

Minutes 08/17

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 16th February 2017
at 7.00 p.m. in
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT

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

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

136//17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Falp. Apologies for absence were accepted.

137/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

138/17 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

139/17 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The last month has been an interesting one again, starting with the sad news about us losing a pub again. The Bear in the Spa may not have been everyone's cup of tea, I think mainly over the price of full-price meals, but as a family we loved it, especially the chicken wings and we will really miss it. Sad really!
Every one of us is concerned about the levels of crime in this area and to this end Tony, Judy and I had a meeting

with CI Faz Chisty and DI Daff Goddard, to discuss this, a couple of weeks ago. It was quite an encouraging meeting, with some positives about certain criminals being apprehended. The other thing we must realise is that this rise in crime is a national problem and not just isolated to this area.

As a reminder, the next Community Forum is being held here, on Tuesday 21st February at 6.30pm (next week). I don't think it is widely known, as I was never told this, but it is recommended for Councillors to attend this.

As Councillors, we are not always aware of our responsibilities, especially relating to such issues as to what we are expected to attend, such as the forum and surgeries etc.

I also don't believe that we all respond to Jenny's emails, as we should do. Please REMEMBER, it is not always required to reply to all. Please use your discretion on this.

There have also been countless discussions about housing.

Jenny and I are currently in battle with the County Council over traffic issues, as previously discussed, and as expected we are not getting very far with them. This will be touched on later for discussion.

Some positives now....

My most recent event, the Chinese Auction, was a great success, with my brother Nick being the star of the show. I would like to thank everyone who attended and helped us raise somewhere in the region of £967. I think everyone will agree that it was an unforgettable experience.

We are now fast forwarding towards the Charity Ball at the Chesford, on Saturday 1st April. This should be a fabulous evening with 2 live bands, a magician, a disco and a wonderful menu. We have some amazing auction and raffle prizes, but just need to get bums on seats now. So please support this, if you can and let Jenny know, as soon as possible.

We have amongst us a learned scholar, in the history of our neighbouring town of Leamington Spa. This of course is Barry Franklin, in case you didn't know. Barry has kindly offered to give us, our families and friends a talk on the shops from Clemens Street to the top of the Parade. I have seen this talk and it is really fascinating. Anyone who was born in this area, or has lived here for many years will really enjoy this. Firstly, is anyone interested in seeing this, with friends & family and secondly any ideas on when we can do this. Thank you, Barry, for this kind offer.

Cllr S Button - Mayor

140/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th January 2017 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

141/17 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

115/17 Police – Cllr Smart had reported an incident to the Police and they had not responded within 24 hours. Cllr Button proposed that this is discussed at the Community Forum meeting on 21st February 2017.

126/17 Speeding through Whitnash – Correspondence has been received from WCC regarding the issues raised with them. Reply letters have been forwarded to all Members.

142/17 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

Cllr Kirton raised concern about the precarious position Warwickshire County Council and all other County Councils find themselves in with major cuts to their budgets. These cuts will certainly effect road repairs and all other services provided by WCC. The Local Government Association has sent letters to Theresa May and the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding the cuts and the impact this will have on services.

Cllr B Kirton WCC

Warwick District Council Reports:

A constructive meeting was held with the Police about the increase in burglaries recently and Members were assured that steps have been taken to ensure the situation improves. Crime figures across the country are not acceptable. Apparently, the way crime is reported has changed and exact figures will be available at the end of the year. Houses in Multiple Occupation are increasing and Warwick District are trying to locate them close to town and bus routes rather than in the suburbs. Illegal HMO's are also becoming a problem.

Cllr T Heath

Since the last meeting, I have attended full council and an Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting. They are looking to open the crematorium on Saturdays. They will be looking at the future of One Stops shops. They produced a report showing how much more expensive Whitnash was to run than the others based on footfall and types of query received. They put the cost per transaction at £71 for Whitnash and Lillington at £36. As part of a Digital First strategy they are looking to make online access the primary way for residents to query District Council Services they use. They have assured us that no changes will be made to the service until the review and a workable IT solution is in place. We were told this could increase access at the library to 5 days a week if this plan works.

