

Minutes 06/18

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 18th January 2018
at 7.00 p.m. in
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT

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

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Public = 30

106/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

107/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

108/18 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

109/18 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PRESENTATION

Cllr Button presented the trophies and certificates to the winners and thanked them for taking part.

Residential winners:

1st – Mr & Mrs Eales

2nd – Mr & Mrs Player
3rd – Mr & Mrs Gourgeon
Highly Commended:
Mrs McGuire
Mr & Mrs Baker
Laura and Valerie Lloyd
Mr & Mrs Parking
Mr & Mrs Beaufoy
Mr & Mrs Stockill
Mr & Mrs Abbott
Mr S Smith & Ms P Kelly
Mr P Jenkins & Mrs E Jenkins
Mr D Herbert

Commercial winners:

1st – Whitnash Sports & Social Club
2nd – Plough & Harrow Pub
3rd – The Heathcote Inn

110/18 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mr Alistair McFarlane to speak.

The letter sent to the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 11th January 2018 was read by Mr McFarlane.

Standing orders were re-instated.

Cllr Mrs Falp is currently looking into the minutes on record to ascertain the relationship between Whitnash Town Council and the Whitnash Twinning Association and will report back to the next Finance and General Purposes committee meeting.

Cllrs Cancilla, Heath, Margrave, Smart and Sparkes declared an interest in this item.

111/18 POLICE UPDATE

The Whitnash Safer Neighbourhoods Team sent apologies.
The police report was read by Cllr Heath:

ASB – 28 Reports - Only four relating to youths messing around and only one of those relates to drugs. A lot of noise issues between neighbours and specifically targeted ASB due to fall outs

Residential Burglary – 6 Reports - One was domestic related. One we cannot prove was a burglary. One confirmed burglary (entry via smashing back door). One attempt at the back door but home owner was home and scared them off. Two garages.

Damage – 3 Reports - Two were cars keyed in the same road a day apart. No reports since. The other was notes that keep being put on a resident's car asking them not to park outside their house. We have had another incident like this but it was called in direct to us.

Drugs – 2 Reports One is related to person growing it in house. The other to Campion school.

Vehicle Crime – 5 Reports Three were thefts from vehicles. Two were damage.

Continuous calls from a resident that lives close to Arce Close Shops. Stating the One Stop light strip and the chip shop and chemist neon lights are attracting people to hang around late at night causing noise, littering and vomiting everywhere. Unfortunately, they don't call it in when it's happening and we've had no other complainants.

Policing priorities

At the moment the parks don't seem as busy, could be due to the weather.

We are still getting continuous reports of parking. Some roads we have sent letters to all resident asking them to consider where and how they are parking.

Mobile working is still continuing. However, Whitnash is not great for internet signal so if anyone knows of places I can park up and use their Wi-Fi please let me know.

Our Friday surgery is still quiet but we generally get at least one person attending.

Something to think about

I was in an ASB meeting yesterday when Julian Hill (Warwick District Anti-Social Behaviour Officer) spoke to me about the Gazebo by the Oak tree. He said he had had a few complaints about teenagers smoking cannabis in there. He went onto say that they have previously looked at taking this down but it will cost £1500, money they cannot justify. With regards to the police we have had the odd complaint but nothing in the past couple of months. Maybe it's not being reported! Do you think it's worth taking it down? If so are there other avenues of getting funding? I also asked Julian whether volunteers could take it down. Whitnash has such a community spirit maybe people would be willing to help! Julian thought as long as we had written permission he didn't see why not.

Just for an insight below are our stats for ASB over the past few years, bear in mind this will include noise complaints, neighbour disputes etc. it's not just youths.

Anti-Social Behaviour													
Last Refreshed													
18/01/2018													
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
2012	15	21	19	12	16	11	11	14	16	10	8	11	164
2013	12	14	17	23	8	10	9	10	9	8	8	7	135
2014	14	16	17	16	15	20	15	9	8	11	6	8	155
2015	11	12	27	13	17	25	10	10	14	9	14	10	172
2016	12	18	12	13	16	11	15	12	17	7	13	9	155
2017	22	23	16	12	18	10	11	9	19	10			150

I am happy to meet up and discuss this.

PC Rachel Stevens

Members proposed that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Phillip Seccombe is invited to attend a Town Council meeting to discuss Policing in Whitnash.

112/18 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good evening. Can I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Since the last meeting I have been very busy attending a wide variety of functions including Side by Side, Kingsley school play, The League of Friends Xmas Fayre, Short Mt Bowls AGM, WCC Chairman's dinner, The Sikh Temple AGM, a music concert, Luncheon Club Xmas Diner, Cublington Civic Service and, the most interesting, Lord Mayor of Coventry Civic Dinner at which the 2021 City of Culture was announced as Coventry live on TV whilst waiting to be served.

