

Minutes 09/19

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the EXTRAORDINARY Town Council meeting held on Thursday,
31st January 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT

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

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

139/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Kirton and Short who have both been granted dispensations on health grounds.

140/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

141/19 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

142/19 PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD APPLICATION FOR NEW COMMUNITY HUB

The following documents were dispatched with the agenda for the extraordinary Town Council meeting for Members to consider the application to Department for Communities and Local Government for a loan of £250,000.00:

- Report to Council
- Business Plan for 2018 – 2021
- Application for Borrowing Approval
- Precept for 2019 – 2020
- Planning Consent from Warwick District Council
- Title Deeds
- Approved precept for 2019 -2020.

Cllr Mrs Falp explained the results of the Public Works Loan Board loan survey results and has also replied to questions from Members of the Public who spoke during the Public Forum at the Town Council meeting in January 2019. She also explained that if the loan was granted for the new Community Hub the current Community Hall would not be closed until the new building was completed. There are groups interested in taking on the old hall, but that decision can only be made further down the line. Cllr Mrs Falp will reply to Ian Colls regarding the alternative suggestions he made in his letter to Members. Grants for the fitting out of the kitchen and café can only be applied for once building work has started on the new Community Hub.

Members raised questions regarding the Business Plan.

Cllr Barton asked the following questions:

- if there was a contingency fund built into the pre-tender cost estimate;
- multi-use facility for health was questioned
- better use of available space on Acre Close Playing Field.
- whether Whitnash Sports and Social Club was still involved in the project – yes, they are with regard to the football and rugby pitches that are hired from Whitnash Town Council. (*Cllr Sparkes declared an interest*)
- The statement on page 5 – not ‘fit for purpose’ was also queried.
- Cllr Barton also asked if the £250,000.00 loan was the only loan that was applied for and if other loans would be taken out – the Public Works Loan Board loan would be the only loan the Town Council would apply for.
- Would the Town Council be able to afford a Centre Manager when the current Community Hall letting income is £12,000 per annum?

Cllr Margrave questioned development agreements that are still subject to negotiation - East Whitnash, Hazelmere and Windfalls from Community Infrastructure Levy.

The old car park and new car park would both be available for use.

Cllr Mrs Falp thanked Members, Town Clerk and Finance Assistant for all the work that has been put into the Community Hub project so far. In turn Cllr Button thanked Cllr Mrs Falp for all she has done towards the project so far.

Members voted in favour of applying for a loan of £250,000.00 from Public Works Loan Board.

Resolution to Borrow:

It was resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a Public Works Loan Board loan of £250,000.00 up to

25 years for the new Whitnash Community Hub. The annual loan repayments will come to around £13,782.58 per annum.

It is also intended to increase the precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 6.90% which is the equivalent of an additional £3.97 per year for a Band D property. The precept for 2019 – 2020 has already been approved and a demand sent to Warwick District Council. The current precept does not include the Public Works Loan Board loan. A consultation on the loan has taken place and consultation results indicate 82 residents are in favour of the loan and 30 are against.

143/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 14th February 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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