

# WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 at 6.30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.**

**Present:** Cllr Miscandlon, Bibb, Boden, Dickinson, Dorling, Laws, Nawaz, Mockett, Sennitt-Clough, Singh-Gill, Wainwright, Wicks

**Officer in Attendance:** Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk RFO

**Recording:** The recording was made as an aide memoir for the Clerk.

**F01/2025 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.**

Cllr Arman & Gerstner (personal)

**F02/2025. 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 F17/2025.**

Cllr Mrs Laws - Portfolio Holder for Planning at FDC will only observe or give clarification on planning policy issue.

Cllr Singh-Gill declared an interest in F08/2025 (item 1) Demand Responsive transport.

1. Residential Flats – Update by the Clerk

**F03/2025. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV update Q3 October 2024 to January 2025**

Cllr Sennitt-Clough queried the comment that we have a rough sleeper in the disabled toilet as she was not aware of any rough sleepers. The Clerk will email Street Scene and report back.

**F04/2025. Police Report**

Cllr Miscandlon advised due to pressure of work there had not been a liaison meeting this month.

**F05/2025. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

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

**F06/2025 – Presentation by Marija Lysak – Fenland Development Officer - re 5-year Lottery Funded Project – Support Fenland (15 Mins)**

Cllr Laws suggested to bring this together, they should work with FDC and their communications team as there are so many existing groups that could assist with the support projects. Cllr Laws also asked if there has been any liaison with Sir Harry Smith, Ms Lysak advised she had spoken to the Head of Pastoral care in November asking if they would be interested in volunteering, SHS do have a breakfast club which is used as a talking forum.

Support Fenland are hosting event on 13<sup>th</sup> March in conjunction with chamber of commerce speaking about opportunities for volunteering, this is being held at March Golf Club.

Cllr Bibb asked if there is any part of their program that could offer sports leadership qualifications, he was advised that volunteers can do this and can set up their own program. It was suggested that Ms Lysak contact Andy Coles from Living Sport. Cllr Sennitt-Clough suggested they work with the Duke of Edinburgh Schemes.

**F07/2025 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 were present.

Mrs Laws (Cllr Laws)– Thank, Chairman and members of the Council and public. The issue of an inquorate Council planning committee meeting earlier this month has raised concerns. While steps are being taken to prevent similar occurrences, subsequent social media posts by a councillor publicly criticised the Council and named individual councillors, leading to negative commentary. It is regrettable that inaccurate information was shared regarding councillors' attendance and apologies. While there is no suggestion of intentional misinformation, ensuring accuracy in public statements is essential.

Cllr Wainwright requested a right to reply, stating: "I did not name any councillors in my post; others provided the names."

Dr Nawaz (Cllr) – Recreation Ground on Station Road, being declared as surplus and this is a community asset and should not be built on but should be retained as public open space. He is working with officers and has met with Cllr Boden Leader of FDC who will investigate this and respond directly to him. He has asked Cllr Boden and try and get this decision reversed.

Lisa Whitwell – Station Road Recreation Ground – valuable green open space and should be retained for public use. Mrs Whitwell asked where all the details are on the vandalism and how much money has been spent.

Stephen Hodson – Advised he thought this was gifted to WUDC by owner of 99 Station Road,

Stephen Hodson – Air meter on Hallcroft Road is missing and where are the statistics. Could this be chased?

Mr Tim Clough – Wanted to thank the council and councillors, he came to England 30 years ago and he understands the challenges WTC face and was grateful for everything they do.

Mr Patrick Nightingale – A large of amount detritus on B1040, PJ Thory have had a road sweeper today out today. Could they not have a wheel wash at the entrance / exit to the site. Mr Nightingale was advised that this falls under Peterborough City Council Enforcement Department.

Cllr Miscandlon thanked the Clerk for the four hours she had spent dealing with a resident with severe mental health issues.

#### **F08/2025 Agenda items for Discussion.**

1. Discussion regarding 'Demand Responsive Transport' – Cllr Boden, in his capacity he has been making representation to the Combined Authority, he has been pushing for villages with largest population but with no transport, these are Christchurch and Turves. During summer a proposal was put forward for Demand Responsive Transport for people to use via an app, people can book it 24 hours before they need it. Turves now has a public transport service Monday to Saturday, if sufficient demand they service may be increased, for the first two weeks it will be free after that it will be charged the same as standard bus routes.

Members were advised that residents with a bus pass can use it on this service.

Cllr Laws asked who will be monitoring the usage figures and was advised the records are retained centrally. Also does the advertising site record the amount of hits to it. Cllr Boden will have more of the information in the coming months.

Cllr Nawaz asked if the service could extend to Coates, Eastrea and Whittlesey.

Cllr Singh-Gill – customers have tried to use the app, and it is a 2 / 3 hour wait so they have not used the service, so this information has not been recorded, and they have used a taxi.

Cllr Wainwright – does this cover the whole of Turves – Cllr Boden it goes where there is concentrated area of housing, it does not cover the outlying areas, an example being that Burnthouse Road goes further than the development at Red Barn.

Cllr Boden stated it was great we have this service, but there are still serious issues with CPCA regarding bus services to Whittlesey.

2. Proposal for Additional member to join the Planning Committee – Cllr Mockett- proposed that Cllr Laws joins the Planning Committee, seconded Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.
3. Proposal from Cllr Gerstner presented by Cllr Dorling in his absence to apply for a grant to provide a storage / education / community Structure at QEII Platinum Jubilee Wood in Yarwells Headland (supporting papers attached). Cllr Laws – it would require a full planning application and could not be a container as it would not be sympathetic to the natural wood. Her recommendation would be a container but that is clad or tiled to look like a Dutch Barn and be as vandal proof as possible. Members discussed this at length and agreed further clarification is required before this can be considered. Cllr Boded proposed agreement in principle but it must come back to Full Council with further information before it could be considered as this will be an asset of WTC, seconded Cllr Bibb with a unanimous vote in favour.
4. Budget 2025/2026 - Cllr Boden advised members that had been two changes since the last meeting a plus and minus of £3000.00. Cllr Boden proposed a precept of £177,000.00 seconded Cllr Laws, with a unanimous vote in favour.

**F09/2025. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.**

There were no outside body reports.

**F10/2025. To report the draft minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and receive minutes from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Ratified:** The Minutes from the 16<sup>th</sup> of December were accepted and the minutes from the 20<sup>th</sup> of January were reported.

Cllr Boden advised members that F & P at a future meeting would be discussing apologies and how these should be communicated if they are unable to attend.

**F11/2025 To report the financial documents.**

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 – Members received the bank reconciliation.
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payment – Vouchers 209 – 227 £6925.12. proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Sennitt-Clough with a unanimous vote in favour.  
To report the year-to-date figures – members received the YTD figures.

**F12/2025. Consultations**

There was no consultation.

**F13/2025 Information only.**

Climate Leaders report from Cllr Dorling

Coates Fete – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025

**F14/2025 Invitations.**

CCTV Control Visit – Members were reminded of the dates for the visit and to notify the Clerk if they wish to attend.

**F15/2025. Date of next meeting –Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**F16/2025 – Exclusion of the press & public**

**F17/2025. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F02/2025.**

**Meeting Closed: 20.51**

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Cllr Alex Miscandlon  
Chairman  
Whittlesey Town Council