

**Minutes 06/16**

**WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016  
at 7.00 p.m. in  
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

**PRESENT**

Councillors: S Button Deputy Mayor  
A Barton  
P Birdi  
G Cancilla  
B Franklin  
T Heath  
B Kirton  
T Shepherd  
J Short  
B Smart  
R Sparkes

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Police: 1 Press: 0 Public: 30

**119/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs Falp, McFadden and Vaughan. Apologies for absence were accepted.

**120/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**121/16 PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

**123/16 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY PRESENTATION**

**Residential Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> Mr & Mrs R Ripley  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mr & Mrs Parkin  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mr & Mrs Gougeon  
H/C Mrs McGuire  
H/C Laura & Valerie Lloyd  
H/C Mr & Mrs Beaufoy  
H/C Mr & Mrs A Austin  
H/C Mr & Mrs Eales  
H/C Mr & Mrs Abbott

H/C Mr & Mr D Baker

**Commercial Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> Whitnash Home & Gardens

2<sup>nd</sup> Plough & Harrow Pub

3<sup>rd</sup> Whitnash Sports & Social Club

**124/16 POLICE**

*Standing Orders were suspended to allow PCSO Steve Sample to speak*

PCSO Sample reported that it has been a good start to the year. To date only one burglary has been reported. There is a low crime rate in Whitnash. The only ongoing issues are parking on footpaths, double yellow lines and school parking. Steve will address the parking issues especially those where mobility scooters have to go onto the road to pass vehicles parked on the footpaths.

There have been a few Anti-Social Behaviour issues, but these are being dealt with and if they continue the youngsters involved will be given anti-social behaviour contracts. Knock and run problems are evident and this should be reported to the Police.

The shelter on Warwick Gates is still causing a problem and the Police are negotiating with WDC to remove it.

*Standing Orders were re-instated*

**125/16 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the Mayor's absence Cllr Button read the report:

I send my apologies for not being with you at our first meeting in the New Year. As many of you know I have been waiting to undergo a knee replacement operation and this happened on Friday 15<sup>th</sup>. I know Simon will chair the meeting well for me.

We have a lot to be proud of as we start 2016. An excellent **YES** result was achieved in the referendum for our Neighbourhood plan. Whitnash is the first town / village in Warwick District to have an adopted plan. Our Measured Mile was finally completed so extending the facilities we have in Acre Close and once again we have had an excellent Christmas Lights switch on.

Simon must be commended for all his hard work to make the lights successful. Thanks must go to all those who were able to help on the day. Many hands make light work and when the set up starts at 10am with erecting the stage and the event not finishing until everything is taken down and cleared away nearly 10 hours later we need all hands that we can get.

I have attended many events in the run up to Christmas time though not as many in Whitnash itself as I would have hoped for. If you are involved in an organisation that holds events or know people who are involved in them, remind them Whitnash has a Mayor and would love to find out more about them and support one of their functions or activities. I know past Mayors have worked hard to raise the profile of the Mayor and make people realise that Whitnash is a town in its own right. I believe we do get many more invites now than we use to, but sadly we still do not get invited to all the events happening in our own town.

We now have an exciting New Year to be involved as Councillors for Whitnash. I look forward to working with you all on ways of keeping and improving (if needs be) what make Whitnash special.

We have secured funding to employ a community development worker on a temporary basis to undertake survey work with residents looking at what they think of the Whitnash Tymes and what play equipment they would like to see us purchase with the section 106 money that developers have to provide from building in the town.

A note for your diary is that at the next full council meeting we will be having awareness training on Dementia from 6pm until 7pm before the start of the Town Council meeting. This is part of our wish to make Whitnash a Dementia friendly town. Please try to attend this. There will also be an opportunity for byour friends and family to attend an

awareness session at the Lawns on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 at 6pm. This will be followed by a discussion on the possibility of starting a dementia café in the town.

**Cllr Mrs Judy Falp**

**Mayor**

Cllr Button wished the Mayor a speedy recovery.

### 126/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the extraordinary and Town Council meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

### 127/16 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

**105/15 Report from County and District Councillors** – Cllr Cancilla reported that the puddles in the road outside the St Margaret's School have still not been repaired and the lollipop lady and pupils are still getting wet.