That's two historic events we have been privileged to attend during 2017, The Commonwealth Baton visit during the Bowls Championships and the city of Culture, as you can imagine the room went wild.

My charity concert on the 2nd December was a great success. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and we raised over £300 on the raffle plus profit from the ticket sales meant a total of £1000 towards my two charities. A big thank you to those who supported it.

I was also pleased to be asked to switch on the Xmas lights along with other civic heads and Father Xmas. This event has been very successful over the years and, since I started it, Simon has carried on and improved it each year despite WDC putting obstacles in the way regarding licences they thought of at the last minute. This makes life difficult for both Simon and Jenny to make sure we comply with the legal requirements. However, we had a meeting last night with the Events Department at WDC to both voice our concerns at the way we were dealt with last year and to ensure we have the necessary paper work and assurance it will be dealt with punctually.

Progress on the new Hub is moving fast now. Following meetings with the library service they have now agreed to join with us and contribute to their agreed portion of the construction costs. An agreement should be signed by the end of the month but the architects are already including their wishes in the design. We will be holding an open day on the 6th February here in the Community Centre to show the public what we are proposing. Along with this display will be the opportunity for the public to contribute by way of a Crowdfunding website which will be launched then. This will help fund the equipment within the café area whilst making them feel part of the new project. The planning application is hoped to be submitted in March.

Cllr Tony Heath – Mayor

113/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th November 2017 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

114/18 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

95/17 Reports from County and District Councillors - Cllr McFadden asked Cllr Margrave if there was any further update regarding the possible short-term solution on traveller sites.

115/18 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

My thanks must first go to our Mayor Councillor Heath for attending the County Council Cabinet and speaking so passionately about the many years he has been involved in trying to get a new Centre for Whitnash and why Whitnash does need a new Centre.

I am pleased to say all members at the Full Council meeting supported the Libraries recommendation to re locate to the new Hub and Whitnash Town Council was praised for its vision and commitment to bring this new facility to the Town.

I am pleased to have been accepted as part of a Task and Finish Group looking at Loneliness and its impact on health. This affects many of our residents and ways of the County in partnership with others to help address this will be most welcome.

I met with David Cross this week who is the County Officer who looks after our maintenance of roads and paths. He hopes to be able to let me know towards the end of February of any works to be undertaken in the town in the new financial year. The service road in front of houses in Tachbrook Road was being resurfaced as we looked around the town. David was happy with the locations of the Welcome to Whitnash sign on East Whitnash and of the noticeboard on Woodside Farm. Planning permission will probably be needed for both.

I am pleased that the speed signs in Golf Lane are now in place though as ever some residents still feel not enough is being done to stop speeding. Posts to prevent parking on grass verges in Coppice Road have been agreed and

hopefully will be in place soon. Anyone who drives down there will see the mess the verges are in. A child also nearly fell in the road trying to avoid a car parked on the verges. I know this will not please residents who park on these verges but safety as well as preserving our green spaces must also be considered.

I am hoping signage and other measures will be in place around St Joseph's School paid for by Safer Routes to school will be completed in the next couple of months.

I am now looking for ideas for my next budget spending. I am hoping to get a no cycling sign in Langley Road/Brunswick Street passageway. If you have ideas on safety work you would like to be considered please let me know. There are fairly strict rules what can and cannot be undertaken and costs are high but I would welcome ideas.

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

Cllr Judy Falp, County Councillor, Whitnash

Warwick District Council Reports:

Cllr Margrave attended a Finance and Audit Committee at WDC, but there was nothing to report.

Cllr R Margrave, Warwick District Councillor, Whitnash

I have attended 11 meetings at the District Council since the last Town Council meeting in November. These covered committees such as Scrutiny, Health, Shadow portfolio meetings, Executive and briefings. At the last Scrutiny meeting I and other Councillors who were also Town and Parish Councillors raised concerns that a tidy up exercise on the Councils Constitution seemed to give extra powers to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Chair of the Districts Planning Committee. This would stop a planning application that a Parish and Town had objected/supported contrary to officer's decision to going to committee if they felt the objections were not planning ones and that the applicant had addressed any concerns that had been raised. It was felt by Councillors that the Parish and Towns should have the final decision if they still wished to object/support and send to committee for a decision after discussions with the planning officers. About 40% of planning applications currently going to full planning committee are from objections or support from Parish's and Towns. The tidy up also altered the rules on who can object/support from one address. It was pointed out by Cllrs that while it might be one address it could be a number of different households with different views. The concerns were raised at Executive and the decision will come to the next council meeting to be finally voted on as it is a full council decision. The budget setting will be the main item being looked at in the next couple of months.

Cllr Judy Falp, Warwick District Councillor, Whitnash

The last month has been busy with meetings regarding the propose boundary changes for Warwick District Council. The Boundary Commission rejected the conservative proposal to increase the number of councillors from 46 to 48 and also the labour one to reduce it to 43. They decided that we should have 44, a reduction of two.

