

Minutes 09/18

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 12th April 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
 B Smart
 S Vaughan

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Police: 2 Public: 0

In attendance: Mr Phillip Seccombe – Police and Crime Commissioner

164/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

165/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

166/18 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

167/18 POLICE

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the Police to speak.

PC Rachel Smith reported that there were 4 reports of anti-social behaviour, no burglaries, 1 report of damage to a vehicle, no drug related reports and 2 vehicle crimes. There were various issues of concern. Patrols were implemented about the inconsiderate parking outside St Joseph's School. There have been numerous complaints about speeding on St Fremund Way. If anyone

is interested there will be Speed Control Training on 24th April and 15th May 2018 and new recruits are needed. There has been a good response to the evening surgeries outside Acre Close shops and the Police regularly visit the new Community Café.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team agreed to letting Members have their mobile numbers.

The Whitnash Safer Neighbourhood Watch page has seen a big increase in followers.

The Town Council was happy that it had retained the current Safer Neighbourhood Team in Whitnash.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

168/18 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Mayor welcomed the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Philip Seccombe, to the meeting.

Mr Seccombe explained his role and the various challenges that face the Police. He explained the various alliances, support services for victims of crime, protection and prevention of rural crime, gypsy and traveller protocol, the new control centre, blue light collaboration, CCTV and the various grants. This year there was a 6% increase which means an additional £1 per month on all Band D properties in Warwickshire. The additional £3 million will go towards increasing the number of police in the County.

169/18 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Can I thank Cllr Shepherd for taking the March meeting whilst I was on holiday? I understand all went well and our MP Matt Weston enjoyed his visit to Whitnash. He assures me he will respond to the questions raised in due course.

I am pleased to report that the raffle at my Civic Dinner raised almost £350 towards my charities. Cllr Button performed his role as MC excellently and it was a very enjoyable evening.

My Mayoral duties during the last month have included attending an art exhibition by children of Whitnash Combined School at the Jephson gardens lodge which showed how talented the 11/12 years olds are at that school. A charity Ball at Stratford followed the next night by the BABPA Charity Dinner at the Town Hall which is always a great night if you like Indian food and on Sunday last it was the County Service to celebrate Commonwealth Day hosted by the Lord Lieutenant and the Chair of Warwickshire County Council. On Tuesday I attended the 60th AGM of the League of Friends at Heathcote Hospital. Sadly, it is the last AGM as they are closing the League of Friends down. This is due in part to the limited number of volunteers as they get older and to CERU, the hospital management, and SWFT are raising funds for their two wards only and, sadly, do not include the rest of the hospital in their fund raising unlike the League of Friends. Therefore, Central England Rehabilitation Unit are clashing with activities and collections in the area. Over the last 7 years alone League of Friends have raised over £130,000 pounds for the hospital. A magnificent achievement. I do not know how the patients will cope without these important extras League of Friends provided.

The planning application for the new hub has been submitted to the District Council and you have all been sent a copy of the final drawings. When the architect deposited the application online he calculated the fee to be £5500. I contacted the Planning Officer and he confirmed that was the fee for 687 square metre building plus the upstairs part. However, I asked if we were entitled to a discount as a Town / Parish Council and he agreed we were and it is 50% saving us £2770. Well Done Jenny for mentioning it to me.

On Friday last I had a telephone call from Cllr Barton who had located a company in Banbury who had closed and had the entire office block of furniture to dispose of and offered us first choice. Having hired a Luton van on Monday Cllrs Falp, Franklin and myself set off to see what we could use for the new hub. We came back with tables and chairs for the café area and a trolley and trays, a beautiful boardroom table and leather chairs for the council room along with chairs for the public, a desk and chair for the Managers office and a couple of lockers for the changing rooms. Once back in Whitnash we had to unload them and thanks to Cllrs Cancilla and Sparkes as well as Judy's husband Steve we did this easily. Unfortunately, we now have to store them until the hub is built but I think we have saved ourselves about £5-6K. Many thanks must go to Cllr Barton for thinking about us.