### 128/16 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

#### Warwickshire County Council Report:

Two extra 'arms' have been added to the street lighting outside the shops at Acre Close. Warwickshire County Council's budget has been cut by central government without any consultation.

**Cllr Kirton**

#### Warwick District Council Report:

The Leisure services option which we, with the labour group, tried to get the in-house option back on the table. The nearest we got was ensuring when the tender specification is drawn up the in-house team will be compared with the other specification.

The new Local plan is being put together and will include more land around the north and south of Leamington. However, this has been stalled by the Secretary of State's intervention in the applications for The Asps and Gallows Hill, which is for 900 and 450 houses respectively. This is going to cause havoc with the infrastructure south of Warwick as the County Council have only identified half of the money required to do the present authorised plans so the now have to reconsider how they will implement the additional houses as well as a park and ride facility at The Asps near Greys Mallory.

I have been dealing with dog fouling which becomes worse during the winter months when the nights are dark and people don't want to take their dogs to a park and just let them do their business on the footpath. I have been in touch with the dog warden who has placed posters on all lampposts in Moorhill and Landor Roads, but she needs the help of the public to tell her when this is happening and she will carry out patrols. The Whitnash Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted by Warwick District Council at last week's Executive meeting and was given a warm welcome. It now means that WDC has to include Whitnash Town Council in any decision they take for Whitnash. The main point in our plan is the provision of a Community Hub and to this end Mike Woollacott, a consultant for WDC, has been putting together the funding options for us. Together with him I met the Chairman and Secretary of the Whitnash Sports and Social Club last week to outline the possibilities going forward. They had a committee meeting on Tuesday night and we are awaiting the result of their discussion.

There is a Dementia Café for people with memory problems being started at The Lawns on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April with an awareness meeting prior to this on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 p.m. again at The Lawns. Councillors are invited to attend this meeting to find out what The Lawns are doing to help Whitnash.

There are a couple of road problems, Heathcote and Palmer which I have reported to WCC Highways to be repaired via their website. The one in Heathcote Road was repaired today.

Banners at Heathcote traffic lights should have been removed by yesterday, but despite several calls to WCC Highways there are still there.

The mail drop boxes have still not been removed. Write and tell them our contractors will now remove

them.

**Cllr Heath**

Cllr Mrs Judy Falp's District Report read by Cllr Button:

Warwick District Council local plan has been suspended, not thrown out, but been looking at further sites to accommodate the housing needs of Coventry. This has to be done or an inspector will not agree a plan. The government look at these plans and insist a sub-regional approach must be taken. North Warwickshire and Stratford District could be asked to not only provide for the estimated housing need for their area, but to accommodate Birmingham's needs as well. The government of course do not have the problem of getting the infrastructure to fit the needs of the developments and that is the issue we have to then deal with. A notice asking for land owners to put forward their land for building was made and the sites are being looked at for suitability. We will continue to fight that other areas must take a large share of housing with so much already planned around Whitnash.

The Leisure Options to ask for outside contractors to run the District Leisure Centres has also been a big topic of debate, with some Cllrs feeling the in house team should be given an opportunity to run the centres especially as the district council is intending to spend £12 million pounds on the centres. This item was called in by the Labour Group for further discussion. Cllrs Margrave and Heath can update you of that debate.

On a personnel level housing and land ownership issues have been raised with me as a District Councillor along with the ongoing issues there seems to be with Refuse collection.

**Cllr Mrs Falp**

#### 129/16 APPROVE AND ADOPT PRECEPT FOR 2016 - 2017

The precept for 2016 – 2017 is £141,179 less council tax support grant will be £131,705 which amounts to an annual increase of £4.60. Members proposed the precept for 2016 – 2017 is approved and adopted. All Members present voted in favour.

#### 130/16 WHITNASH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM

On 26th November 2015, there was a referendum on a Neighbourhood Development Plan in Whitnash.

The Whitnash Neighbourhood Development Planning referendum asked electors to vote yes or no in response to the following question: "**Do you want Warwick District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Whitnash to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?**"

Results:

**Number cast in favour of a Yes: 926**

**Number cast in favour of a No vote: 68**

**Spoilt votes: 6**

Turn out: 15%. Therefore, more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. Whitnash Town Council is the first Town in Warwick District to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and would like to thank Cllr Mrs Judy Falp, who took the lead on this, Whitnash Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Kirkwells Planning and Sustainability Consultants and Lorna Coldicott, Senior Planner Planning Policy, at Warwick District Council who worked tirelessly towards this achievement.