A review of the District Council involvement with Community Forums is due at the end of February. Regarding charging for replacement of red boxes, bins and bags. This has reduced the cost to the council by £43k. Since introduction of the scheme they have seen a reduction in recycling tonnage but they don't know if this is due to charging or not. They have seen a reduction in paper recycling which they think may be due to the national down turn in people reading printed news.

They have no plans to change the current scheme or implement any concessions. I asked about the expected life time of bins. 5 years for red boxes. The policy is that old and damaged bins and boxes are replaced free. Lost ones are charged for. As the red boxes, have been around since 2003 and the green / grey bins since 2000 it is likely that we now seem the coming to the end of their life. Let me know if old / damaged boxes / bins are not replaced for free.

Cllr R Margrave

In Cllr Mrs Falp's absence the report was read by Cllr Button:

I was invited with the other three group leaders at the District Council to meet the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Boundary Commission.

With the changes to County ward boundaries some parts of the district will have different electoral boundaries for County, District and Town. This along with large growth of housing in areas such as South of Leamington and Whitnash make the number of electors per Councillor in some wards very different to others. I had not voted for the scheme to make the wards coterminous with the county when this was presented at W.D.C. as it could mean the East Ward of Whitnash currently in the Leamington Sydenham ward for District but Town for Whitnash could become a Sydenham electoral ward for all three authorities. While I can see for residents it may be less confusing I stated that the links in the Community through history etc. was as important on deciding wards as numbers. The Boundary Commission will consider the changes for the 2019 District Elections but it may not be agreed or looked at until the 2023 elections.

Minor changes that include the changes proposed for Warwick Gates that make more logical boundaries and does put more houses in Whitnash West ward are hoped to go through very soon even if the other decisions on coterminous wards is delayed to 2023

A report on the future of one stop shops was published this week. The District Council provide staff on 1.5 days in the Library to assist with enquiries with staffing the other days being provided by the County Council. Doubt was raised in the report of the cost effectiveness of the face to face service at Whitnash and Lillington. The report proposed looking to produce a business case to provide a digital service only though it did say some residents would need help with using technology. Ward Councillors would be consulted on this in the future. Councillor Margrave in his Scrutiny Committee debated this at some length and may be able to give the Town Council more information. I cannot help but think though that once again the current political administration is looking to take away another service for Whitnash.

Judy Falp, Warwick District Council and Whitnash Town Council

143/17 COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Falp the report was read by Cllr Button:

The consultants commissioned by the Town Council and Warwick District Council to produce a business plan have almost completed their work. I hope that a finalised plan will be presented to the Town Council in March.

I met with some members of the Sports and Social Club as there was some confusion about why we were no longer going with option 3 which was for a large sports hall attached to the Hub. This has proved to be highly unlikely to achieve now due to changes in funding policy with a major sports funder.

At the Town council meeting in January it had been agreed to go with option one and the council were informed that the Sports and Social would produce a business plan as to what they wanted for their club.

At my meeting with some of the Sports and Social Club management committee they had asked if the council would consider putting changing rooms for outdoor sports onto the hub building. I agreed we would cost this and it would be added to the plan for the council to agree or disagree. The changing rooms would have to be hired along with the pitches and the Town Council would handle the letting.

The Sports and Social club will have to go back to its members when their business plan (hopefully in March) to get their approval. Our option one and their current thinking would not involve any land swap and the Hub would be accessed as now from Acre Close.

I continue to work with the School and the County and District Councils to see if we can help find ways to change the school's main entrance to be in Whitnash in the future.

Councillor Judy Falp Chairman

Whitnash Hub Working Group Chairman

Cllr Vaughan mentioned that there is a gym / boxing academy that needs to find a new venue and they may be interested. Cllr Button would speak to Cllr Mrs Falp about this.

Cllrs Button and Sparkes declared an interest in this item.

144/17 APPROVE AND ADOPT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2017 – 2018

The calendar of meetings for 2017 – 2018 was approved and adopted.