Sorry it's a long report but there was so much to let you know.

Cllr Tony Heath, Mayor

170/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15th February 2018 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

171/18 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

172/18 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

I am now almost 12 months into my first year as the Towns County Councillor. Residents are contacting me on a range of issues. Posts put in or wanting taken out, some for and some against, yellow lines and pot holes, street lighting, Community Forum and Education. I am pleased to have solved some issues, I am working on others and some normally due to financial restraints are not possible.

Thank you to all Councillors and residents who notify me or the clerk of pot holes and other issues with the Whitnash Roads. Wherever possible they are repaired as quickly as possible but larger schemes have to wait for funding. I have been pleased to have speed awareness signs put in Golf Lane and I am now looking at some signage and road markings being improved especially around the mini Island in Heathcote Road.

I attended and spoke at the Cabinet meeting where school funding was agreed. All our schools are constantly finding funds are in short supply but the demands placed on them grow all the time. I also spoke at full council on the future of Children's centres. Sadly, Whitnash Children Centre is now closed but the baby clinic will be held at St Margaret's Centre.

The resources committee I sit on was looking at performance in a number of areas. This covers Property Services, Libraries and Customer Contact, H.R and Fire and Rescue. The discussion was also held on ways of working in the future with West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service that could lead to the forces working together. Warwickshire's force is a small one and they have looked to joining with other forces in the past to help give extra support to the County.

We have now had three meetings as a working group looking at Loneliness and Isolation. Presentations on the Men in Sheds project in Nuneaton and Age Concern gave us information on activities they provide. A moving report on the large number of children across the County as young as five who are carers was given with all members being concerned on the ages and numbers of children undertaking all types of care. An update on the suicide prevention strategy was again a moving report with the amount of deaths by suicide increasing in the County. Members have input information on groups they know of in their areas and information on the work the County Council already help deliver was given. Social prescribing by doctor's practices when applied works well but is not universally used. We have more presentations in the next meeting. The final meeting in May will look to prepare a report to go to full council.

Can I thank my fellow District and Town Councillors for their support and the staff at the Town Office who help with reporting concerns raised?

Cllr Mrs Falp also reported that the Library are keen to put on more sessions in the Library and if Members have any suggestions please to let her know. The library currently has sessions for younger children and toddlers, but they are keen to encourage the rest of the Community to use the library. This would help them to increase their footfall and take a following to the

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

Cllr Mrs Judy Falp – Warwickshire County Councillor

Warwick District Council Reports:

This time of the year we start to look at what we have achieved at meetings over the previous year (May to April) such as what we have scrutinised, what influence have we had on decisions and also what actions have been taken since those decisions were made. At shadow portfolio meetings I look to see if targets set are being achieved and if

not ask why not. Figures are normally produced quarterly. Sometimes you question why some figures are kept while others that seem more important are not. Staffing shortages both through ill health and recruitment difficulties can be the cause of targets not being met. General Staffing issues are looked at in the Personnel Staffing Group meetings and reports then go to the Employment committee where I am the Whitnash Residents Association Representative. Councillor Heath sits on the Members and Trades Union committee where staffing issues are discussed. Employment law is complex and has to be well understood and adhered to and Employees rights protected. Recruitment and retention are important and so is providing opportunities for training and new skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Cutts who is head of the Community Protection team at Warwick District Council. Pete has given us advice on safety and protection on the new Community Hub. He also arranged for Whitnash Councillors and the Clerk to see the work of the CCTV team. Whitnash has always been well informed and well supported when we have asked for Pete's help. We so often go to officers with complaints so it is good to have a working relationship that supports each other and our residents.

While we are looking at Issues across the District us three District Councillors for Whitnash are working both in Committees and with one to ones with relevant officers to look after Whitnash's interests and concerns. This is not always easy but negotiation rather than confrontation usually works best.

