

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

Councillors: T Heath Mayor
 T Shepherd Deputy
 G Cancilla
 Mrs J Falp
 R Margrave
 D Sage
 J Short
 B Smart
 R Sparkes
 S Vaughan

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Police = 0

Public = 2

88/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Button, Franklin, Kirton and McFadden. Apologies for absence were accepted.

89/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

90/17 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

91/17 POLICE

There was no Police report.

92/17 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since October I have had the pleasure of opening the new play equipment at Washbourne Field where there were three classes of children enjoying themselves and I thanked Linda Price for her work carrying out the survey on

behalf of the council and Adam from Wicksteed for designing the layout for us. Adam gave each child a goody bag before they left. The reaction from the public to the new equipment has so far been very positive.

I had a meeting with the police where we discussed the current problems encountered in Whitnash regarding ASB, speeding and parking problems.

I also attended the AGM of Age UK held at Queensway Court, The Poppy Appeal Launch at the Royal Priors and a charity event, the Leamington Bach Choir at the Parish Church in Leamington on behalf of the Mayor of Leamington's charities.

Last Sunday I laid a wreath on behalf of the Town at the Remembrance service at St. Margaret's Church and after at the Gary O'Donnell memorial.

I have also attended meetings with the Architect and surveyor for the new Hub to begin the process of design and Cllr Falp will give more detail of this later. The next stage is for the working group to discuss the proposals in detail.

Please do not forget to get your tickets for my concert on the 2nd December. The clerk has a few left.

Cllr Tony Heath - Mayor

93/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Cllr Sage arrived at 19h05.

94/17 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

95/17 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

I attended both the scrutiny meeting that discussed the future of Children's centres and the Full Cabinet that made the decision on the way forward. I was pleased that many of the comments made by the public and professionals had been listened to. Whitnash and Kingsway centres will remain now (our residents use both centres) and while the management of the Whitnash Centre will change, activities will still take place there. Parents have spoken with passion on how the Centres have and do help them. With cuts in all budgets doing nothing is not possible, but hopefully what remains will still be there to help our young residents and their families. I spoke in support of the staff who have gone through so much change since Children's Centres began and the importance of structured stay and play sessions that will be tendered out. It is not enough to just put out some toys so much more can and is achieved by an agenda of fun activities that help gross and fine motor skills, speech and language, parent support, healthy eating and so much more. The agenda of the Cabinet meeting also approved a task and finish group to look at the issues of people who are lonely and what the county does and can do to help. I have expressed an interest being on this group.

The training opportunities continue at a great pace at the County. Since the last full council meeting I have attended training on Electronic vehicles and infrastructure, Resilience (emergency planning) and public speaking. Three other sessions also put on I had to tender my apologies due to other commitments.

The yellow lines in the service road off Tachbrook Road have been re painted and I had an interesting briefing by the team who deal with this and receive over 100 requests a year for new places to have yellow lines and I met also the team that monitor the enforcement of those lines that is provided by an external firm.

I have been assured the traffic speed awareness signs I asked for will be fitted in Golf Lane when the contractors for the work are next in the area. I am also waiting for wooden posts to be put in a part of Coppice Road.

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

Cllr Judy Falp - Warwickshire County Councillor

The speed awareness sign has been fitted in Golf Lane.

Warwick District Council Reports:

No update was available from WDC of progress on traveller sites, but they are looking at possibly short-term temporary solution apparently.

WDC Golf course: the people who run want to terminate their contract but WDC aren't letting them go easily, an update will be available in the new year.

Riverside House car park to be open in run up to Christmas at weekends.

The Royal Naval club want to leave their current place near the River. WDC are minded to let them go early. They are going to employ a consultant into look at options for the site, for example Bowls England.

WDC are looking at what to do about the Chairman's car. Until I suggested it they hadn't considered approaching JLR, but they are now going to look into that option.

WDC are going ahead with an application for a pilot scheme to get 100% Business Rate retention. They will hear about that mid-December.

Following Cllr Cancilla's complaint, I took up the issue with WDC. They have started to tidy the Leamington Cemetery on Brunswick Street.

Cllr Rob Margrave, Warwick District Councillor

Each year we three Whitnash Residents Association District Councillors joined by a Green Party District Councillor (who we invite to join us) have at least two training/advice sessions provided by the Local Government Association. These sessions are paid for by the District Council and we can make the decision what we would like the training advise to be about. Our advisor is a fellow Resident Association Councillor Clarence Barrett who is a Councillor on the London Borough of Havering and he travels up to be with us. He has a particular interest in finance and is a lead on the Local Government Independent Group finance committee. We look at the District Councils forward plan to see what we may wish to challenge and scrutinise, ideas we want to bring forward and ways to let others know what we are doing. We met with Clarence recently and will look to take some ideas forward in the coming months.

