

**Minutes 04/15**

**WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015  
at 7.00 p.m. in  
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT

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

Mayor  
Deputy Mayor

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

In attendance

Cllr M Doody

Chair Warwick District Council

Police: 0 Press: 0

Public: 1

77/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Birdi, Cancilla and Kirton. Apologies for absence were accepted.

78/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

79/15 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

80/15 WELCOME CHAIRMAN OF WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Michael Doody, Chairman of Warwick District Council was in attendance. Cllr Doody will comment on the matters raised during the meeting at the end.

Cllr Doody agreed with Warwick District Council's decision not to join the 'combined authorities' proposal with Birmingham. This merger would mean Warwickshire's Councillors would not be able to vote or speak. It would be better to combine with Coventry. The Liberal Democrats proposed a new town to accommodate the new houses

that have to be included in the Warwick Local Plan. The Council's Comprehensive Spending has been reduced considerably and hopefully the new homes bonus will compensate for this cut. Members questioned Cllr Doody about Warwick District Council's new headquarters, litter bins and red boxes, Standards Committee, a new Community Hub for Whitnash and Gypsy/ Traveller sites.

### 81/15 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There have been a number of civic services held in the last four weeks. Some Mayors and Chairman like to hold their services early on in their year while others prefer to wait until the end of their years. So I have attended the Chairman of Stratford Districts, my own and the Mayor of Kenilworth's and the High Sheriffs service to mark the start of the judicial year.

My civic service was held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm at the Methodist Church. Thank you to all who were able to attend. I think those who attended would agree it was a good service and the songs by Amy Thomas were amazing.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November the Measured Mile will be started. This along with outdoor gym equipment and new fencing will bring another facility to our town. Thanks must go to Cllr Richard Sparkes and the team in the office who all worked so hard to make this project possible. We of course could not have had this without our funders Wren Environmental who have supported us in the past with funding the basketball court and the play equipment and Warwick District Council who have also help fund the project. It is hoped to be completed by the 20<sup>th</sup> November with an official opening ceremony on the Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

I am sure you need no reminding that we will be in St Margaret's Church for a 10am start on Sunday 8th November 2015 to remember all those who have fallen serving for their country.

The Tree of Light switch on will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 5.15 p.m. at St Margaret's Church and I hope as many of you as possible can attend. This is an opportunity to remember loved ones with a donation to a charity. I always support this and with my father passing away this year it will be a chance for me to have a light to remember him as well as other family members who passed away over the years.

And finally our Whitnash Neighbourhood plan goes to referendum on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015. We are the first in Warwick District to do this so I must thank the council for the vision to undertake a plan and all who helped to produce it. We hope that the people of Whitnash will vote YES so we can use the plan for the future of Whitnash. Please do all you can to encourage residents to support it and don't forget to vote!

**Judy Falp Mayor of Whitnash**

### 82/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

### 83/15 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

**30/15 Police** – The Whitnash edition of the Bogus Bugle form Warwickshire Trading Standards has been received and will be distributed with the winter 2015 edition of the Whitnash Tymes. Parking around Acre Close shops and outside St Margaret's Church Centre is still a problem. Members proposed a letter is sent to St Margaret's Church Centre asking them to ask users of the centre not to park on the footpath. *Cllr Barton declared an interest as a member of the Church.*

**39/15 Identity Badges and Business cards** – awaiting photos from photographer and some members have not had photos taken yet.

**70/15** – Tree roots in Landor Road have been investigated. The litter bin outside the Whitnash Sports and Social Club has still not been replaced.

## 84/15 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Kirton sent apologies so there was no County Council report.

### **Cllr Mrs Judy Falp – WDC:**

There have been two major decisions at the District Council recently.

These were about Combined Authorities and more requirements for housing.

Whitnash Town Council gave the Whitnash District Councillors a clear mandate that they did not wish to join in the Birmingham, Black Country Combined authority. We entered the meeting believing to join or not was on the table as per our published agenda, only to be told by the leader that the decision was to be not go in. While this was the option we wanted to support the way it was presented and the vote to not allow suspension of standing orders to give an opportunity for proper debate was not. As I said on the evening if we are not there to debate what are we there for.

This meeting was followed a few days later with the meeting on housing numbers required to cover Coventry's need. To stand any chance of our local plan to go forward we and other districts within Warwickshire will have to provide land that Coventry has not got. This is government policy to make all areas in the country build homes and it is why we are having to take new properties on and in any space that can be found, even the back gardens that we have tried to protect for many years. There is a similar situation with housing need in Birmingham and districts bordering them, North Warwickshire and Stratford in particular could be asked to take some of their housing. I was in favour of the Liberal suggestion to create a new town rather than tack extra houses on to existing settlements but could not support this when it also included the statement that North Leamington be protected from development. If the first ever draft plan had been kept, the only one we voted for then ALL of the district would have taken houses not just those communities south of the river. The settlements of Warwick, Bishops Tachbrook, Radford Semele and Whitnash need protection from further development.

Cllr Mrs Falp suggested the Town Council waits until more is known about where the new houses will go before making a representation.

No reports from Cllr Heath and Margrave were received as Cllr Mrs Falp's report covered all current issues.

## 85/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Whitnash Neighbourhood Plan will be decided at a Referendum on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Whitnash will be entitled to a greater share of any money that the developers have to contribute to the locality, if we have a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan will also assist with planning the future facilities for Whitnash. A banner as well as flyers in the winter 2015 edition of the Whitnash Tymes will publicise the Referendum. Please vote YES!

