

Minutes 07/17

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 19th January 2017
at 7.00 p.m. in
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT

Councillors: S Button Mayor
 T Heath Deputy
 G Cancilla
 Mrs J Falp
 B Franklin
 S McFadden
 D Sage
 T Shepherd
 B Smart
 R Sparkes

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Police: 0

Public: 20

111/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Barton, Kirton, Margrave and Short. Apologies for absence were accepted.

112/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

113/17 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

114/17 PRESENTATION CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WINNERS 2016

A very Happy New Year to everyone, I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and a good break.

As of recent tradition, I would like to welcome all of the residents and businesses who have been recognised for putting on some outstanding Christmas Lighting displays on their homes and

businesses.

Every year the judging seems to get harder and harder, with new displays popping up and existing one getting bigger and better.

I would like to thank a couple of my colleagues for assisting with the judging this year, as I had a lot of other commitments, which meant that my judging efforts were delayed.

I must say this year some of the displays were outstanding and even those who are going to receive highly commended certificates could easily have been the winners in the past.

Hopefully the tradition of improving every year will continue.

As is the rule, the previous year's winners cannot win on the following year, which gives everyone a chance.

Commercial Winners

1st

Name

Plough and Harrow Pub

2nd

Whitnash Sports & Social Club

3rd

The Bear in the Spa

Residential Winners

Name

1st

Mr & Mrs Gougeon

2nd

Mr & Mrs Eales

3rd

Ms J Browne

Highly Commended

Dave Herbert

Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs I Williams

Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs A Austin

Highly Commended

Laura & Valerie Lloyd

Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Parkin

Highly Commended

Pauline Kelly & Stuart Smith

Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Player

Highly Commended

Mrs McGuire

Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Beaufoy

Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Stockil

Highly Commended

Mr & Mrs Abbott

115/17 POLICE

Apologies were received from PC Pete Yeardeley and the update was read by the Mayor.

Whitnash Community Priorities

The team were tasked with the following priorities at the community forum in Oct 2016.

To conduct speeding checks predominantly on Golf Lane and Tachbrook Road as residents of Whitnash have voiced their concerns over the speed of vehicles using the roads in Whitnash.

We continue to action the above and a number of speed checks have been conducted in roads around Whitnash.

To conduct parking patrols in Whitnash to prevent obstruction / danger to pedestrians by inconsiderate parking of vehicles.

Parking patrols have resumed and we have also included the local schools as a result of residents' concerns around the school drop off / pick up times.

To conduct Police patrols in public parks to deal / prevent anti-social behaviour namely Washbourne Park and Acre Close Park.

ASB in the parks continues to be a concern although reported incidents are well down.

St Margaret's School / Briar Hill

As many of you know Briars Hill and St Margaret's School has suffered several incidents of Anti social behaviour and damage. We have increased patrols in the evenings including officers in plain clothes.

We are in discussion with the school senior management team to support and offer advice and numerous solutions are under discussion.

Crime Figures:

	Current 3 months	Current 3 Months (last year)	Current Fiscal year to date	Current fiscal year to date (last year)
Total recorded Crime	110	69	252	212
Violence	40	22	96	77
Burglary - Dwelling	3	5	14	12
Vehicle Offences	14	4	20	9
Anti-Social Behaviour	44	34	129	142

116/17 WELCOME CHAIR OF WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Chair of Warwick District Council was in attendance at the meeting and said she was visiting all Towns and Parishes during her term of office and has learnt a lot. She was pleased to hear that we were nominating an Inspirational Woman and also mentioned a meeting she is arranging for Business people on 27th April 2017 and an Eco Fun Day Walk on 7th May 2016.

117/17 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed newly co-opted Cllr David Sage to the Council.

It has been a while since the last meeting and there have been some fun times and interesting issues.

The Christmas Lights switch-on was a massive success and I would like to thank everyone who helped for their support on the day. There were some exceptional efforts put in by a few great people. Thank you.

Over the recent period, we have noticed a lot of anti-social behaviour and some burglaries

A recent concern has been with the youths causing damage to the school. Allegedly there was a security firm involved, but from what I have heard, they are worse than useless.

Hopefully the Police will be dealing with this. Watch this space!

The community hub continues to be looking more like becoming reality, as we now have the Business Plan and have just finished a meeting.

Cllr Margrave & I attended a WALC meeting, a bit like the Vicar of Dibley, where we expressed our concerns about the issues with concurrent services, but they did not seem too concerned. It was a little disconcerting really.

On that note, we will be discussing this issue later as agenda item 10 – Precept.

Kate and I have continued to represent Whitnash at events, with an outstanding performance by Side-by-Side at the Spa Centre. If ever you get the chance to see this organisation perform, it is well worth it.

