

**WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
at 7.00 p.m. in  
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

**PRESENT**

Councillors: T Shepherd                      Mayor  
                    S Button  
                    G Cancilla  
                    Mrs J Falp  
                    B Franklin  
                    S McFadden  
                    D Sage  
                    B Smart  
                    R Sparkes

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Police: 0

Public: 14

**116/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Barton, Heath, Kirton, Margrave and Short.  
Apologies for absence were accepted.

**117/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**118/19 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PRESENTATION**

The Mayor, Cllr Shepherd presented the trophies and certificates to the winners of the Christmas Lights Display winners and Cllr Button thanked them for taking part:

Residential winners		Commercial winners:	
1st	Mr & Mrs Gougeon	1st	Plough and Harrow Pub
2nd	Laura & Valerie Lloyd	2nd	The Heathcote Inn
3rd	Mr & Mrs Eales	3rd	Whitnash Sports & Social Club
Highly Commended	Mr & Mrs Parkin		

## 119/19 PUBLIC FORUM

*Standing orders were suspended to allow the public to speak.*

Two members of the public registered to speak:

Mr A Macfarlane from Whitnash Twinning Association read a letter requesting to be a Working Group of the Town Council so as to properly fund the Twinning Association.

Mrs Peterson a resident asked questions regarding the Whitnash Community Hub consultation results and requested these are publicised on the website, Facebook page and in the Whitnash Tymes. She was concerned about an increase in council tax to fund the new Community Hub and the Public Works Loan that would be paid back over a period of 25 years. Said we should all live within our means.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

## 120/19 POLICE

The Police report from PC Rachel Smith was forwarded to Members before the meeting.

This month's crime figures are as follows:

**ASB** – Two reports re drugs, two relating a school issue, two personal issues, one involving alcohol and one where people have been hanging out in the cemetery leaving litter and moving things around

**Burglary** – Two – Dobson lane had a bike taken from the shed and Golf Lane had two cars taken off the drive

**Damage** – One - window smashed in Halls Close

**Drugs** – One – report of dealing on Tachbrook Rd

**Vehicle crime** – Three – One vehicle left unlocked, change taken, two entered via unknown means, power tools and a purse taken.

This is a decrease from the month before where there were 11 vehicle crime reported. During that time, we did several plain clothes operations through the night and early morning, helped by other Safer Neighbourhood Teams. We believe there is a lot of concern voiced over social media and CCTV footage has been posted showing people walking around Whitnash trying car door handles. If residents speak to you about this can you please reiterate that police do not monitor facebook and if they have footage of suspicious activity or want to report an incident, they need to report this to the police. That way an incident gets created on police systems so when we look at statistics, we can get a true picture of what's going on. At the moment when the analysts look at the vehicle crime statistics Whitnash do not have a problem, is this a true reflection? Is Facebook fuelling hysteria?

Priorities for the next six months

- **Inconsiderate Parking** – Targeting school parking and other problems  
Continued issues with school, Acre Close and Tachbrook Rd.
- **Drug Patrols** - targeting hot spot areas obtained via intelligence.  
Due to continued intelligence coming in from a member of the public. We have identified an area for dealing, a route the dealers take and two properties that possibly may be storing the drugs, not enough for a warrant yet but a good start.
- **ASB in parks** – minimum of two patrols per week  
Very little going on in the parks at the moment

Cllr Shepherd will be attending the Police surgery to discuss the ongoing wave of car crime in Whitnash.

## 121/19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have attended the Stratford upon Avon Mayors opening of the Traditional Victorian Christmas Fair which was a lovely evening and also attended the Senior Citizens Christmas dinner at St Margaret's Church Hall, the dinner was excellent many thanks to all those involved.

The Christmas Lights was again a huge success, many thanks to Cllr Button, Jenny and the

Christmas lights committee for all the hard work that is put in to make the day such a brilliant start to the Christmas season.

**Cllr T Shepherd - Mayor**

#### 122/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

#### 123/19 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

**100/18 Police** – Members queried the crime rate and are concerned that not all crimes are reported to the Police. If crimes are not reported the crime figures do not increase accordingly. Residents are turning to social media to report crimes. The Police do not monitor Facebook and as mentioned in the Police Report crimes need to be reported to the Police.

**105/18 Warwick District Councillor's Reports** – Cllr Button questioned whether a Plastic Policy had been implemented. The Plastic Policy was approved at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and will be presented at the February 2019 meeting for adoption.

**110/18 Reports from Ward Councillors** – North Ward – the water in the gulley between Acre Close Shops and the Plough and Harrow Pub has not been addressed yet. Will ask WCC when this will be addressed.

#### 124/19 OUTSTANDING PROJECTS / ACTIONS / DECISIONS LIST

**Community Map** – Cllr Margrave provided an update in his WDC Report. Maps are not ready yet.

#### 125/19 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

##### **Warwickshire Count Council Report**

Cllr Mrs Falp reported that Stagecoach are looking into their bus service and are considering their fares. Bus routes were cut as Stagecoach is a commercial business and need to make a profit. Routes that have been discontinued can only be re-instated if there is Section 106 money available or is Warwickshire County Council provides additional funding.

