

Minutes 07/16

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 18th February 2016
at 7.00 p.m. in
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mrs J Falp Mayor
 S Button Deputy
 A Barton
 G Cancilla
 B Franklin
 T Heath
 B Kirton
 R Margrave
 S McFadden
 T Shepherd
 J Short
 B Smart
 R Sparkes

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

142/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Birdi. Apologies for absence were accepted.

143/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting.

144/16 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

145/16 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Simon Button, for standing in so ably by chairing meeting and attending civic events for me while I have been recovering from my knee operation. Thank you also to all who sent best wishes for my recovery. While not fully fit yet I am now able to undertake civic events and meetings.

Last week I attended an afternoon tea hosted by the Chairman of Stratford District Council to raise funds for his charities, held at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. It is the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death this year so there will be a number of events to mark that. I also attended the Civic Church Service for the Chairman of Warwickshire County Council held in Harbury. We certainly seem to be getting invited to events around the county, though many Councils due to budget cuts no longer put on so many events or invite all the local civic leaders. This is a great pity as it is a way and good opportunity to show what is good in your own area.

I am pleased that we were able to put on Dementia training for the council this evening. If you were not able to get here there will be another training session on Wednesday March 9th, 6pm at the Lawns Care Home when anyone interested can attend. Cllr Heath's wife, Jenny, is leading on getting a Dementia Café up and running in Whitnash.

Cllr Mrs Judy Falp

146/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st January 2016 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

147/16 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

124/16 Police – Cllr Mrs Falp reported that it will cost in the region of £1500 to remove the shelter on Warwick Gates. There was a brief discussion regarding the Police notices for vehicles causing obstruction. The email from PCSO Steve Sample was read by Cllr Mrs Falp.

127/16 Matters arising – Cllr Cancilla thanked Cllr Kirton for his assistance in getting WCC highways to look at the puddle outside St Margaret's School. This has not been repaired as yet.

131/16 Dog Fouling – this is still a major problem in Whitnash especially down Church Lane and Coppice Road.

133/16 War Memorial Names – Albert George Mann is on the War Memorial. Franklin Biddle's name has been found in both Leamington and Whitnash.

136/16 Reports from Ward Councillors – The bin outside the Whitnash Sports & Social Club has still not been replaced. Cllr Kirton spoke to Stagecoach and the signs on the bus columns have been adjusted.

148/16 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

Cllr Kirton reported that WCC are again considering a merger between Birmingham and the West Midlands Councils. He is concerned that Warwickshire's interest will not be considered if this merger goes ahead.

Warwick District Council Report:

Cllr Mrs Falp reported that the plans for where the extra houses needed to cover Coventry's shortfall will be discussed at W.D.C. on the 22nd February and decisions taken on 24th February. With two further sites that had been refused by W.D.C. and an Inspector now being given permission by the Secretary of State (so much for local democracy and decision making) the numbers may change, though I feel they will still go with the numbers arrived at previously.

The government are also now proposing that if council planning departments refuse an application for housing that is later granted on appeal the government may allow the developers to pay only 50% or no new homes bonus. This is

yet another example of the government making the planning system a farce. Planning committees mindful of how little money councils have thanks to government cuts are now being told refuse and your council will get even less money for its communities to provide much needed services. While understanding the need to build more homes this government are making planning a joke, builders very wealthy and local decision making a thing of the past.

At this time the District Council has no plans to change its mind on a Combined Authority with the West Midlands combination of areas though they could still join if they wished at a later date.

Cllr Margrave reported that WDC will be charging for replacement recycling bins and bags. Although residents will be paying for replacement bins these bins will remain the property of WDC. Members queried why they should pay for bins and bags if the recycling team do not return them to your property or damage them by throwing them around. The bins are not very sturdy and become brittle and break easily. The three District Councillors were tasked to take this concern up with WDC as it is an unfair situation when the service provided by the recycling team is not up to standard.

Cllr Heath reported that the Local Plan will be discussed at WDC Executive meeting next week. More houses will be built on the Fieldgate Lane site. Traffic will be a major concern with more houses on this development. The planning application for Little Acre for one dwelling was refused, but 75 more houses is considered??

Redlands Recreation Ground will be undergoing a refurbishment and the refurbishment plans can be seen at St Margaret's Church Centre on Friday, 19th February 2016.

Cllr Mrs Falp proposed that the MP is invited to a Town Council meeting to discuss planning issues. There is no update on traveller sites yet.

Cllr Smart said that the WDC Planning Training Session on Monday, 15th February 2016 was disappointing. Officers left no time for questions and the main point of the meeting seemed to be that Towns and Parishes should not object to planning applications. Speakers were poor and could not always be heard. Members proposed that a letter is sent to express our dissatisfaction.

149/16 APPROVE AND ADOPT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2016 – 2017

The calendar of meetings for 2016 – 2017 was approved and adopted.