There was no press release despite this being sent to the Courier after the Referendum.

Members proposed a 'press liaison officer' is appointed to submit articles and photos to the Courier.

*Cllr Heath left the meeting at 20h00.*

## 131/16 DOG FOULING

In Cllr McFadden's absence Cllr Button read the following:

*Dog fouling was something I wanted to bring up to find out what we can do to try to prevent it/reduce it. We had a couple of incidences over Christmas where a long stretch of the pavement outside my neighbour's houses and our own house on Moorhill Road was 'fouled', and the mess not cleared up by the owner.*

*On the first occasion, we had to use several buckets of water to try to clear it from the path. On the second occasion, almost a week later, I decided to use my jet wash to clean what had already been stepped in by someone along the same stretch of pavement.*

*Also over the holiday period, we came across more dog fouling on the footpath opposite the Methodist Church on Murcott Road. I was then also told about a problem with dog mess and discarded dog mess bags on Church Lane and on the other side of Black Bridge.*

*This would suggest we have a problem (although perhaps no worse than anywhere else in Leamington? I don't know!). Cllr Heath has already spoken to the Dog Warden about this, and we have been issued with warning stickers to put on lampposts etc., and if we can identify a pattern of times when fouling occurs, she will make sure she is patrolling during those times.*

*However, I wanted to ask if there was any way we could provide more waste bins that are capable of taking dog waste as well. There is one of these bins on the grass verge on the corner of Rowley Road and Moorhill Road, but we could probably do with one on the grass verges at the junctions with Chandlers Road, Washbourne Road, and on the corner of Moorhill Road and Landor Road. Another bin at the exits to Washbourne Field onto Rowley Road and Coppice Road might also be beneficial, if there are none there at present. I suspect, many people walk their dogs via Washbourne Field and so would probably pass one of these bins on their way home, so they might be minded to dispose of dog waste bags in them, rather than drop them in hedges, gardens or on the floor etc.*

*Given what I have been told about Church Lane/Black Bridge, it sounds like this area is also badly in need of bins, as people apparently hanging the dog waste bags on tree and bush braches rather than taking them home with them.*

*I appreciate there is a cost involved in acquiring these bins, and then getting WDC agreement to empty them on a regular basis, but wanted to ask what we could do to get some bins installed, and if there is anything else we can do to try to eliminate this problem?*

Members suggested that more bins in the prime dog fouling areas may encourage pet owners to pick up and dispose of dog mess. Ask the Dog Warden to put notices up on the lamp columns in Church Lane to highlight the problem of dog fouling in the area.

## 132/16 FLY TIPPING

In Cllr McFadden's absence Cllr Button read the following:

*Following on from the dog fouling item, I was also alerted by a resident about a fly tipping problem on the end of Church Lane/Black Bridge. Apparently, they sometimes have old sofas/settees dumped there, as well as building waste such as old roof tiles, bricks, and general household rubbish in black bin bags.*

*As well as this, there is the issue of dog waste, and discarded dog waste bags, but also on occasion, used syringes and other drug related items. This is not just a nuisance, but a health and safety issue too, with cyclists, and children using the bridle way to get to Sydenham, and Campion School etc. The resident suggested that she and her neighbours often have to clear up there themselves, but they shouldn't have to.*

*In addition, a few times I have noted building waste and other rubbish dumped on the grass verges on Harbury Lane, alongside Harbury Lane Playing Fields. Recently, there was even a fridge freezer lying on the ground!!! Luckily, when I report these to Jenny, Warwick District Council are pretty good at clearing the mess up quite quickly. However, again, this should not be happening.*

*I wanted to raise this at the town council meeting to find out what, if anything, we can do to prevent it from happening?*

Members proposed that a news article to draw attention to the increase in fly tipping is placed in the press. Cllr Short also proposed that the Police are made aware of the amount of traffic using Church Lane during the night, especially white vans, and ask the Police to patrol the area at night. Residents are also putting household waste into litter bins which means they fill up really quickly.