There is no evidence to suggest that turning off the street lighting increases crime figures. Significant savings have been made and WCC will continue to replace sodium lanterns with LED ones.

Health Statistics Report – there is a low birth rate in Whitnash, there are a lot of carers in Whitnash and quite and admissions to Accident and Emergency at Warwick hospital.

**Cllr Mrs J Falp – Warwickshire County Councillor**

##### **Warwick District Council Report:**

*There were no Warwick District Council reports from Cllrs Mrs Falp and Heath.*

Since the last Town Council meeting, I attended the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January, which was long. The biggest topic of conversation was the decision about the funding of the Lido in Kenilworth. I didn't support a proposal to delay any decision to look again at removal of the outdoor pool, as I wasn't convinced by the arguments for its use nor is there any funding available for it.

I attended the first briefing meeting for the WDC Commonwealth Bowls programme. There's not much to report yet, other than they seem to be ahead of Birmingham in their preparations. In the years leading up to July 2022 they are planning several events in the district, including one in Whitnash. Other than that, it doesn't appear that there will be any other direct benefits to Whitnash. There won't, for example, be any requirements using any bowls facilities other than Victoria park.

The Community Map is waiting on the availability of a suitable up-to-date map. I am in touch with the WDC officer responsible for mapping and he has confirmed the maps are not ready. Are councillors happy to continue to delay the production of the map until development in Whitnash is finished and the maps can be produced?

No residents have contacted me regarding any District Council issues

**Cllr R Margrave – Warwick District Councillor**

#### 126/19 APPROVE AND ADOPT PRECEPT FOR 2019 - 2020

The Precept for 2019 – 2020 is £201,734. This is an increase of 0.06%.

Members proposed that the precept for 2019 -2020 is approved and adopted. All Members present voted in favour.

#### 127/19 COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

Cllr Mrs Falp reported that copies of all the surveys that have been carried out at Acre Close Playing Field are in the office if Members want to look through them.

Cllr Mrs Falp proposed that a letter of thanks is sent to Cllr Andrew Mobbs thanking the Executive for agreeing to provide an additional amount of £500 000 for the new Community Hub. Warwick District Council has committed £1 000 000 towards the Hub.

Whitnash Town Council can go out to tender for the new Community Hub, but cannot award the contract until all the funding is in place. Warwick District Council have negotiated lower rates for the next phase of the project.

Results of the Community Hub Consultation will be publicised in the Whitnash Tymes.

The Community Hub Publicity Group has met informally to gather ideas to promote the new Hub.

Sport England still 'like' the plan and will be visiting Acre Close on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019.

Cllr Smart asked if the plan for the new Community Hub had changed since the plan was approved as he has been told that the second level storage has been removed. Value engineering is still in progress.

Cllr Mrs Falp confirmed that the Community Hall will not be closed during the construction of the new Community Hub.

#### 128/19 COMMUNITY HUB INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Community Hub income and expenditure report was sent to all Members.

### 129/19 WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION – ELECTRICITY CONNECTION

Members need to approve a quotation received for the new electricity connection for the proposed Community Hub. The quotation amounts to £20,656.55 + VAT = £24,787.86. All Members voted in favour of accepting this quotation.

### 130/19 DISPENSATION

Cllr Mrs Falp proposed that a dispensation is granted to Cllr Short for the next four months (until April 2019) due to health issues. All Members present voted in favour of this dispensation.

### 131/19 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter of apology from Connor Soden.
2. Letter from Whitnash Twinning Association.

Members acknowledged the work the Twinning does, but they cannot be a Working Group of the Town Council. Whitnash Town Council cannot allocate an annual budget to Whitnash Twinning Association, but the association, like other groups, can apply for an annual grant from the Council as it has done in the past.

*Cllrs Cancilla, Smart and Sparkes declared an interest as Members of the Twinning Association.*

### 132/09 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS MADE

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 was noted.

### 133/19 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

**East:** Nothing reported.

**North:** There is still a lot of water in the gully's between Acre Close shops and Plough and Harrow Pub since the road has been tarmac'd. This was reported at the November 2018 meeting. The longer busses are struggling to turn into Murcott Road East from Whitnash Road as there are vehicles parked on the double yellow lines. There is an overhanging hedge from Elderfield cottage blocking the vision splay if you are coming from Palmer Road.

**South:** Mallory Grange are paying a service charge to a maintenance company.

**West:** There is no wooden bollard at the junction of Moorhill and Franklin Roads so the busses are churning up the grass verges. Some of the road markings around Whitnash are fading and need re-painting.

134/19 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 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018 are received.

135/19 REPORT OF HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

Cllr McFadden proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Hall and Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 are received.

136/19 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Cllr Franklin proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Committee meetings held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 are received.

137/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> 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.....