Matt and I are trying to boost Youth Club numbers by helping and doing free discos for them. The first was a success and hopefully we can build on this with one towards the end of every term.

Finally, some charity stuff.

We had a quiz in December which raised some funds, but we have two notable events coming up.

The Chinese Auction on Saturday, 28th January 2017, which will be tremendous fun and great value at £10 per head, which includes a glass of wine and a fish & chip supper. You have all been notified about this and would be great to see some of you at the Sports & Social Club for this.

Another date for your diaries is Saturday, 1st April 2017, when we are holding a Charity Ball at the Chesford Grange. This will be a high-class event with a magician and two live bands, including a fabulous meal. Put that in your diaries, but a notification will be sent out very soon.

Here is to an interesting year ahead and I wish you all the very best.

Cllr S Button – Mayor

118/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17th November 2016 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

119/17 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

78/16 Gypsy Traveller Sites – Cllr McFadden asked if there was an update about the Gypsy Traveller site yet. Warwick District Council is still considering this and a decision will have to be reached soon as the Warwick District Local Plan needs to be adopted.

84/16 Stagecoach – no further response has been received from Stagecoach since the reply letter we received from them on 9th December 2016.

120/17 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

Cllr Kirton was not present at the meeting so there was no report.

Warwick District Council Reports:

The past two months have been a quieter time at the District due to the Christmas Holidays. Councillor Heath is back in action so I have not had to substitute for him at meetings. I attend regular briefings with the Chief Executive as group leader. I have expressed my concerns to him on how I think Whitnash is being treated! He of course carries out the policies of the ruling party. The Finance and Audit committee on which I sit for the Residents Association fully scrutinises all the financial matters of the council. Sadly, often the comments made to the Executive are just noted. I now attend Health Scrutiny meetings of the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust on behalf of the District Health Scrutiny committee.

I am continuing to work closely with council officers and our business plan consultants to move forward the new Community Hub Project.

I am pleased to say at the moment I only have one resident still awaiting new accommodation with the other families' I was working with now housed. The new homes in the area are creating some movement in the social housing market but nowhere near enough to help all those waiting for homes.

After many years of trying I have finally found out who owns land at the bottom of Erica Drive. A resolution to the problem of the land being left without maintenance should be resolved soon.

Judy Falp, Warwick District Council and Whitnash Town Council

The Warwick District Local Plan has been discussed along with the refurbishment of the Leisure Centres. Planning is quiet. A task and finish Group has undertaken work with regard to Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Cllr T Heath

Since the last town council meeting I have attended the District Overview and Audit Scrutiny committee meeting in January.

There isn't too much of relevance directly to Whitnash, although part of their activity, a task & finish group specifically is looking at HMO's as you have all seen.

There was also a report on the progress of the planned selling off of the headquarters and move into town. We need to look carefully at the sums because I feel (personal opinion) they may be able to get less houses / money than they were originally making out.

We attended a briefing about WDC plans for Europa Way, much of which is still confidential and we expect a more public and fully costed report soon. However, as we have already indicated they are seemingly planning to buy out covenant on the football ground as indicated by a budget allocation.

Cllr R Margrave

121/17 APPROVE AND ADOPT PRECEPT FOR 2017 – 2018

The Precept for 2017 – 2018 is £178,461 less the WDC Tax Support Grant will be £172,145 which amounts to an annual increase of £8.67. Members proposed that the precept for 2017 – 2018 is approved and adopted. Eight Members present voted in favour and the two District Councillors abstained from voting.

122/17 COMMUNITY HUB REPORT

Following on from the joint Community Hub Working Group meeting it was proposed at the Town Council meeting in November 2016 that option one is taken forward in the interim while Whitnash Sports and Social Club move forward with their vision and business plan. Whitnash Town Council needs to forward a business plan to Warwick District Council to secure the funding the District Council has made available for the Community Hub. The business plan is needed so that funding can be secured from other sources as the current estimated cost for option 1 is £1.4 million. Whitnash Town Council is still keen for both Whitnash Sports and Social Club and Whitnash Primary School to be part of the Hub.

123/17 APPROVE GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM 2016

The 2016 grant applications from Whitnash Twinning Association and Whitnash Fun Day were approved and adopted. All non-Twinning Members present voted in favour.

Cllrs Button, Cancilla, Heath, Smart and Sparkes declared an interest and abstained from voting.

124/17 APPROVE AND ADOPT AMENDED GRANT AID POLICY

The amended Grant Aid Policy was approved and adopted. All Members present voted in favour.

