

Minutes 01/19

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20th June 2019
at 7.00 p.m. in
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT

Councillors: R Margrave Mayor
 Mrs L Burkinshaw
 S Button
 Mrs J Falp
 B Franklin
 T Heath
 W Pickett
 B Smart
 R Sparkes

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

01/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Barton, Cancilla, McFadden and Shepherd.
Apologies for absence were accepted.

02/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

03/19 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

04/19 POLICE

The Police were not in attendance and no report received.

05/19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

I have attended one function, a remembrance service commemorating 75 years of D-Day in Leamington. I have two functions coming up this weekend.

Three dates for your diaries:

Civic Service at St Joseph's Church, Sunday 6th October 2019 at 3pm.

Civic Dinner at Leamington and County Golf Club on Friday, 20th March 2020

The Heathcote's charity quiz is in support Circa on evening of Thursday, 1st August 2019.

06/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 11th April 2019 and 23rd May 2019 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

07/19 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

11th April 2019 – Church Close road has been repaired by Stonewater Housing who eventually admitted responsibility for the section of road.

08/19 OUTSTANDING PROJECTS / ACTIONS / DECISIONS LIST

The list has been updated.

09/19 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

It has been a quiet couple of months with not so many meetings. I attended a morning where the County showcased a number of engineering projects, they had been involved in. The new Chairman and Deputy were elected at the May full Council meeting and I attended the Resources and Cabinet meetings. There was a notice of Motion re school budgets at the full council with many if not most of Warwickshire Schools struggling with budget pressures. The County Council is not allowed to wipe away debt from schools and can only offer advice on how to reduce their budget.

I have been discussing a number of different schemes to spend my allocated budget for road/paths etc. over and above what the County Council have in their budget to do. They range from replacement dropped kerbs around the doctors and shops in Coppice Road to aid access especially for people in wheelchairs and motorised scooters, to looking and ways to improve the cycle path along Tachbrook Road (the Whitnash bit) and another couple of schemes to tidy up areas. I have also asked if the corners of Franklin and Moorhill Roads and the corner of Golf Lane and Whitnash road can be looked at. I did report that both paths and the road in Ashford Gardens need attention (this will come out of the main budget not mine).

My new role on the District Council as Portfolio holder for Health and Community Protection will mean I can sit on some County Health committees now representing the District views.

I also attended the Children and Young Persons Overview meeting where Trinity School issue was discussed.

My County Council 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:

We were pleased to get all three Whitnash Residents Association Councillors back onto Warwick District Council. With 27 of the 44 Councillors being new the experience we have between us and helping to hold the balance of power has given us new opportunities.

I now hold the position of Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Protection. I was the shadow Portfolio holder the previous eight years. I also could substitute for Cllrs Heath and Margrave on the following committees, Planning, Standards, Licensing and Regulatory. Many committees have mandatory training before you can sit on them even as a substitute, and even if you have undertaken the training before. This has and will mean many training courses / briefings for many months to come.

Whitnash of course remains our priority with the Community Hub now out for the first stage of procurement. We continue to work closely with the District Council on this project.

Residents continue to contact me with issues, such as housing, recycling, planning and litter.

Cllr Mrs Judy Falp, Warwick District Councillor

It's a long time since the last Town Council meeting and a lot has happened. The Town and District elections all went in our favour with North Ward candidates holding their majority in face of opposition from UKIP. The District election was more impressive with all three of us increasing our vote compared with the turn out and the two major contenders falling way behind their previous result.

Following on from that we were asked by all parties to join with them in a coalition but looking at it the Lib Dems were not prepared to join with Labour so it would not have worked with them having 9 seats, Greens 8 and us three totalling 20. The Conservatives have 19 so life would have been very difficult as a coalition with the other two.

We spoke to the Conservatives and discussed our position as Independents and it was agreed, after some bargaining, that we would support them by means of a "Memorandum of Understanding" which guarantees that should we not be able to agree with a major decision they want to take we can either abstain or vote against. This ensures we maintain our independence and work for Whitnash as our priority.

Part of our agreement was that in return for our support Judy would be Portfolio holder for Health and Community Safety, I would be Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and Rob Chair of Standards. This gives us a deserved share of responsibilities. So far everything seems to be working well. Since the election it has been meetings every day sometimes twice or three times as training has to take place for all.

As far as the Hub is concerned Judy has updated you on the progress there. Suffice to say we will be opening the submitted tenders in August.

I have also dealt with some housing and drainage problems in Whitnash.

I have spoken to David Butler regarding some Community Infrastructure money being allocated to make improvements at the Heathcote / Tachbrook Road traffic lights and this will be considered.

Finally, can I welcome Liz and Will to the council. I hope you enjoy membership of Whitnash Town Council.

Cllr Tony Heath, Warwick District Councillor

I have attended an Employment Committee Meeting at Warwick District Council.

