

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 20th October 2016
at 7.00 p.m. in
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT

Councillors: S Button Mayor
A Barton
G Cancilla
B Franklin
B Kirton
R Margrave
S McFadden
T Shepherd
B Smart
R Sparkes

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Police: 0 Press: 0 Public: 15

In attendance

Mr Julian Hill Warwick District Council
Mrs Linda Price Whitnash Community Survey

69/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Falp, Heath and Short. Apologies for absence were accepted.

70/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

71/16 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

72/16 JULIAN HILL WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL AND POLICE

Mr Hill is the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer at Warwick District Council. Mr Hill explained the different types behaviour classed as anti-social behaviour and the various ways of dealing with

this. ASBO's no longer exist and have been replaced with Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Rough sleeping in Leamington was also discussed. Mr Hill was asked about CCTV cameras.

(Cllr Sparkes arrived at 7.10 p.m.)

73/16 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

Mrs Linda Price who carried out the Community Consultation presented the report to Members. All Members were forwarded a copy of the Consultation Report with the agenda. The consultation identified where residents would like to see new play equipment and what type of equipment; the Whitnash Tymes is valued and residents remarked that this was a way of connecting the town and residents. Fifty-three community champions / supporters were also identified who were keen to become involved in the community. Mrs Price was thanked for an excellent report.

74/16 1st WHITNASH SCOUTS

Members of the 1st Whitnash Scouts Group attended the meeting to tell us about their activities on a Tuesday evening when they meet. They have been on two camps during the year where they learn various skills. The Scouts thanked the Town Council for promoting the scouts in the Whitnash Tymes and also in the 'What's on' page of the Courier when their numbers were low and they have since increased their numbers.

75/16 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to welcome back Tony into the fray. It is great to have you back.

Since the last meeting we have carried on representing Whitnash in both our own town and in the surrounding neighbourhoods. Just last weekend we attended the opening of Warwick Mop, which included a number of free rides. All great fun.

We enjoyed a successful Civic Service at St Joseph's Church and we raised some more valuable funds for our good causes at a race night a couple of weeks ago.

Regrettably I have to announce that Parminder Birdi has tendered his resignation from the Council, with immediate effect, owing to him wishing to concentrate on other matters. He has been a fantastic servant to Whitnash and the Council. We naturally wish him well. The position has been advertised in accordance with the rules and I understand that a request for an election has not been made in writing to the Returning Officer. Therefore, we will not require an election and we will be looking to co-opt a new Councillor in due course.

As we look ahead, please be reminded of a couple of notable dates for your diaries and they are Tree of Light on Saturday 19th November and the Christmas Lights switch-on on Sunday 4th December.

As far as the Christmas Lights is concerned I am doing my usual appeal for wine and chocolates for the raffle & tombola stalls, along with my request for Santa's Little Helpers. This year Kate will naturally not be available for it.

As an extra we are having a "Give a Teddy a Home" stall, in aid of my charities, so if you or anyone else has any soft toys that you no longer need, please feel free to donate them to this good cause.

I will of course be sending out an email about this. But thank you in anticipation.

Tonight, we have a massive agenda to get through, so let's try to keep things to the point and not deviate from the agenda. If I feel that we are going off-piste and it is not beneficial to the discussion, I will call a halt.

76/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15th September 2016 as circulated were

approved and signed as a true record.

77/16 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

54/15 Ward Reports – the junction of Heathcote and Franklin Roads is still an area of concern and this will be included in the agenda for the November Town Council meeting.

61/16 Inspirational Woman Award – two nominations have been received.

64/16 Ward Reports – North Ward – concerns regarding traffic at junction of Whitnash Road and Golf Lane. It was proposed that a representative from WCC is invited to the November Town Council meeting to discuss this junction.

78/16 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

Cllr Kirton reported that WCC is facing cuts of up to £7 million pounds and this will have a major impact on all services it provides.

Warwick District Council Reports:

Since the last town council meeting I have attended a Full District Council meeting, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a Planning meeting.

At Full Council meeting the leader of the Council reasserted that they have no interest in a Unitary Authority, on the basis that Rugby and NBBC weren't interested.

It is likely that Syrian refugees will come to the District in the New Year.

The Portfolio holder was asked about the litter picking contractor, English Landscapes. They have had a meeting with the MD of the provider and said that they had already been fined.