125/17 APPROVE AND ADOPT AMENDED MEMBER'S ALLOWANCE POLICY

The amended Member's Allowance Policy was approved and adopted. Nine Members present

voted in favour and there was one abstention.

126/17 SPEEDING THROUGH WHITNASH

There has been an increase in speeding and traffic through Whitnash. The main areas of concern are Golf Lane / Heathcote / Whitnash Roads as well as Landor and Coppice Roads. Cllr Heath proposed that a letter is written to Warwickshire County Council requesting a 20-mph speed limit. Another area of concern is the mini roundabout at the junction of Franklin and Heathcote Roads.

An email was sent to WCC raising concerns about children / pedestrians on their way to school trying to cross Heathcote / Golf Lane / Whitnash Road junctions. Whitnash Town Council requested a survey to be carried out and this was done in the afternoon when there is slightly less traffic than in the morning. A reply was received saying that a pelican crossing would cost £65,000 and there is no funding for this. It was proposed that a letter is written to Cllr Mrs Seccombe requesting a solution to the problem.

127/17 NUISANCE PHONE CALLS

Cllr Heath has received numerous phone calls from residents about scam phone calls. There is a service available that you can purchase to stop nuisance calls.

128/17 CORRESPONDENCE

1. WCC consultation under Regulation 19 Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 Warwickshire Minerals Plan (2017 – 2032) Publication Consultation was emailed to all Councillors on 4/1/17.
2. Email received from Warwick District Council on 12/1/17 inviting Whitnash Town Council's views regarding Houses in Multiple Occupation generally and within our town. Emailed to all Councillors on 13/1/17
3. Email received regarding Warwick District New Local Plan CIL Consultation. Emailed to all Councillors on 16/1/17.

All correspondence was noted.

129/17 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

(105/16) - Accounts for payment accepted subject to receipts.)

No	Payable	Details	Amount £	Cheque No
2931	Trinity Fire & Security	Hearing loop annual service	240.00	BACS
2934	Jenny Mason	Heater for committee room	22.00	BACS

2935	Warwickshire County Council	Shield for lantern/ lamp Acre Close	112.56	BACS
2937	ESPO	Dog waste bin	103.20	BACS
2939	Jenny Mason	Juice for Chinese Auction	3.00	BACS
2940	Jenny Mason	Office stationery	0.99	BACS
2941	Severn Trent	Hall water	99.92	DD
2942	HB Creative	Civic Charity Ball Tickets	48.00	000107
2943	EON	Street lighting January 2017	39.41	DD
2945	Warwickshire County Council	Annual Street light maintenance	113.28	BACS
	Whitnash Fun Day	Grant 2016	411.00	002607
	Whitnash Twinning	Grant 2016	239.00	002608
	Banbury Town Council	Civic Charity Race Night	70.00	000102
	Stratford District Council	St Patrick's Night Dinner	60.00	000103
	Warwick Town Council	Civic Dinner	110.00	000104
	Cllr S Button	Re-imbursed drinks Chinese Auction	64.77	000105
	Heathcote Fish Bar	Fish & chips for Chinese Auction	330.00	000106
	Mayor of Coleshill	Rajrani Evening	50.00	000108
	Cllr S Button	Mayor's allowance Dec 16 & Jan 17	170.09	000110

Expenditure over £500:

Invoice Date	WTC Ref	Payable to	Detail	Net	Vat	Gross	Paid by
10/01/17	2932	Colins IT Ltd	Finance Computer	438.00	87.60	525.60	002604 002605
17/01/17	2944	Tudor Environmental	Bark for Acre Close play area	2,101.70	420.34	2,522.04	002606
26/01/17	2938	Whitnash Home & Garden	Refurbish WTC benches	1,260.00		1,260.00	002609

Grant income & expenditure exceeding £500:

			Net	Vat		
Grant received						
	No grants received		-	--	-	-
Grant spend						
17/01/17	Tudor Environmental	Bark for Acre Close play area	227.05	45.41	272.46	002606

130/17 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

South Ward: Coppice Road footpaths need resurfacing from Murcott Road East through to Cypress Lane. There is still a sinking manhole cover outside 32 Coppice Road that is a trip hazard.

East Ward: Nothing to report. Fly tipping is still a problem at Black Bridge.

North Ward: The road surface is breaking up at Rectory Close, Canon Young Road and Home Farm Crescent.

West Ward: Dog fouling has become a problem at Washbourne Playing Fields. Cllr McFadden has emailed the dog warden regarding this.

131/17 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 10th November 2016 are received.

132/17 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 10th November and 8th December 2016 are received.

133/17 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Franklin proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meetings held on 1st December 2016 and 5th January 2017 are received.

134/17 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

Nothing to report.

135/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 16th February 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.....