

Minutes 04/17

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

Councillors: T Heath
T Shepherd
G Cancilla
Mr J Falp
B Franklin
B Kirton
R Margrave
S McFadden
D Sage
B Smart
R Sparkes

Mayor
Deputy

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Police = 0

Public = 3

65/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Button and Short. Apologies for absence were accepted.

66/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

67/17 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

68/17 POLICE

In the absence of the Police the report was read by Cllr Heath:

As I said before we are unable to make the Town Council meeting, apologies. I appreciate you have had the latest police update from the forum so I've just included the figures since the forum.

ASB – We have had two reports of ASB, one of teenagers drug dealing in the alley by the vets and the other was a neighbour dispute which is ongoing. With regards to the drug dealing we will patrol this area.

Burglary – You've probably heard that there were three hooded males trying to gain entry to a property on Marbled

Close by way of kicking the door. This was not the case. It turned out to be children dressed as Minions (with goggles on their heads) playing a prank. This was captured on CCTV.

We've had one burglary where a back door was smashed and entry gained on Emperor Boulevard and two garage burglaries, one where nothing was taken and the other where food from the freezer was taken.

Damage – One damage reported. Through the early hours a stone was thrown at a window on Tachbrook Rd

Vehicle crime – Two reported, one we believe is malicious as it was the second time a nail had been put through his tyre and the other is a theft of aerial on Golf Lane.

We have attended the Neighbourhood Watch meeting, allotment AGM and offered crime prevention advice, Steve has also gone to Warwick Hospital to give a talk to cancer patients re the work the SNT do and personal safety.

We've worked on the knife amnesty speaking to members of the public about knife crime and on Friday Rachel is at Landor House and Whitnash library promoting national Hate crime week.

We are aware of all the parking issues, the youths smoking cannabis and a group that is being anti-social around Warwick Gates. Please keep emailing us any info you receive.

PC Rachel Smith

69/17 TWINNING PRESENTATION

Standing Orders were suspended.

The Chairman of the Twinning Association, Mr McFarlane, presented the Mayor with a lamp from the Villebon-sur-Yvette the Twin Town in France to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Twinning with Whitnash.

Standing Orders were re-instated

70/17 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The last month has been very quiet for official engagements with only the Leamington Civic Service, High Sheriff's church service and the coral concert at Warwick School. Unfortunately, the latter two I was unable to attend due to being in hospital but my wife attended Leamington Civic Service and she also attended St. Margaret's school assembly on my behalf with Cllr Falp who explained the details on the Mayors badge to children.

We have now appointed the architect and surveyor for the new hub project and will be having a meeting of the working group with the architect shortly to outline our requirements for the new building. The next few months will be an exciting time for us laying plans that will affect Whitnash for the long-term future.

The new play equipment at Washbourne field is now complete after a short delay in the start of the project. It is hoped The safety inspection has been done in time for the half term so that children can enjoy it. The official opening will now take place on the 1st November.

Finally, can I remind everyone of my concert on the 2nd December at St. Joseph's church hall with the Cubbington Silver Band and the Royal Naval Association Male Voice Choir starting at 7.30pm Tickets are here and available at £10 each. Proceeds are going towards my two charities SW Heart and Whitnash Charitable Trust. I hope you ALL will support these worthy causes and help me raise funds for them

Tony Heath

Mayor

71/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st September 2017 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

72/17 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

73/17 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

I have been the County Councillor for over five months now. Much of my time has been spent on training courses to allow me to gain information to assist residents. I have also attended meetings other than the ones I have been assigned to sit on, again to gather information. It has taken time to find out whom to go to in a big organisation such as the County Council. I have asked for a number of road and path improvements to be undertaken and for safety work to be undertaken around St Joseph's school by the Safer Routes to School team. With 56 other Councillors also asking for work to be done you can appreciate it takes some time after work has been identified to get it done.