A statement on G & T sites was promised.

The DC's updated us on their plans for a Creative Quarter. They are going out to tender for organisations who can help them bring this vision to reality. They think they can attract arty, technology companies, web companies to Spencer's Yard area.

At the planning meeting, there were only 3 applications, two in Whitnash. Once again they laboured the point about no-one from Whitnash Town Council being present to put their point in person. I commented about the difficulty our volunteer councillors have in attending meetings, but I think there can be a valid point regarding the quality of our objections. It needs to be more than a one liner. Imagine that people who attend in person to support or object get 3 minutes and they often talk for all of that.

Planning training again at 6pm on 25/10/2017 at the Town Hall.

Cllr R Margrave

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

I have sat in the Town hall in Leamington to listen to the examination of the Warwick District local plan for brownfield sites and the two sites in Whitnash along with the sites in Harbury lane. The Inspector on all sites asks the planning officer to present the site details and then asks the following:

Estimated Capacity; Current planning status; Fit with overall strategy; Any other benefits of development; Potential adverse impacts and mitigation; Infrastructure requirements and costs; Physical or other constraints and cost of mitigation; Viability and delivery, including timescales and build rates.

As you know most of the sites in Harbury Lane have permission and are being built, but it was interesting to hear of a possible shortfall in funding for future highway improvements and where they are trying to find the money to complete the over 37 million pounds of highway improvements needed.

The Little Acre site in Whitnash was presented as 59 dwelling not over 70 on advice of W.C.C. highways with this and possible highways improvements needed. Access would be through the Fieldgate Lane development

The viability of the site with 40% needing to be affordable homes and highways and education contributions could be a problem with lower build numbers. It was felt by the planning officer that it would be at least 2019/20 before any homes could be started if planning permission was granted.

East Whitnash is planned for 500 houses plus a primary school with access through Campion School. Highways improvements, funding to Campion school and health funding would be needed. An application for planning could be presented before the end of the year. The decision on the plan will not be until the new year.

Judy Falp, Warwick District Council and Whitnash Town Council

79/16 WHITNASH COMMUNITY HUB REPORT

After the last Hub meeting where it had been agreed by both the Sports and Social Club and the Town Council that option three would be taken forward the consultants went away to start work on the business plan. This involved talking to highway planners, Libraries and officers dealing with money raised from new developments and W.C.C. properties to see how the plan could be progressed. It also involved starting to look at grants and talking with Sports England and the District Council.

I went to a Whitnash Primary School Governors meeting to explain the plans to them and what we were hoping would be a benefit for the school and the benefit of the project for the town. They were very supportive and keen to assist.

I understood that there was still also some concern re moving some of the sports facilities so that was investigated and from that a possible fourth option is being worked up for discussion.

The next meeting of the Hub Working Group is on Monday 24th October at 7pm where the need to push forward with firm proposals continues. The steps needed to be undertaken to be in a position to complete the business plan have to be in place.

Councillor Judy Falp, Chairman, Whitnash Community Hub Working Group

80/16 APPROVE AND ADOPT GRANT APPLICATIONS

Cllr Smart proposed that the applications are adopted '*en bloc*'.

Cllr Franklin proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded that the (LGA 1972 section 137) grant applications for 2016 submitted by the Finance and General Purposes Committee be approved and adopted.

Organisation	Application for:	Grant proposed
Whitnash Short Mat Bowls Club	<i>Insurance</i>	£300
Whitnash Women's Institute	<i>Groundsman's time</i>	£250
Whitnash Youth Club	<i>Hall hire costs</i>	£300

All members voted in favour.

Cllr Smart declared an interest in the Whitnash Short Mat Bowls application and Cllr Margrave declared an interest in the Youth Club application.

81/16 APPROVE AND ADOPT AMENDMENT TO HONORARY FREEMAN POLICY

Nomination criteria:

3. *Any nominated Town Councillor should have retired from the post. Existing councillors are not eligible to be nominated, unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'.*

Item 3 of the 'nomination criteria' to be removed from the policy.

This amendment to the Honorary Freeman Policy was approved and adopted.

82/16 APPROVE AND ADOPT MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE POLICY

The new Mayor's Allowance Policy was approved and adopted.