Cllr Rob Margrave, Warwick District Councillor

10/19 COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

The building of the Hub is now out to tender in a two-stage process. The first stage gives some details of the project but not full details. This includes a figure of costs as it makes no sense to look at schemes that go way above what we can afford. The second stage will give a lot more detail and we will ask for a lot more detail from those who are interested. Recommendations will be considered at the September 2019 Town Council meeting.

While this is happening, specifications for the training lights, moving pitches, ideas for funding for things like the external space's plants, cafe etc. are being discussed. The legal agreements are being finalised and we need to start as a Town Council to look at the future ways of running the new Hub, staffing, what we are

taking with us and many other things! We will need to think by December of what we may need to Precept for 2020 when the Hub is completed.

Cllr Mrs Judy Falp

11/19 COMMUNITY HUB INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Community Hub income and expenditure report was forwarded to Members.

12/19 APPROVE AND ADOPT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT SECTION 1 (PAGE 4)

Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2018 – 2019 was approved, adopted and signed at the Town Council Meeting by the Mayor and Town Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer.

13/19 APPROVE AND ADOPT ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT SECTION 2 (PAGE 5)

Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2018 – 2019 was approved, adopted and signed at the Town Council Meeting by the Mayor and Town Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer.

14/19 ADOPT GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Whitnash Town Council has exercised its right to use the General Power of Competence for the current electoral term and meets the criteria for eligibility (LA 2011 s8) in that the number of councillors elected at the last ordinary election exceeds two thirds of its total number of councillors and the Clerk is qualified.

15/19 ALLOTMENTS

A letter has been received from Persimmon Homes regarding the allotments at Woodside Farm, Mallory Grange. They are proposing the transfer of the allotments and associated structures to Whitnash Town Council for a nominal sum of £1 with payment of the all legal fees to be the responsibility of each party accordingly. The offer is based on the proviso that no commuted sum or additional fees are payable by Persimmon Homes upon completion of the transfer of the 18 allotment plots to Whitnash Town Council.

Members proposed that Cllr Franklin and Clerk investigate this further.

16/19 DIRECT DEBIT LIST

The updated Direct Debit List for 2019 – 2020 was forwarded to Members.

17/19 APPROVE AND ADOPT RED PHONE BOX POLICY AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the Red Phone Box Policy were approved and adopted.

18/19 SPACEHIVE

Spacehive is a platform like 'Just Giving' and in conjunction with Warwickshire County Council aims to improve town centres. WCC will match the money raised by the Town Council if the project is successful. Spacehive could assist with furnishing the café, planting of trees and shrubs at the new Community Hub. This funding initiative ends in March 2020. Achievable targets need to be set. Members agreed in principle to move forward with this idea.

19/19 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter received requesting participation in the VE Day 75 commemorations on 8th May 2020. Proposed this letter is discussed at the Finance and General Purposes committee meeting on 19th September 2019.

S20/19 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS MADE

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 4th April 2019 to 11th June 2019 was noted.

21/19 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

East: Cllr Mrs Falp reported that there have been anti-social behaviour issues with children playing football in the parking area at the Chesterton Allotments. Orbit Housing and the Police are aware of the issue and can hopefully sort the problem. There is a section of the entrance gate where children are entering the allotment plots to retrieve the ball. Trying to resolve this issue as well.

North: The planter at the Heathcote / Tachbrook Road traffic lights has been replaced with a brick surround. There is an abandoned vehicle in Whitnash Road causing obstruction. It has two flat tyres, no MOT or insurance. A new barrier has been installed at the footpath on Brunswick Street that leads to Masters Road.

South: Persimmon Homes will be paying to have the new fibre optic installation at Mallory Grange.

West: The footpath in Heathcote Road is very uneven where the large tree was cut down a few months ago. Severn Trent is currently undertaking sewer work in Heathcote Road.

22/19 APPROVE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY HUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

Cllr Heath proposed that the minutes of the Community Hub Committee Meeting held on 7th March 2019 be approved and adopted. (There was no one present to second the minutes of this meeting on 6th June 2019 so this was considered at the Town Council meeting on 20th June 2019).

23/19 APPROVE MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

Cllr Franklin proposed that the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 4th April 2019 be approved and adopted. (There was no one present to second the minutes of this meeting on 6th June 2019 so this was considered at Town Council meeting on 20th June 2019).

24/19 REPORT OF COMMUNITY HUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

Cllr Heath proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Community Hub Committee meeting held on 6th June 2019 are received.

25/19 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Franklin proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6th June 2019 are received.

26/19 NOMINATIONS FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Mayor, Deputy and Cllrs Mrs Falp, Franklin and Mrs Burkinshaw were willing to serve on the Emergency Planning Committee. The Emergency Planning document will be sent to all Councillors on the Emergency Planning Committee.

27/19 APPOINTMENT OF DEMENTIA CHAMPION FOR 2019 – 2020

Members proposed that Mrs Jenny Heath is asked to carry on as our Dementia Champion for 2019 – 2020.

28/19 APPOINTMENT OF TWINNING REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2019 - 2020

Cllrs Cancilla, Smart and Sparkes were appointed as Twinning Representatives for the Town Council.

29/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 18th July 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.....