

Minutes 03/17

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 21st September 2017
at 7.00 p.m. in
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT	Councillors:	T Heath T Shepherd S Button G Cancilla Mrs J Falp B Franklin R Margrave S McFadden D Sage J Short	Mayor Deputy
	Town Clerk:	Jenny Mason	
	Police - 2		Public – 11
In attendance	Mr Chris Elliot	CEO Warwick District Council	

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen
Welcome to this meeting of Whitnash Town Council
It is good to see the public attending our meeting although I believe you are here due to a piece of paper being put through your door by a person or persons unknown. The Public and Press are cordially invited to be present at Council meetings you do not need an invitation!
I need to point out that this is not an open meeting where everyone can speak. You can only address the council if you have registered to speak with the Clerk and you are allocated three minutes to do that.
Tonight, we have Mr. Pickett of Rowley Road listed to speak about his concerns over Washbourne Field.
I also welcome Mr Chris Elliott the Chief Executive of Warwick District Council who has agreed to come along and explain the current boundary review being undertaken for the Warwick District Council boundaries. The first phase of this submission was agreed at last night's full District Council meeting.
Mr. Elliott has to leave straight after to attend another meeting so I have agreed to take item 5 before item 3 Public Forum.

46/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

47/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

48/17 REVIEW BY THE LGBCE OF WARWICK DISTRICT WARD BOUNDARIES

Mr Chris Elliot CEO from Warwick District Council addressed the meeting and explained Warwick District Council's Ward Boundary Review. The Boundary Review Commission has reminded WDC that it (the LGBCE) does not have the power to amend the Boundary between Parish and Town Councils. It only has the power to amend the Wards within a said Town or Parish Council. The change between the Boundaries of a Parish/Town Council can only be undertaken in a Community Governance Review by the District Council. There will not be time to complete such a review after the conclusion of the District Council Ward Boundaries and before the next set of elections for Parish/Town Councils in May 2019. This will mean that the two most contentious areas of the review (Cubbington Parish Council, New Cubbington Ward area and Whitnash Town Council, East Whitnash Ward area) will remain with their current Councils and realistically we would not seek to make a change to these (even if we were minded to do so) until their next all out elections in 2023. This should provide reassurance for Whitnash and Cubbington and should hopefully see them support our proposals. Warwick District Council is striving to create coterminous boundaries. Towns / Parishes will be consulted before any Boundary Changes can be implemented.

Cllr Heath thanked Mr Elliot for his explanation.

49/17 PUBLIC FORUM

Mr William Pickett from 40 Rowley Road registered to speak on 15th September 2017. The subject is upkeep, security and maintenance of Washbourne Playing Fields.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mr Pickett to speak.

Mr Pickett raised concern about the state of Washbourne Playing Fields and invited Members to walk around the perimeter of Washbourne Playing Fields with him. The perimeter needs to be cut back as it is encroaching on the playing field, trees need to be pruned or removed and the undergrowth cleared. He said there are drug and drinking dens and it is not safe for children. The access needs to be secured to protect the field from further encampments and for the safety of the elderly residents in the bungalows.

Standing orders were re-instated.

Cllr Margrave explained that a programme of work to clear the coppice and undergrowth will be undertaken in stages. The Japanese knot weed will be treated and the new play equipment is currently being installed.

50/17 POLICE

Standing Orders were suspended to allow PCSO Jessica West to speak

Since 21 August 2017 there have been 122 incidents reported to the Police. These range from house and shed burglaries to vehicle thefts and anti-social behaviour. There have been traveller encampments at Spa View and Othello Avenue. Jessica reminded those present of the next Community Forum on 4th October and encouraged the public to vote for the police priorities.

Anti-social behaviour, parking and speeding continue to dominate the list. Members were also

reminded of the drop-in surgeries at the Library every Friday between 1.00 and 3.00 pm.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

51/17 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

August was a very quiet month for Civic duties. We had the privilege of attending the National Bowls lunch on the 17th August where, coincidentally the Commonwealth Baton was brought to Leamington as part of Birmingham's bid to stage the games. Since then it has been announced that Birmingham beat Liverpool to go on to be the preferred City, providing the UK is selected as the country to host the games. This and a couple of Civic services completed August.

Unfortunately, we again suffered an invasion of Travellers on Othello Avenue which took about five days to remove them with the clear up of waste yet again being a burden on the tax payer.

Our two fields have been strengthened with a drop down post at Washbourne Field and the new height restrictor in place as well as a gate at Acre Close. We have had minor problems with the quality of the work and it has taken more time than expected to rectify them.