Residents can themselves report items such as pot holes or faulty street lights, ask for term time dates make comments through consultations on a range of topics and many other things through the County Council web site www.warwickshire.gov.uk

I am writing this report before the final discussion on the future of Children Centres has taken place. I have raised concerns that staff should be kept wherever possible so they can deliver services to our young residents and their parents in a range of venues even if some purpose-built buildings are no longer used. I was pleased to see so many people had sent in their comments. I have also arranged to call in to our local schools to see how I can help them and meet some of the pupils.

If you wish to contact me you can do so by e mail or phone, details below.

Residents have already contacted me re school places, white lines, yellow lines (or lack of both), tree and hedge maintenance and about the chemical spill and Shire Pies.

County email address: judyfalp@warwickshire.gov.uk or Cllr.falp@warwickshire.gov.uk and phone number 07771339183

Cllr Judy Falp

Whitnash County Councillor

A complaint has been received about the cycle path in Ashford Road that is always blocked with cars – would it be possible to have an official cycle path?

Warwick District Council Reports:

District Council Report for Whitnash Council Meeting October 2017

A number of important votes have been taken at the District Council since the Last Town Council meeting. The Local Plan debate was the final decision to make the plan sound. There were a number of speakers both for and against the plan. We three Whitnash Councillors did not feel we could support a plan that has caused so many houses to be built in and around Whitnash with more possible to come, so we agreed to abstain from the vote. We wait now to see if a Judicial Review is called to halt the plan by some of the protestors.

We also voted against the proposed submission to the Boundary Review as the original paperwork had recommended 43 instead of 46 Councillors and that was in turn changed by some members at the Licence and Regulatory Committee that was held just before full council to 48 Councillors on a 7-4 vote.

The scrutiny committee of which I am chair asks each meeting for a portfolio holder to come and tell us about the area they are responsible for with a written report with the agenda and then a question and answer session on the night. The portfolio holder who covers planning among other things came to the last meeting and a good discussion was held on Infrastructure, or more the need for it and the lack of it or funding for it! We also spoke at some length with the officer who is leading on the joint working with Rugby on fly tipping. Residents will be asked to inform the council as normal of fly tipping. Do not remove any items so that the team can look through it to see if any evidence is there on who might have dumped it. Residents can photograph it and if willing to give evidence in court or a sworn statement if they knew who had dumped it.

Cllr Judy Falp

Warwick District Council

The majority of work at the District in the last month has been Planning and Licensing. The New Local Plan has been adopted and applications for building large numbers of houses on land identified in it are beginning to flow in. Cllr Mrs Falp kindly substituted for me at the last meeting due to me having just come out of hospital where two areas in particular South Heathcote and Myton fields where the new stadium will be built have both been submitted making a total of 700 more houses and offices/shops. The South Heathcote application was refused as the developer tried to increase the number of houses considerably from the original plan. However, this will I am sure come back again. The new Parliamentary Boundaries have now been published and fortunately Whitnash is unaffected. Warwick and Kenilworth face the main changes in their boundaries.

The District Council have now sealed off all vulnerable areas from invasion of unauthorised encampment of travellers. Only public spaces such as Newbold Comyn cannot be closed as it is in constant use by the leisure centre and sports pitches. I understand that MP's are looking to review the law relating to the provision of sites as the need for them is in doubt. We will have to wait and hope. Meanwhile WDC are reconsidering other sites within the area for both permanent and temporary sites.

WDC are moving ahead with plans to relocate to the new headquarter building in Leamington whilst at the same time selling Riverside House for housing. This is supposed to be cost neutral with an annual saving of £300k to the tax payer.

The replacement waste bin at St. Margaret's House is still not in place and, despite my request for tape to be placed around the open uprights this has not been done.

Cllr Tony Heath

Warwick District Council

Since the last Town Council, I have attended a Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee meeting. A lot of the meeting was taken up with discussion on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, but in summary the report was noted and a further update will be provided in six months' time. The plan currently shows a £56.5M shortfall in funding for infrastructure, mainly in education, health and indoor sport.

