

Minutes 09/16

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 21st April 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
 B Kirton
 R Margrave
 S McFadden
 T Shepherd
 J Short
 B Smart
 R Sparkes

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Police: 0 Press: 0 Public: 1

179/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Birdi, Heath and Vaughan. Apologies for absence were accepted. *Emails tendering apologies for the meeting from Cllrs Birdi and Vaughan were sent after I left the office.*

180/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

181/16 PUBLIC FORUM

The Independent candidate for the forthcoming Police Elections for Warwickshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr David Whitehouse, addressed the meeting.

182/16 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor paid tribute to HM Queen on her 90th birthday.

It has been a busy month with many of the civic leaders arranging their civic services and civic dinners. My husband and I have attended civic dinners for the Chairs of Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council and the

Mayors of Alcester and Atherstone. We have also attended the Civic Church services of Shipston and Coleshill. I have also attended the British Asian Business & Professionals Association Charity dinner, the Mayoress of Coventry's afternoon tea and two concerts. This means Whitnash has been represented across the county and beyond and lets others know of our town.

I was delighted to be asked to officially open the new Forget Me Not Dementia café at the Lawns Care Home in Whitnash. Local resident Jenny Heath and Paul Gaskell from Runwood are to be commended for taking an idea in December to a café opening in April.

This is my last meeting as Mayor before the Mayor making in May. Thank you all for your support during my civic year. It has been busy but rewarding, interesting and while you think you have twelve months to achieve things the time goes very quickly.

Cllr Mrs J Falp – Mayor

183/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17th March 2016 as circulated were approved after an amendment was recorded and signed.

169/16 WCC Report was amended to reflect that Cllr Kirton said Whitnash Library could close.

184/16 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

169/16 WCC Report - Subsequent to the meeting decision it was established that the closure does not currently apply to Whitnash Library and a letter was not sent to WCC.

168/16 – It has been established that Private W F Biddle did live in Whitnash. Need to establish whether any living relatives want his name included on the War Memorial. Cllrs Franklin and McFadden will follow up on this/

185/16 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mrs J Falp – Warwick District Councillor: *Having been a District Councillor for 13 years I have never had to review a film for classification before. This can be part of your role if you are a member of the Licence and Regulatory committee. To make a decision on the classification (18, P.G etc.) you need to see the film first. Two sessions were arranged for Cllrs to watch the film prior to the meeting when it was on the agenda.*

The sites for Gypsy and Traveller sites are still to be found as the land the district council put forward at Campion Hills was quickly withdrawn after all the opposition. The proposal for land at the Leamington Football Club is still the only identified site at the moment.

With support from my fellow Whitnash District Councillors we have secured a half a million pounds promise from the district, subject to a viable business plan being produced, for a new Community Hub. The working party of Cllrs, Sports and Social members and the Head at Whitnash Primary have met twice. There will be a need for the town council to support financially the production of the business plan and the district were clear in their decision that the town should lead the project.

As Whitnash Residents Group leader I have regular meeting with the Chief Executive and other group leaders and will in the coming month confirm which committees we will sit on from May. This is worked out depending on number of Councillors from each party, but we do have representation on all committees.

Cllr R Margrave – Warwick District Councillor: *I am a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which meets regularly, I have a substitute for Judy on the Planning Committee, and the St Mary's Land Working Group (but as they have chosen to only meet in the day I haven't been able to make any meetings due to work commitments). Despite working full time I have managed to attend most of the council meeting's that I have been scheduled to attend.*

The prominent issues at the District council have been the Local Plan, Gypsy and Travellers sites, none of which have yet reached a conclusion. Other major issues are the District's plan to privatise the operation of (not ownership

of) the leisure centres and this week the district have moved forward with the plan to relocate the offices to the current site of the multi-story car park adjacent Tesco in Leamington from Riverside House.