### 133/16 WAR MEMORIAL NAMES

We have received an email from Mr David Eason informing us that Private, William Franklin Biddle, 8679, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> British Infantry Division was killed in action on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1914, aged 30 was born on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1884 in Whitnash, was the eldest son of ten children.

Can we include his name on the War Memorial?

Email Franklin Biddle's military details to Cllr Smart to check relevant information and report back to next Town Council meeting.

Cllr Mrs Falp has also been notified that Albert George Mann whose connection to Whitnash was not obvious in previous records. It has now been confirmed from his eldest son's birth certificate that he was resident in Whitnash at the time his son's birth in 1914 with his wife. He must have been Lodging as his name does not appear on the "Whites" address lists of Whitnash for the years.

### 134/16 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Reply letter from Chris White MP re Syrian refugees
2. Reply letter from Mr Glen Burley re car parking at Warwick Hospital
3. Thank you letter from Whitnash Fun Day for grant received.
4. NALC regarding HM Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations.

### 135/16 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

(111/15 - Accounts for payment accepted subject to receipts.)

<b>No</b>	<b>Payable</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Cheque No</b>
2680	Jenny Mason	2 x light tubes for hall	10.25	BACS
2681	Severn Trent	Hall water rates	74.59	DD
2682	Jenny Mason	Cllr Falp card & chocolates	6.50	BACS
2683	Jenny Mason	DHL couriers	90.19	BACS
2684	Jenny Mason	flowers for Lorna Coldicott	34.00	BACS
2685	Titan	Renewal website backup	48.00	DD
2686	Titan	Renewal professional hosting	120.00	DD
2687	Jenny Mason	Sympathy card	1.99	BACS
2688	Jenny Mason	Sympathy card	1.25	BACS
2689	Viking	Stationery & toner	129.72	BACS
2691	Warwickshire County Council	Street light annual maintenance	92.64	BACS

2692	MSG cleaning	Hall cleaning	120.00	002555
2694	Jenny Mason	Expanding foam hall	3.99	BACS
2695	EON	Street lighting Jan 2016	33.94	DD
2696	Midshire Telecom	Line rental & broadband Jan 2016	140.71	DD
GC print		Christmas raffle tickets cancelled	-153.00	002528
GC print		Christmas raffle tickets	153.00	002556
Mayor Leamington charity		Civic dinner	80.00	000052
Stratford District Council		Chairman's charity dinner	70.00	000053
Stratford Mayor's charity		donation re civic dinner	40.00	000054

**Expenditure over £500:**

INVOICE DATE	WTC REF	PAYABLE TO	DETAIL	NET	VAT	GROSS
			None			
<b>GRANT INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE EXCEEDING £500</b>						
				NET	VAT	GROSS
<b>GRANT RECEIVED</b>						
			None			
<b>GRANT SPEND</b>						
03/02/16	N/PLAN GRANT		STAFF & OFFICE COSTS			2,514.08

**136/16 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Button raised concern after he was contacted by a resident who saw a scholar crash into the timetable notice on the bus stop column. Cllr Kirton will contact Stagecoach to find out if the sharp edges could be smoothed to prevent any fatalities.

**South Ward:** Nothing to report.

**East Ward:** Nothing to report.

**North Ward:** Potholes in parking area at Acre Close especially opposite dentist rooms. Vehicles are parking on the indented dropped kerbs outside the shops in Acre Close.

The bin outside the Whitnash Sports & Social Club has still not been replaced. A dog bin in Church Close and near Black Bridge may improve the litter problem and dog fouling may be thrown in the bin rather than in the hedges. Western Power undertook some work at the junction off Whitnash Road and Church Close and there is a big puddle of water there and the cobbles on the kerb have not been replaced. Posts and chain on Church Green need to be replaced.

**West Ward:** Nothing has been done regarding the puddle of water that accumulates after it has rained outside St Margaret's School in Coppice Road. This was reported to WCC Highways in September 2015 and has not been resolved yet.

**137/16 REPORT ON FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

Cllr Smart proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 are received.

138/16 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Cllr Smart proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 and 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 are received.

139/16 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

There was no report from the Twinning Association.

140/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

Members were reminded of the Dementia Awareness Training before the next Town Council meeting.

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

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