150/16 COMMUNITY HUB

Discussions have taken place with regard to the proposed new Community Hub. A report will be presented to WDC at the executive meeting in April. A business plan will be needed to move this project forward. Cllr Mrs Falp proposed that a small working group starts to move the hub forward.

Cllrs Mrs Falp, Franklin, Heath, Kirton, Margrave, McFadden, Shepherd and Sparkes including the Whitnash Primary School Head Teacher and a representative from Whitnash Sports & Social Club will form the working group. Meetings will be arranged before the WDC executive meeting in April.

151/16 PRESS LIAISON OFFICER

Members proposed that Cllr McFadden be appointed as the Press Liaison Officer for the Town

Council. Cllr McFadden already submits items for the What's on section in the Courier. Cllr Franklin offered to take any photos needed. All articles to be approved by the Mayor and Town Clerk before submission to the newspapers.

152/16 RATES ASSESSMENT

Cllr Franklin has offered to undertake an exercise to ascertain if the current hall rates are in line with other community halls in the district. Cllr Franklin will report to full Council before submitting any claims.

153/16 HEDGE

Three quotations were sourced to plant a Pyracantha hedge along the shorter fencing at the rear of Palmer Road after a grant application to Whitnash Charitable Trust was turned down. There was a discrepancy in the price of the bigger plants from Smith's Nurseries. The price needs to be checked before a decision is made. The Clerk advised Members that the proposed hedging near the Community Hall needs to be checked as it is in close proximity of a fire exit. The Mayor, Clerk and Cllr Sparkes will make a decision once the price has been clarified. Cllrs Mrs Falp and Sparkes will plant the hedge.

154/16 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Reply letter from Mr Bill Hunt at WDC re-design proposals.
 2. WCC Public Health Warwickshire – Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health.
- All correspondence was noted.*

155/16 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

(135/16) - Accounts for payment accepted subject to receipts.)

No	Payable	Details	Amount £	Cheque No
2699	EON	Hall electricity	229.77	DD
2703	Shutterbits	Hall shutter clips /transmitters	101.80	002557
2704	Fortress	Hall wheelie bins	248.39	BACS
2705	Viking	Toner	100.78	BACS
2706	MSG Cleaning Services	Hall cleaning	150.00	002558
2709	Sureway Heating	Vents & safety guards hall	281.23	BACS
2710	Oakwood Security	Caretaker cover February 2016	120.00	BACS
2711	Warwickshire County Council	Repair lights Acre Close	84.97	BACS

2712	Jenny Mason	Stationery	2.69	BACS
2713	EON	Street lighting February 2016	31.74	DD
2714	EON	Christmas illuminations 2015	41.86	BACS
2715	Midshire Telecom	Office call charges February 2016	7.64	DD
	Coleshill Mayors Charity	Charity band concert	22.00	000055
	Alcester Town Council	Civic dinner	57.00	000056
	Atherstone Town Council	Civic dinner	54.00	000057

Expenditure over £500:

Invoice Date	WTC Ref	Payable to	Detail	Net	Vat	Gross	Paid by
09/02/16	2698	EON	Hall gas	726.22	36.31	762.53	DD
11/02/16	2700	Fattorini	Mayoral Chain Refurbishment	582.47	116.50	698.97	BACS
11/02/16	2701	Warwick District	Election expenses 2015	-	-	10,570.87	BACS
29/02/16	2708	HB Creative	Whitnash Tymes Spring 2016	1,420.00	284.00	1,704.00	002559
Grant income & expenditure exceeding £500:				Net	Vat		
Grant received							
10/02/16		Community Forum Grant	Replace wooden flower tubs	-	-	2,570.00	
Grant spend							
-		-	-	-	-	-	-

156/16 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

South Ward: Mullard Drive street sign is missing. One bin missing outside fish shop? The green bin from schools in Coppice Road is left out on the footpath once cleared and not returned to school premises. The outside light at the school burns all day and night. Parents dropping children off at school still park over resident's drives

East Ward: More copies of the Whitnash Tymes have been ordered to cover East Whitnash and Woodside Farm. A distributor will also be required to cover Woodside Farm.

North Ward: Nothing to report.

West Ward: The potholes on Landor Road near junction with Moorhill Road have been patched up. The footpath in Franklin Road on the stretch of road from Murcott Road up to Moorhill Road is in a very poor condition – cracked and starting to disintegrate. The surface of Landor Road beyond Moorhill Road is also fairly poor with cracks across the road, and sunken bits of repaired tarmac.

157/16 REPORT ON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEETING:

Cllr Button proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Christmas Lights Working Group meeting held on 4th February 2016 are received.

158/16 REPORT ON HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Button proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Hal and Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 28th January 2016 are received.

159/16 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr McFadden proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meeting held on 4th February 2016 are received.

160/16 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

The French Twinning Association will be visiting Whitnash in May 2016.
Whitnash Twinning Association will be going to Germany in August 2016.
A social membership has been introduced to residents wanting to join in the activities when twinning visits take place.

161/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 17th March 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

SIGNED..... DATE.....