District issues that are continuing to affect Whitnash over the next few months are their plans to allow another 75 houses south of Fieldgate Lane adjacent the 110 being built today, the undecided location of the G & T site.

On a brighter note, as a result of New Homes Bonus money WDC have committed up to £500K to Whitnash towards a new community hub. All three district councillors will be taking a close interest in ensuring this project comes to fruition in the next few years, although despite that some there are still many hurdles to overcome.

Cllr A Heath – Warwick District Councillor:

Cllr Mrs Falp read this report in Cllr Heath's absence

The last twelve months I have served on the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee at WDC which monitors and question intentional financial spending by the council. It is a committee that has updates on progress or various projects, a risk register to oversee expenditure and contract performances throughout the year. It is not a committee that you would wish me to report on at Town Council meetings as it would probably bore you.

A much more interesting committee which I service on is the recreation committee which, as you know, for the last months has been deciding to go external for the running of the council's leisure facilities at Newbold Common, St Nicholas Park and Kenilworth after having agreed to spend £12 million pounds updating and improving them first. For the last two months we have been agreeing the terms of the tender documents to ensure the existing users are well taken care of and will not lose out when the new management eventually takes over at the end of 2017/18 This work is not yet complete.

Another major amount of work has been the adoption of the revised Local Plan which has met with much criticism all across the District after everyone had thought we had agreed the final version only to find the Inspector refused to accept it asking that we take it back and include yet more houses as part of Coventry's allocation. The areas that affect Whitnash have been East Whitnash, another 300 houses, Golf Lane a further 75 along with Fieldgate Lane 107 and Woodside Farm which is now in Whitnash following the boundary changes will give us another 280 houses. We now have no more space to build so we must watch carefully the other nearby developments along Harbury Lane to ensure the traffic continues to move and the environment is not totally overwhelmed by houses. My colleague Cllr Falp as a planning committee member will probably add to this

During the year more local problems have been sorted such as overgrown hedges blocked drains and controversially travellers who continue to invade nearby Spartan Close causing many problems with local businesses and residents. There is a meeting on Friday this week to discuss further measures to combat this happening again. Unfortunately, the two District Councillors in Warwick Gates and the County Councillor for the area do not get involved preferring to let others try to sort it out so hopefully we can. We must be vigilant to prevent the travellers invading Acre Close or Washbourne Field. That is why I arranged to have the fencing erected at the top of Chandlers and Washbourne Roads

Cllr Mrs Falp reported that the green drop boxes had been removed.

186/16 WHITNASH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Whitnash Town Council has been awarded a grant by Warwickshire County Council to complete a survey to find out if:

1. the Whitnash Tymes is well read and if the information is useful
2. what play equipment is best suited for the play areas in Whitnash
3. if there are any Community Champions willing to be involved in the community

An experienced Community worker, Linda Price, has been employed to conduct this survey to ascertain resident's views on the above topics. Linda explained how the survey will be undertaken. A flyer will be inserted into the summer 2016 edition of the Whitnash Tymes, door knocking and by visiting local groups and organisations to get their views. This consultation will also be publicised on the website and Facebook page. Linda will gather the information and hopes to have a report ready by September / October. Cllr Mrs Falp offered to donate a £25 gift voucher for a random draw for completed surveys returned to Whitnash Town Council.

187/16 APPROVE AND ADOPT UPDATED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Cllr Smart proposed that the updated Financial Regulations be approved and adopted and Cllr Barton seconded the proposal. All Members present voted in favour.

188/16 CLOSURE OF INDEPENDENT PHARMACIES

There is currently a petition regarding the Governments proposed closure of pharmacies in England. Between 1,000 and 3,000 pharmacies — as many as one in four — could close in England as a result of government cuts to funding for pharmacy, the All Party Pharmacy Group (APPG) has warned. Members proposed that our residents are informed about the proposal and publicise the petition that can be signed at our local chemist.

189/16 RATES ASSESSMENT

Cllr Franklin has contacted the Valuation Office to come and measure the Community Hall and do an assessment.