At the last two meetings the conservatives have tried to change the boundaries in Warwick South whilst the proposed changes in Kenilworth meant that for three wards there would be nine councillors. Not being political that means the Tories will have nine safe seats at any election. This was pointed out by the Liberal leader.

The good news to come out of all this is that Whitnash will remain unchanged with three seats. The boundary in South Sydenham cannot be changed for Town council elections without another review, which is not planned, until at least 2023

Newbold common Golf course is closed following the withdraw of the operator saying they could not continue. WDC is looking at the legal position with a view to taking action against them.

The new council offices at Covent Garden got the green light at Tuesdays planning meeting after some discussion but the proposed housing development at Riverside House took three hours to debate with the number of speakers having to be limited due to the number wishing to voice their objections. The main objection to both applications was the lack of affordable housing proposed. However, after retiring into a private session we heard an explanation from WDC consultants who had evaluated the contractor's viability study, that they agreed it was not financially viable to

add affordable housing.

Back in the chamber I made the proposal that the contractor was re-evaluated after a period and if found to be making more profit than they said they would have to provide a sum to enable WDC to build affordable housing on another site. This was then added to the recommendation to grant and voted through. The proposed 200 bed HMO for Wise street was rejected as not good enough design and not including the canal tow path as part of the project.

It meant that the meeting finished at 1130 and had to reconvene again on Wednesday night for the remaining five applications.

The worst thing was there was no sandwiches provided on the Tuesday night (yet again) so everyone was hungry by the end of the meeting.

Cllr Tony Heath, Warwick District Councillor, Whitnash

116/18 APPROVE AND ADOPT PRECEPT FOR 2018 – 2019

The Precept for 2018 – 2019 is £199,926 less the WDC Tax Support Grant will be £196,768 which amounts to an annual increase of £5.37 (10.30%). Members proposed that the precept for 2018 – 2019 is approved and adopted.

117/18 COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

We are now at a very exciting stage of our wish for a new community Hub. The Library have agreed to re locate with us, the concept drawing is being completed and fortnightly meetings are being held to get the project ready for the planning application stage. The first stage of the grant application from Sports England has been submitted and the amount to be requested from a Public Works loan has been agreed. Excellent work from Councillors who attended the precept meeting with support from The Clerk and the Finance Assistant means that the Town can continue with activities it wishes to such as ground maintenance, hanging baskets, Christmas Lights, undertake new projects such as a new planter for the Chapel Green and cover the costs for the new Hub.

This has involved a very large amount of extra work from all involved, especially our project team ATI, our own staff and the Councillors who have attended extra meetings. The working group are meeting fortnightly, a meeting with the Library officers has taken place to look at the Heads of Terms and a date for a consultation meeting with our residents has been agreed. This will be on Tuesday 6th February from 2.30 to 7.30 in the Community Centre.

Cllr Judy Falp, Chairman, Whitnash Community Hub Working Group

Cllr Heath proposed the approval and acceptance of the quotation of £15,050.00 + VAT from MLM Group for the Structural and Civil Engineering review to be carried out for Whitnash Community Hub. All Members voted in favour.

The Ground Investigation costs will be in the region of £4000.

The mechanical and electrical work will be in the region of £20,000.00. Cllr Barton thought this estimate was too low and has offered to look at the quotations when they are received.

The cost of the above preliminaries will be taken from the Warwick District grant for these expenses which has been agreed at £192,000.00.

118/18 APPROVE AND ADOPT PHASE 5 FOR COMMUNITY HUB

The fee of £12,000.00 from ATI Projects for Phase 5 of the Community Hub project was approved

and adopted. All Members voted in favour.

119/18 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Electoral Review of Warwick: Warding Arrangements (*was emailed to all Members on 29/11/17*).

120/18 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 8th November 2017 to 10th January 2018 was noted. Cllr Barton commented on the refurbished red phone box and said it was money well spent.

121/18 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

South Ward: The entrance to the parking area at the Coppice Road shops needs attention as there are potholes and these are a trip hazard.

East Ward: Cllr Mrs Falp has discussed the positioning of the Welcome to Whitnash sign in East Ward and the noticeboard for Woodside Farm and both will need planning permission. The transfer of the allotment site should take place soon. There are currently three residents on the waiting list.

North Ward: Nothing to report.

West Ward: The trees at the bottom of Landor Road near Summerton Road need attention as does the footpath as it is a trip hazard now the tree roots are protruding.

Members raised concern about the number of fridge / freezers left on the footpaths around Whitnash that cannot be collected by scrap metal dealers.

122/18 REPORT ON FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Cancilla proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9th November 2017 and 7th December 2017 are received.

123/18 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 23rd November 2017 are received.

124/18 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Franklin proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meetings held on 30th November 2017 and 4th January 2018 are received.

125/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 15th February 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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