman’s Road to the WTC allotment entrance, this is causing horrific parking issues at the start and end of the school day, there are no flashing lights warning light. The ward Cllrs have tried for two years to get CCC to install some safety measures, to date nothing has been done, there has now been a site meeting with CCC, and New Road School are submitting their own PFHI (Private funding highways improvements) for improvements to safety at the school, they are aware that that may be required to supply 10% when CCC undertake the work. They may also have to source some grant funding. CCC have requested that the school contact WTC and request their support for the initiative. Proposed by Cllr Mockett, seconded Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour.
3. LHI – Cllr Gerstner – Questioned why the LHI for High Causeway scored very poorly. Was the application not robust enough? Cllr Boden advised there was nothing wrong with the Clerks application, it has been misread by CCC who miscategorised and assuming it was for manual bollards/barrier despite the application clearly stating it needed to be automated and would be monitored by the CCTV control room. Cllr Wicks suggested as this had been mishandled, could WTC have two applications at this round, the primary one being High Causeway. The second being the layby in Coates where vehicles cut through to try and beat the traffic and gain a few metres. Cllr Boden proposed a letter be sent to Mr Stephen Moir Chief Executive CCC advising that in the interest of fairness we have two submissions, seconded by Cllr Wainwright with a unanimous vote in favour. Cllr Wainwright advised highways to have suggested speed bumps, or a chicane would not work, it would be better to close one end of the layby. Cllr Mockett proposed first submission would be for the automated bollards / barrier on High Causeway, the second to be the Coates layby. Seconded Cllr Laws. Unanimous vote in favour.
4. Budget 2025/2026 – Cllr Boden – Members were advised Version 1 will be sent out to them, if there any comments, please could they email Cllr Boden.

F163/2024. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

There were no outside body reports.

F164/2024. To receive the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 14th October 2024 and report the minutes from Monday 18th November 2024

Ratified: The minutes from F & P on 14th October were approved and signed as a true record and the minutes from 18th November 2024 were reported.

F165/2024 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st October – The balanced bank reconciliation was received.
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments Vouchers 145 – 151 to the value £1064.43. Proposed Cllr Boden with a unanimous vote in favour.
- To report the year-to-date figures – The year-to-date figures were received

F166/2024. To receive the minutes from the Planning meeting on Monday 4th November 2024 and report the minutes from Monday 18th November 2024.

Ratified: 4th November P100, comment is incomplete and needs amending.

F167/2024. Consultations

Cllr Laws asked that all members of the council complete the Whittlesey Relief Road consultation.

F168/2024 Information only.

- Information to Allison Homes form Cllr Dorling (attached)
- War Memorials Bulletin available from the Clerk.

F169/2024 Invitations.

Christmas Extravaganza Saturday 14th December 3.30 – 7pm

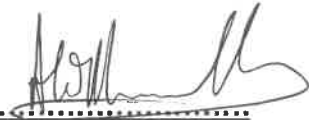
F170/2024. Date of next meeting –Thursday 19th December 2024

F171/2024. Exclusion of the press and public

F172/2024. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F156/2024

- Confidential Minute from Full Council Thursday 17th October 2024
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Meeting Closed: 7.45



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Cllr Alex Miscandlon
Mayor of Whittlesey