## 86/15 APPROVE AND ADOPT GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2016

Cllr Button proposed and Cllr Franklin seconded that the (LGA 1972 section 137) grant applications for 2015 submitted by the Finance and General Purposes Committee be approved and adopted. All members voted in favour.

*Cllrs Mrs Falp declared an interest in Whitnash Women's Institute and Youth Club applications, Cllr Barton declared an interest in Fun Day and WDR application and Cllr Smart declared an interest in the Whitnash Short Mat Bowls application. Cllr Heath declared an interest in the Youth Club application.*

## 87/15 MEASURED MILE

Work on the Measured Mile will start on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 and should be completed by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Notifications have been sent to hall and field users regarding the

start date. The opening will be held on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

**88/15 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Cllr Button reported that he was negotiating with a main sponsor at the moment and awaiting the outcome. Cllr Button appealed for helpers on the day at Santa's Grotto. He also asked Members to donate wine for the raffle and chocolates for the chocolate tombola. The light display will be judged on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

**89/15 VENUE FOR NOVEMBER 2015 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Due to the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 the Town Council meeting will be held in Whitnash Town Council office.

**90/15 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. WCC letter regarding Consultation under Regulation 18 Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 – Warwickshire Minerals Plan (2017 – 2032).
2. Reply letter from Chris White re Syrian Refugee Crisis.

**91/15 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

(69/15 - Accounts for payment accepted subject to receipts.)

<b>No</b>	<b>Payable</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Cheque No</b>
2623	Information Commissioner's Office	Data Protection annual renewal	35.00	DD
2625	John Cooke Photography	Mayoral portrait	100.00	BACS
2628	Warwickshire County Council	Office rent October – December 2015	495.85	BACS
2630	Woodberry	Brass plaque for bench at Brook Valley	58.80	BACS
2634	Julie Dale	Civic service refreshments	160.00	000049
2635	EON	Street lighting October 2015	33.94	DD
2637	Jenny Mason	Keys	4.00	BACS
2638	Landscape Group	Mowing October 2015	307.20	BACS
2641	HB Creative	Mayor's Christmas Cards	120.00	000050
2642	Midshire Telecom	Line rental & broadband	138.68	DD
2643	Admiral Fire Extinguisher	Annual Safety Inspection	42.00	BACS
2644	EON	Hall electricity	194.47	DD
2645	EON	Hall gas	194.04	DD
2646	Jenny Mason	Flowers for Caretaker	35.00	BACS
2624	D Herbert	Spring for toddler gate	43.02	002532
	Post Office	100 x 2nd Class stamps	54.00	002533
	Whitnash W.I.	Grant 2015	150.00	002534
	Whitnash Youth Club	Grant 2015	360.00	002535
	Whitnash Fun Day	Grant 2015	396.00	002536

	Warwick District Remembers	Grant 2015	250.00	002537
	Shortmat Bowls	Grant 2015	94.00	002538
	D Stocks	Plants for flower beds	45.99	002539
	Cllr Button	Christmas tree stage	34.99	002541
	Whitnash Methodist Church	Cllr Falp civic donation	75.00	000048

**Expenditure over £500:**

Inv. Date	WTC Ref.	Payable to	Detail	Net £	Vat £	Gross £p	Payment
26/10/15	2631	Spa Computer Centre	Office Computers	1504.16	300.83	1804.99	BACS
23/10/15	2633	Baginton Nurseries	Winter 2015 flower tubs	1000.80	200.16	1200.96	BACS
05/11/15	2639	HB Creative	Whitnash Tymes winter 2015	1400.00	280.00	1680.00	002540
16/10/15	2640	WPS Insurance	Annual Insurance Renewal	-	-	4518.09	BACS
01/11/15	-	Warwick District Council	Hall Rates November 2015	-	-	648.00	DD

**Grant income & expenditure exceeding £500:**

**Grants received:**

None	-	-	-	-	-
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**Grant spend:**

15/10/15	2626	HB Creative	Neighbourhood Plan booklets	139.44	27.89	167.33	002531
15/10/15	2627	H B Creative	Referendum Flyers and Posters	288.00	57.60	345.60	002531

**92/15 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS**

**East Ward:** Cllr Mrs Falp reported that East Whitnash is taking shape and she will be delivering the Whitnash Tymes to the new houses. AC Lloyd have donated a new bench for Brook Valley. Whitnash Society will pay for the plaque.

**North Ward:** The parking area at Acre Close needs resurfacing as there are potholes. Parking in and around Acre Close remains a problem.

**West Ward:** The Post Office Drop boxes have not been removed yet. Email received at end of August said they should be removed within 12 weeks. There is still a lot of mud on road near Mallory Court where building work is being carried out. The electricity substation on Woodside Farm is an eye sore and should hopefully be screened off. Members should look out for the substations in future plans.

**South Ward:** Speed Watch sessions have been undertaken in Golf Lane and will continue to monitor the speed there. Quotes for new electronic speed signs have been sourced, but it is complicated as various rules and regulations apply.

**93/15 REPORT ON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON:**

Cllr Button proposed that the minutes of the Christmas Lights Working Group meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 be approved and adopted.

**94/15 REPORT ON FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON:**

Cllr Heath proposed that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be approved and adopted.

**95/15 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:**

Cllr McFadden proposed that the minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 be approved and adopted.

96/15 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

Nothing to report other than arrangements are being made for the Christmas Party.

97/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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