Cllr Judy Falp, Warwick District Councillor

There is not much to report this month as Cllr Mrs Falp stood in for me at the planning committee in March which I am grateful for. Otherwise I have attended a meeting of the Licensing Committee and a briefing on the leisure centres which are well on the way to completion. In fact, St. Nicholas Park is now fully open.

Newbold will be by August as the delays by Seven Trent have set the project back. WDC are still investigating legal proceedings against Seven Trent. Everyone Active are reporting high numbers each month using the centre and very high numbers signing up for membership.

The planning application for the new District Offices and development of Riverside House was reported to have been "called in" by MP Matt Weston but Sajid Javid only asked for a letter from WDC under the relevant section before he could consider calling it in. However, once received he came back straight away and refused to agree with Matt Weston and the application stands.

I have attended a meeting to agree the layout of the new building/ car park/ apartments last week but not the actual furnishings.

I am currently investigating on behalf of a Whitnash resident further information regarding the B42 bomber which crashed on the now Mallory Grange site. The County archaeological department are very interested to see this information.

Cllr Tony Heath, Warwick District Councillor

Cllr Margrave suggested a Community Map indicating organisations and resources in the town similar to the Sydenham Community Map. Cllr Margrave will look into this and report back.

Cllr Rob Margrave, Warwick District Councillor

173/18 COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

The planning application has been submitted to Warwick District Council planning department and will be out for consultation soon. Debbie Cole from Warwick District Council will now be leading on the project. Cllr Barton was thanked for informing Cllrs Mrs Falp and Heath about the company in Banbury that were disposing of quality furniture. Some tables and chairs for the new Community Hub were sourced.

174/18 APPROVE AND ADOPT REVISED GRANT AID POLICY

The revised Grant Aid Policy was approved and adopted.

175/18 APPROVE AND ADOPT REVIEWED FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The reviewed Financial Risk Assessment was approved and adopted.

176/18 HALL CARETAKER

One applicant has applied for the Caretaker vacancy and will be interviewed on Friday. Various options have been considered if we do not find a caretaker i.e. key safe, keys to users, but our insurance would be nullified if the building was not properly secured. The other costly option is to ask the security company to open and close the hall and continue to pay a cleaning company to do the cleaning on a weekly basis. It was also suggested that the hall is leased out to a private company to run it – this was not viable as it would not be a long-term venture.

Cllr Mrs Falp has asked Safer Routes to Schools if they would be willing to pay towards employing someone to open the main gate to Acre Close for the school run in the morning, but they only assist with capital funding.

It was proposed that some flexibility toward the salary of the caretaker is given to Cllr Mrs Falp and the Clerk when interviewing the caretaker.

177/18 CHURCH CLOSE

The potholes on the St Margaret's House side of Church Close need to be filled in as soon as possible. This is an Unadopted Road and the frontage to the War Memorial and Church was resurfaced in 2012 by Whitnash Town Council. Members proposed that in the interest of safety the Town Council will arrange to have the potholes filled, but the Town Council is not in any way accepting liability or responsibility for this section of the road.

178/18 CHESTERTON ALLOTMENTS TRANSFER

The legal cost for the transfer of the Chesterton Allotments to Whitnash Town Council will be +- £3000.

Members proposed the fee is accepted and the transfer is made.

179/18 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Local Government Boundary Commission letter re Electoral Review of Warwick: Draft Recommendations was forwarded to all Members on 3rd April 2018.

180/18 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 7th March 2018 to 3rd April 2018 was noted.

181/18 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

East Ward: Councillors were reminded of the Tidy Up in East Whitnash on Saturday, 14th April at 10h00.

West Ward: The resident in Chandlers Road has cleared the area of the playing field of builder's rubble.

182/18 REPORT OF 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 22nd March 2018 are received.

181/ REPORT OF 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 8th March 2018 are received.

183/18 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

There was no report.

184/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 24th May 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.....