I have only had five district meetings/briefings since the last Full Town Council meeting, so a quieter time than normal. Residents Issues have also been a lot quieter this month so giving me time to try and close Issues still outstanding. These mainly are tree and hedge maintenance Issues, garage and house repairs and dog fouling.

The Standards Committee was discussed at the WDC meeting and it was disappointing to learn that the Standards Committee will no longer have town / parish representatives. Whitnash District Councillors would not sit on the committee as 'double hatters' to represent both District and Town.

Cllr Judy Falp, Warwick District Councillor

The past month has again been very quiet on the District front. The planning committee only had five applications which is unheard of and none of them were controversial so it only took one hour as opposed to the usual three.

I have had my regular meeting with the Chief Exec but there were no major issues to be discussed. The District are concentrating on the new office accommodation in Leamington and the sale of Riverside House so the planning application is expected to come in at the January meeting when, hopefully, our application for the new Hub will be considered. It is likely to warrant a site visit from the committee so I will let the clerk know and she can advise the planning committee the expected time and date.

The Community Infrastructure Levy has now been agreed for Warwick District which will mean going forward if we do not qualify for New Homes Bonus then we get the CIL which, in the case of East Whitnash, is £13k per house built.

I am in discussion with James Deville from WDC Events department as he has caused Cllr Button and the clerk too much unnecessary work in requesting various late changes to the licences, new licences and the Events Notice for the Xmas Lights event. I have agreed to meet him along with the licensing team after Xmas to lay down some ground rules for the future. Meanwhile I will be discussing the whole issue with Chris Elliot at our next 1-1 meeting. They have to realise this event is managed by volunteers for the residents of Whitnash and if we cannot have their cooperation early in the year it will put the event in jeopardy.

Leaves along Church Lane towards Black Bridge will be cleared next week.

Cllr Tony Heath, Warwick District Councillor

96/17 COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

The Architect and Building Surveyor have met to arrange the working arrangements between them and who will do what with our project lead Andy McDarmaid managing those meetings. Some background information was requested from us to plan the surveys needed, for example if the field had ever been used for anything other than a field and what utilities were there. This along with some thoughts on what might be needed e.g. kitchen for café, storage, size of office space and possible roof style (we said no flat roof!) will allow the Architect to produce a three d model and concept plans to bring to a hub working group meeting. The Architect, Building Surveyor and Mayor also met at Chase Meadow as much of the ideas for the hub have come from this building.

A report will be going to the December County Council Cabinet for a decision if the Library will or will not join us in the Hub. This has changed our time table by about a month so the Hub working group meeting will be meeting either just before or just after Christmas with an aim to have a promotional event by the end of January for the public to see the plans and model.

We have requested as much information and costings and grant information as soon as possible as we will need to precept for loans and interest on loans.

Fortnightly meetings will be held with Consultants, Architect and Building Surveyor.

Cllr Mrs Judy Falp, Chairman, Whitnash Community Hub Working Group

97/17 APPROVE AND ADOPT INFORMATION SECURITY POLICY

The Information Security Policy was approved and adopted.

98/17 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2017

We are now well into the Christmas Lights switch-on preparations, which is on Sunday, 3rd December 2017.

I am also doing my usual appeal for wine and chocolates for the raffle and tombola stalls, along with my request for Santa's Little Helpers.

So, if you can help please can you get whatever you are able to provide, to Jenny as soon as possible.

Also, if you or anyone who would be prepared to help out with Santa this year, please let me know.

Thank you in anticipation, as well as thanks to those who have already contributed.

Any help on the day is always appreciated and I will be there from about 9.30. Come along and help, it is great fun!!!!

Cllr Simon Button

99/17 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Stagecoach letter re G1 Bus Service in Whitnash was forwarded to all Members.

100/17 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 11th October 2017 to 7th November 2017 was noted.

101/17 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

South Ward: Nothing to report

East Ward: Cllr Mrs Falp reported that she has gone from having 2 houses in East Ward to 120! The new allotment site is on the agenda for the next Hall and Playing Fields meeting and there is one name on the list for the allotment plots. Awaiting cost for the legal proceedings to transfer the allotment site to Whitnash Town Council. A 'welcome to Whitnash' sign is being progressed and Cllr Mrs Falp is speaking to Dave Anderson at WDC. There will be a cost involved here.

North Ward: Nothing to report.

West Ward: Cllrs Franklin, McFadden and Sage have done ward walk on Warwick Gates side of Whitnash and have reported the faults to WCC. Cllr Sage said that the ward walk forms were really good for recording faults.

102/17 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 2nd November 2017 are received.

103/17 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

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

104/17 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

Cllr Heath reported that he had sent a thank you note to Villebon for the lamp and also reported that he had sent a Christmas message to Villebon some weeks ago.

105/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 18th January 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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