190/16 COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

A second meeting was held on 7th April 2016 regarding the new Community Hub. Warwick District Council has *made* an in-principle grant offer of £0.5m to help deliver a viable Community Hub. This being subject to a comprehensive business plan being undertaken and submitted along with all appropriate legal undertakings being in place.

191/16 COURIER NOTICES

Cllr McFadden will summarise approved Town Council minutes to include in the Courier's What's on page to keep electorate informed. A copy of the submission sent to the Courier each week will be sent to the Clerk to ask the Library to display these for those residents who do not buy the Courier.

192/16 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thank you letter from Mr T Roberts re commemorative seat for Mr G L Pratt.

193/16 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

(174/16) - Accounts for payment accepted subject to receipts.)

No	Payable	Details	Amount £	Cheque No
2736	BOSS HR	HR support	75.00	BACS

2737	Warwickshire CC	Office rent 01/04/16 - 30/06/16	495.85	BACS
2738	Jenny Mason	Sympathy card	1.25	BACS
2739	Countrywide	Mowing April 2016	338.80	BACS
2740	Ian Colls	Shelving for hall	130.80	002562
2741	Jenny Mason	Air fresheners for hall	6.00	BACS
2743	Countrywide	Mowing May 2016	338.80	BACS
2744	EON	Street lighting April 2016	32.83	DD
2747	Spa Computer Centre	Supply & install Kaspersky antivirus	157.00	BACS
2748	Viking Direct	Stationery & toner	115.55	BACS
2749	Midshire Telecom	Line rental, call charges April 2016	135.56	DD
2751	EON	Hall electricity	196.18	DD
2752	WALC	Training Cllr Button	30.00	002565
2753	Leamington Golf Club	Deposit civic dinner July 2016	180.00	002564
2754	WJ Robinson	Internal audit	120.00	002566
2755	Jenny Mason	Armed Forces Day flag	16.74	BACS
2756	Jenny Mason	Postage VAT return	1.20	BACS
2757	Jenny Mason	Fuel & oil for mowers	16.98	BACS
2758	Jenny Mason	Mayor Making refreshments	17.84	BACS
2759	Eternal Flowers	Mayor Making	90.00	BACS
2762	D Herbert	Tables & chairs to tip	196.00	002567
2763	Thomas Fattorini	Case for mayoral chain	327.77	BACS
2764	Thomas Fattorini	Credit case for mayoral chain	-16.73	BACS
2765	Jenny Mason	Get well cards	3.98	BACS
2766	Jenny Mason	Sympathy cards	2.00	BACS
2768	HB Creative	Business cards	270.00	002568
2769	J Dale	Mayor Making refreshments	225.00	000073
2770	Countrywide	Mowing June 2016	338.80	BACS
2771	Fortress	Hall wheelie bins June - Sept 2016	248.39	BACS
2773	EON	Street lighting May 2016	33.94	DD
	D Herbert	Strimmer head & fuel	48.49	002563
	Post Office	100 x 2nd class stamps	55.00	002569
	WDC	Temporary Events Notice - lights	21.00	002570
	Stratford District Council	Civic dinner	60.00	000060
	Cancelled	Cancelled	CXD	000061
	Cllr Falp	Mayors Allowance	100.00	000062
	Whitnash Primary PTA	Cllr Falp donation	100.00	000063
	Whitnash Seniors Club	Cllr Falp donation	100.00	000064
	Whitnash Coffee Morning	Cllr Falp donation	100.00	000065
	Whitnash Short Mat	Cllr Falp donation	100.00	000066
	Whitnash Twinning	Cllr Falp donation	100.00	000067
	Whitnash Society	Cllr Falp donation	100.00	000068
	Whitnash Juniors u12's	Cllr Falp donation	100.00	000069
	League of Friends	Cllr Falp donation	100.00	000070
	J Byford	Wine for Mayor Making	59.94	000072
	Warwick Mayors Charity	Tea party	45.00	000074