CIL adoption is waiting on an Examiner's Report and is likely to be adopted by the end of the year.

CIL might be changing in 2022 to the Local Infrastructure Tariff.

I have joined a new working group for CIL and S106. I will report back when I know more and it has met.

Cllr Margrave

Warwick District Council

74/17 ADOPT SIGNED AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

The External Auditor has issued a certificate for the year ended 31st March 2017. Members proposed that the signed Audited Accounts are approved and adopted.

Cllr Mrs Falp proposed a vote of thanks to those involved.

75/17 COMMUNITY HUB REPORT

The Community Hub project has reached an exciting phase. After a tender process supported by the Project team from ATI Ltd we have appointed a Building Surveyor from Faithful and Gould and an Architect from Baily Garner. I have met them for initial discussions and the Community Hub Working Group will be invited to meet them for further discussions.

They will now work to produce a planning application to be submitted we hope by Christmas. Residents will then be able to see what their new Hub will look like.

While this is happening, further grants will be applied for and then we can see how much we may need to borrow to complete the project. The Mayor and Chief Executive of Warwick District Council have already signed the grant agreement that is for up to £500,000 which is the amount the District agreed to give towards the New hub. A lot of work has gone into getting this far on the project so I would like to thank the Town Councillors, the office staff and our project team for all their support.

Councillor Judy Falp

Chairman Community Hub working Group

76/17 THE 2018 – 2019 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT CONSULTATION

Members did not agree with the introduction of automatic precept referendums where deemed increased in local council precepts were 'excessive'. A response to this consultation will be sent expressing concerns.

77/17 WARWICK DISTRICT STANDARDS COMMITTEE RESPONSE

A response was sent to Warwick District Council.

78/17 APPROVE AND ADOPT GRANT

The (LGA 1972 section 137) grant application for 2017 submitted by the Finance and General Purposes Committee from the Whitnash Fun Day was approved.

Organisation	Application for	Grant approved
Whitnash Fun Day	Hall and field hire and insurance	£500

79/17 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 13th September 2017 to 10th October 2017 was noted.

80/17 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

81/17 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

Cllr Kirton raised concern about the timings of the G1 bus service. Busses don't arrive on time and sometimes three busses arrive at the same time. This could be due to congestion in Leamington. A letter would be sent to Stage Coach.

South Ward: Nothing to report.

East Ward: Nothing to report.

North Ward: Nothing to report.

West Ward: The fence around the Whitnash oak on Othello Avenue has still not been repaired and the gazebo also needs attention. This was reported to Warwick District Council on 1st September 2017. Footpaths along Murcott Road East between St Joseph's church and Whitmore Road are in a very poor state and breaking up quite significantly in places. Metal barriers at the pedestrian crossing near Franklin Road has still not been repaired. Street sign posts at Washbourne and Chandlers Road are loose and need securing. The new play equipment at Washbourne Road has been completed and there have been some positive comments. Cllr Mrs Falp expressed her concern at the negative comments while the play equipment was being installed as she had gone to a lot of trouble to secure the money to improve the playing field, but

this was not appreciated. She hoped the children would get some enjoyment out of the equipment despite the negative comments! A vote of thanks was proposed for Cllr Mrs Falp for all her help and input.

Cllr Cancilla raised concern about the weeds in Leamington Cemetery again, but this is not in Whitnash.

82/17 REPORT ON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEETING:

Cllr Margrave proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Christmas Lights Working Group meeting held on 5th October 2017 are received.

83/17 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 28th September 2017 are received.

84/17 REPORT ON HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Margrave proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Hall and Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 14th September 2017 are received.

85/17 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Franklin proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meeting held on 5th October 2017 are received.

86/17 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

15 Members attended the 25th Anniversary of the Twinning with France in Villebon-sur-Yvette.

87/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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