145/17 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Reply from Jo Edwards, Traffic and Road Safety Group at Warwickshire County Council regarding road safety. The only source of funding for our request would be from the Local Member's Delegated Budget Scheme and Cllr Kirton has committed his full allocation for this financial year (2016 – 2017). Cllr Button will liaise with Councillor Kirton to try and secure funding for the project in the new financial year. If there is funding available, the Traffic and Road Safety Group are more than happy to meet and discuss this issue further.
2. Reply from WCC, Cllr Peter Butlin regarding Golf Lane / Whitnash Road junction. Restricted budgets at WCC mean that the Highway Authority can only direct resources to those locations that have a history of traffic collisions.
3. Battle's Over – letter regarding beacons being lit on 11th November 2018 for those who lost their lives. Cllr Short proposed this is discussed at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting in March.

146/17 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

(129/17) - Accounts for payment accepted subject to receipts.)

No	Payable	Details	Amount £	Cheque No
2897	Chesford Grange	3rd Installment Mayor's charity ball	400.00	BACS
2947	Peter Bennett Stationers	Stationery & toner	122.04	002612
2948	Boss HR Ltd	HR Support	80.00	BACS
2949	Jenny Mason	Broom & dustpan for hall	15.48	BACS
2950	Jenny Mason	Refreshments Dementia training	12.08	BACS
2951	Midshire Telecom	Line rental, broadband, call charges January	141.52	DD
2952	Warwickshire County Council	Lamp column conversion for Christmas lights	190.33	BACS
2953	Jenny Mason	Plants for Heathcote flower bed	12.00	BACS
2954	Jenny Mason	Engraving Mayoral Chain	7.00	BACS
2956	MSG Cleaning	Hall cleaning	120.00	002613
2957	Jenny Mason	Extension lead for hall	8.00	BACS
2958	EON	Hall electricity	263.20	DD
2959	NS Booth	Emergency lighting test hall	300.00	BACS
2960	Best4hedging	Hedging for bund	215.40	002616
2963	EON	Street lighting February 2017	35.60	DD
2964	EON	Christmas lights illumination 2016	53.48	BACS
2967	Fortress	Hall wheelie bin	248.39	BACS
	Post office	100 x 2nd class stamps	55.00	002610
	D Herbert	WCC waste recycling centre	71.00	002611
	Alcester Town Council	Civic dinner	60.00	000111
	BABPA	Charity dinner	70.00	000112
	Stratford Mayor's charity	Rock n roll evening	16.00	000113
	Safeline	Charity dinner	110.00	000114

Expenditure over £500:

Invoice Date	WTC Ref	Payable to	Detail	Net	Vat	Gross	Paid by
31/10/16	2897	Chesford Grange	Final balance Mayor's charity ball	2,900.00		2,900.00	BACS
03/02/17	2946	EON	Hall gas	515.93	25.80	541.73	DD
28/02/17	2962	HB Creative	Whitnash Tymes Spring 2017	1,506.00	301.20	1,807.20	002614
23/02/17	2966	ATI Projects Ltd	Community Hub Business Plan & Funding Activities	5,000.00	1,000.00	6,000.00	002615

Grant income & expenditure exceeding £500:

				Net	Vat		
Grant received							
-		-	-	-	-	-	-
Grant spend							
Spend from Localities & Communities Grant							
19/02/17	2965	Linda Price	Community champions / volunteers letter and meeting	78.72	0.00	78.72	BACS

147/17 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

South Ward: Nothing to report.

East Ward: No report from East Ward.

North Ward: The potholes on the bend outside the Plough and Harrow Pub have been reported previously.

West Ward: Cllr McFadden previously reported the potholes in Landor Road between Ashford and Moorhill Roads.

148/17 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 2nd February 2017 are received.

149/17 REPORT ON FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Smart proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 12th January 2017 are received.

150/17 REPORT ON HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Shepherd proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Hal and Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 26th January 2017 are received.

152/17 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Franklin proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meeting held on 2nd February 2017 are received.

153/17 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Germany Twinning Association will be visiting Whitnash from 23 – 30 July 2017.

154/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 16th March 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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