Expenditure over £500:

Invoice Date	WTC Ref	Payable to	Detail	Net	Vat	Gross	Paid by
13/04/16	2735	Crimestop	Annual maintenance hall alarm	660.00	132.00	792.00	BACS
01/05/16		WDC	Hall rates May 2016	653.00		653.00	DD
10/05/16	2750	EON	Hall gas	579.51	28.98	608.49	DD
26/05/16	2767	HB Creative	Whitnash Tymes Spring edition	1,466.00	293.20	1,759.20	002568
25/05/16	2772	Warwickshire CC	Street light Acre Close	1,128.21	225.64	1,353.85	BACS
25/05/16		Alzheimer's Society	Cllr Falp donation	1,521.07		1,521.07	000071

01/06/16		WDC	Hall rates June 2016	653.00		653.00	DD
Grant income & expenditure exceeding £500:				Net	Vat	Gross	Paid by
Grant received		None		-	-	-	-
Grant spend							
Spend from monies C/F Cllr Birdi's Mayoral donation:							
05/05/16	2745	Sky Blues in the Community	Summer camps marketing & promotion	160.00			BACS
05/05/16	2746	Sky Blues in the Community	Summer camps acre close	840.00		840.00	BACS
Spend from Localities & Communities Grant C/F:							
29/04/16	2760	Linda Price	Whitnash Community Survey April 2016	201.98		201.98	BACS

194/16 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

North Ward: 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. This was reported to WCC in January 2016

St Margaret's Church centre users are still parking on the footpath and this is causing obstruction to pedestrians on a very busy road. Plasterer's tub at the substation near the Plough and Harrow Pub that needs to be cleared.

East Ward: Cllr Mrs Falp reported that there are now 65 houses occupied in East Whitnash. She has as yet not been contacted by any of the new residents.

West Ward: There are some sunken drain gates in Moorhill Road and Harbury Lane. There are also a number of damaged / disused or redundant fire hydrants around Whitnash. The bus shelter at the bottom of Ashford / Tachbrook Roads junction needs refurbishing. There are overgrown bush / thorns / weeds are spilling over across the cycle path/pavement on Othello Avenue, opposite the junction with Dogberry Way. These bushes/weeds are on land between the cycle path/ foot path and a garage. However, the plants are encroaching on the paths, which can be a hazard. Cllr McFadden has emailed Cllr Kirton about the parking issues in Franklin Road. Medley Grove street sign has still not been replaced. There are large pot holes near the entrance to The Bear in the Spa / Heathcote garage at both entrances to the pub.

South Ward: The grass verge between 103 to 111 Coppice Road before you turn into Erica drive needs re-instating. The grass verge is almost non-existent and wants replacing and bollards putting in. The other area is outside the Library to the right hand side of the gate the small triangular area adjacent to the bungalow either tarmac or grass the area. The drainage outside St Margaret's school is still an issue and has not been repaired yet. A 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.

There is a sunken storm drain on the left-hand side of block of flats in Verdun Close numbers 54 – 57 and the drain cover is missing.

Cllr Button thanked Cllr Mrs Falp and the Clerk for sorting the Markham Drive ownership issue out. The Mullard Drive street sign has been re-instated.

Parking on pavements is an ongoing issue.

The Harbury Lane / Fosse Way junction is still a major concern given the amount of accidents that occur there.

195/16 REPORT ON FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON:

Cllr Smart proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meeting held on 7th April 2016 are received.

196/16 REPORT ON HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON:

Cllr Mrs Falp proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Hall and Playing Fields committee meeting held on 10th March 2016 are received.

197/16 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr McFadden proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meeting held on 7th April 2016 are received.

198/16 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

The French Twinning group will be arriving on 5 May and stay until 8th May 2016.

199/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making on 26th May 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.....