83/16 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRECEPT

There is a government consultation that threatens of have a significant impact on the degree of freedom Town and Parishes will have to raise their precepts. There is a threat of imposing a referendum on larger parishes for any significant increase in precepts and this could be extended to all parishes in due course. This will have long term implications on all parishes and WALC has urged all Town and Parishes to submit concerns. Responses have to be made by the end of October 2016. Proposed that the Clerk drafts a response and forwards to all Members for comment. A copy of the final letter should also be sent to the MP.

84/16 STAGECOACH

Members raised concern about the irregular bus service and proposed a letter is sent to Stagecoach to find out why this is happening.

(Cllr Barton left the meeting at 8.30 p.m.)

85/16 CORRESPONDENCE

1. New winter service gritting route was received from Warwickshire County Council.

86/16 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

(63/16) - Accounts for payment accepted subject to receipts.)

No	Payable	Details	Amount £	Cheque No
2867	Oakwood Security	Caretaker holiday cover	210.00	BACS
2868	Warwickshire County Council	Office rent 01/10/16 to 31/12/16	495.85	BACS
2869	Admiral Fire Extinguishers	Annual inspection & service	166.80	BACS
2870	Jenny Mason	Office diary	1.00	BACS
2871	Colins IT Ltd	Upgrade finance computer	208.67	BACS
2872	ROSPA	Annual inspection	336.00	BACS
2875	I Colls	Reimburse tubes & starters hall	50.82	002588
2877	Russell Play	Spares for swings Washbourne	37.25	BACS
2878	WALC	Arnold Baker Local Council Admin	76.50	002592
2880	ESPO	Cleaning materials	178.52	BACS
2883	EON GAS	Hall gas	161.35	DD
2884	EON	Hall electric	197.62	DD
2885	EON	Street lighting October 2016	39.41	DD
2886	Magna Heating	Hall heating repair	78.00	BACS
2887	Elite Industrial Supplies	15 x Hivis jackets	104.21	BACS
	Whitnash Shortmat Bowls	Grants 2016/17	300.00	002589
	Whitnash Youth Club	Grants 2016/17	300.00	002590
	Post Office	100 X 2 nd Class stamps	55.00	002596
	Leamington Spa Bach Choir	Charity concert	14.00	000092

	Whitnash Charitable Trust	Remembrance concert & Drumhead service	22.50	000093
	Warwick Mayors Charity	Ladies luncheon	25.00	000094
	Cancelled cheque	Cancelled cheque	CXD	002591

Expenditure over £500:

Invoice Date	WTC Ref	Payable to	Detail	Net	Vat	Gross	Paid by
03/11/16	2881	Bagington	Strip & replant winter tubs	1,000.80	200.16	1,200.96	BACS
03/11/16	2882	HB Creative	Print Whitnash Tymes	1,486.00	297.20	1,783.20	002595
01/11/16	2888	WPS	Annual insurance premium	5,034.44		5,034.44	002593
01/11/16		WDC	Hall Rates November 2016	653.00		653.00	DD

Grant income & expenditure exceeding £500:

				Net	Vat		
Grant received							
No grants received							
Grant spend							
SPEND FROM LOCALITIES & COMMUNITIES GRANT C/F							
25/10/16	2873	Linda Price	Whitnash Community Survey	313.53		313.53	BACS
SPEND FROM BUSINESS PLAN FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HUB							
29/10/16	2876	ATI Projects	Community Hub July - Oct	5000.00	1000.00	6000.00	002594

87/16 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

South Ward: The puddle of water outside St Margaret's School has still not been sorted. Drain at Verdun Close has been repaired.

East Ward: No report.

North Ward: Green Close footpath needs attention. Members to keep an eye on the litter bin outside the Home Farm Crescent shops and the rubbish that appears in Curran Close. Boundary posts at Spa View have been damaged.

West Ward: Medley Grove street sign has still not been repaired – first reported in February 2016. The fence around the Whitnash oak has been repaired.

88/16 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 6th October 2016 are received.

89/16 REPORT OF 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 22nd September 2016 are received.

90/16 REPORT ON HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Shepherd proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Hall and Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 8th September 2016 are received.

91/16 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Franklin proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meeting held on 6th October 2016 are received.

92/16 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

There will be a quiz at the Sports and Social Club on Friday evening.

93/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 17th November 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.....