The Community Hub project is moving ahead at a pace with the selection of the Quantity Surveyor and Architect carried out on Tuesday. Hopefully we will be in a position tonight to appoint them if the references have been returned to ATI. I will let Cllr Falp bring you up to date later on the agenda item.

Whitnash Twinning members are today in Villebon-sur-Yvette celebrating 25 years of our two towns being twinned. I have sent a gift on behalf of the council to the Mayor of Villebon to be placed on the Town Hall.

Cllr Tony Heath

52/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20th July 2017 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

53/17 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

54/17 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report.

August saw a rest from the almost weekly training sessions that had been arranged for new Councillors though these are starting again now the holidays are over as are meetings of all the committees.

I attended the Children and Young People's Overview Scrutiny Committee as they were discussing the closure of Children's Centres. Whitnash is on the list to close though they have been reducing services from there for some time. The consultation that has been running until early September has received such a large response the results and way forward will not be reported to this committee until the end of October with a decision from the Executive in November. As a former staff member at the Children's Centre in Whitnash I can speak with some knowledge of not so much the need for the buildings, but for the need to retain staff to deliver services to our young residents and their parents in their homes, in Community Centres, Libraries and church halls. I was impressed by the four parents who registered to speak from across the district to tell the Committee Why Children Centres are so important to families.

Some roads in Whitnash have been resurfaced recently and apart from the bus company not letting anyone know the

diversions I think the road repairs went well. There are of course still, others that need attention and I welcome suggestions, though they are mapped for problems twice a year. I have asked that Halls Close paths be looked at as I had a complaint from elderly residents on its condition.

I am still waiting for costings for speed reduction measures and when they can be done for Golf Lane and have asked for the price of bollards for an area of Coppice Road where continual parking on the grass verges is causing a problem. I have also asked for road safety and parking issues around St Joseph's School to be looked at by Safer Routes to schools.

The fire brigade has given me a report about the incident with a chemical leak from Shire pies. I was unaware of the incident until a resident informed me by email at 4.20 am on the Sunday morning. While it was in the end a small risk to health there are certainly questions on what happened and why and what if it had been a major leak to consider when all the information has been gathered.

I now have my County e mail address judyfalp@warwickshire.gov.uk and phone number 07771339183

Cllr Judy Falp – Warwickshire County Councillor for Whitnash

Warwick District Council Reports:

Since the last Town Council meeting I have attended the following District meetings:

Scrutiny three meetings, Executive twice, Housing shadow portfolio holders meeting twice, briefing on the boundary review, Full Council twice, Health and Community Protection shadow portfolio meeting, People Strategy meeting and Employment Committee. The new head of the Housing Department has been appointed and she will be starting in October. I will be again pressing for a strategy on council owned garages and their sites. The forward plan of the district council can be found on the district web site and this shows what will be coming to the Executive meetings in the following four months and what is planned but has not date to go to committee identified. This informs the Scrutiny committees what we may wish to take a close look at and ask officers to attend to give us a fuller briefing. We can then send comments to the Executive on the reports. We also have our own work programme that we can suggest items to look at. We also ask every portfolio holder to attend once a year to give a report on their area.

Residents have contacted me with concerns about alley ways not being cleaned and weeded, maintenance issues on council rented properties, planning matters and lack of tree and hedge maintenance. Cllr Heath will inform the council of the ongoing boundary review

Cllr Judy Falp - Warwick District Councillor

Since the last Town Council meeting in July I have attended a Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee meeting, a Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting about the Local Plan this Tuesday and a Full Council meeting yesterday.

Previously I mentioned I was looking into usage of Harbury Lane fields. It is used by Leamington Lions Girls, Athletico Murphy, Whitnash United, Hampton Magna, Joiners Arms and Leamington Brakes teams. In May 2018 goals will be removed and a major recovery and maintenance programme will take place. They have had complaints about poor drainage. They have no complaints about the pavilion.

Next Monday I have a St Mary's Land meeting and on Tuesday another Finance and Audit Scrutiny. I am away in Germany from Friday till Monday, I'm not sure what time I get back so I may miss the St Mary's land meeting again and doesn't give me much time to read 173 pages of documents for the F & A.

Cllr R Margrave – Warwick District Councillor

August has been relatively quiet. I have attended meetings with the trade unions who are seeking an increase for their members next year. The Boundary committee have been meeting to discuss the changes you heard about tonight from Chris Elliott that thankfully do not affect Whitnash.

The other major subject which was concluded last night at the full council meeting was the Local Plan adoption although not without controversy.

We as the District Councillors abstained from voting for it on the grounds that there are elements within the plan we believe are not beneficial to Whitnash. i.e. the policy on gypsy and traveller's sites. I do not want to elaborate on this at this stage. There will be an opportunity to do so when and if a planning application is submitted.

The future house numbers will not affect Whitnash as we have all our green space now built on.

As Chair of the VCS panel we met to adopt the protocol and timetable of the selection of tenders for the forthcoming renewal of services Warwick District provides.

I am pleased to report that the swimming pools at both Newbold and St. Nicholas Park are now open and the

response to the alterations has been well accepted by the public. There is still ongoing works at Newbold which is making access and parking difficult, but that should shortly be resolved.

Tribute was paid to the late Head Teacher of St Margaret's School – Sarah Lancaster, who sadly passed away.

Tony Heath – Warwick District Councillor

55/17 COMMUNITY HUB

Tenders for an architect and building surveyor for the new Community Hub were opened this week. There were strong contenders and once references have been received appointments can be made. Delegated powers were given to Mayor, Deputy, Cllrs Mrs Falp and Smart and the Clerk to appoint an architect and a building surveyor. The email from Cllr Smart regarding his concerns over the funding of the Community Hub was read. The Community Hub cannot be built until the funding is there to do so. Currently we have a grant from Warwick District Council for £500 000 and they have also offered us a temporary loan until the S106 money is received. A Public Works Loan will also have to be taken out to cover costs. This is subject to a public consultation. Various grants will also be applied for. The final figure depends on grants and whether or not the library comes on board and the changing rooms are included.

56/17 CHESTERTON ALLOTMENTS

Chesterton Allotments - A.C. Lloyd would like to see the formal adoption of land set aside for Allotments at a development at Chesterton Gardens, currently within Whitnash Boundary. The location of this plot of land in close proximity to the boundary between the Parishes of Whitnash and Leamington may be a source of some difficulty given that the area may be subject to change when the District Council next reviews the boundaries at District and Parish Ward level. Cllr Mrs Falp met with officers of Warwick District Council and the Town Clerk from Leamington Spa on 8th October 2017. We need to consider maintenance of the site as we have not precepted for these allotments. Warwick District Council are checking as they think there is commuted funding for the care of allotments, so we would get funding to maintain fences etc. They were not sure about water so Cllr Mrs Falp is going to ask Alistair from Lloyds about that. It was proposed that Whitnash Town Council takes on the Chesterton Allotments and all Members present voted in favour. Administration duties could be taken on by other allotment associations in Whitnash in the interim until a committee can be set up.

57/17 EXPENSES

At the last Planning meeting in September Members who attended meetings at Leamington Town Hall to make representations on behalf of the Town Council complained about having to pay parking charges. As the Planning meetings are held after 6.00 p.m. no parking charges apply so no expenses would be paid.

58//17 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence

59/17 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 12th July 2017 to 12th September 2017 was noted.

60/17 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

South Ward:

Coppice Road footpath very uneven and needs resurfacing. There are still barriers around Whitnash from the resurfacing works and these need to be collected. Cllr Franklin has reported the very high fence on the corner of Morris Drive and Coppice Road to the enforcement officer at Warwick District Council.

East Ward:

A welcome to Whitnash sign is needed for East Whitnash like the ones we have on Tachbrook Road and Whitnash Road.

North Ward:

Derelict flower tub at Acre Close shops needs to be removed. The metal frame from the litter bin outside St Margaret's House needs to be cordoned off until the replacement bin is delivered. Vegetation on right hand side of Church Lane going towards Black Bridge needs to be pruned and the leaves haven't been swept up for years. 1/3 of the bridle path from Black Bridge has been tarmac' d. The sign post for the public footpath at Black Bridge has not been reinstated. The sign that says no traffic to AC Lloyd site needs to be placed closer to Church Lane and Greenhill Road junction otherwise large wagons will be going over Black Bridge and will be unable to turn around. The posts on the green area at Home Farm shops need replacing as does the Canon Young street sign at the junction of Home Farm Crescent – the standing posts are rotten. A small section of the low level wooden barrier on the footpath between Dobson Lane and Montgomery Road has been broken. The section that is broken is nearer the Dobson Lane side than the Montgomery Road side. This was reported to WDC on 4th September 2017.

West Ward:

The wooden fencing around the Whitnash oak on Othello Avenue was damaged during the traveller encampment and was reported to Warwick District Council on 1st September 2017.

Leamington cemetery was mentioned, but this is not in Whitnash.

61/17 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 7th September 2017 are received.

62/17 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Franklin proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meeting held on 7th September 2017 are received.

63/17 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

Twinning Members are on a visit to France.

64/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 19th October 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.....