

Minutes 05/19

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14th November 2019
at 7.00 p.m. in
Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT

Councillors: R Margrave Mayor
 A Barton Deputy
 Mrs L Burkinshaw
 G Cancilla
 Mrs J Falp
 B Franklin
 A Heath
 B Smart
 R Sparkes
 S Vaughan

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

104/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Button, McFadden, Pickett and Shepherd.
Apologies for absence were accepted.

105/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Sparkes declared an interest as a member of Whitnash Sports and Social Club.

106/19 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

107/19 POLICE

Police report read by Cllr Margrave.

Apologies from all the team unfortunately we cannot make the meeting tonight.

This month's crime figures are as follows:

ASB – 8 reported –5 being neighbour disputes

Burglary – 2 reported. Tachbrook RD and Medley Grove which is believed to be personally targeted. Currently looking after the welfare of the victim with extra patrols as this is the second time in 4 weeks.

Damage – 7 reported. 3 scratched cars on Landor Rd. Difficult to catch offenders but will increase patrols in that area. Damage to Community Centre window – CCTV was negative.

Drugs – no reports. Warrant executed in Justice Close which has disrupted drug traffic for now.

Vehicle crime – 10 reported. Not an increase, remained the same as last month. We are working through the night and people have been arrested but crime is continuing due to not locking their cars and leaving valuables on show. Overall, we have had 115 incidents reported which is a decrease from 135 reported the previous month.

1. Policing priorities from the Community forum are:
 - Drugs – Acting on intel from residents
 - Parking – schools and problem areas
 - Vulnerable People – identifying vulnerable people in the area and signposting them to the right agencies, help, social support.
2. We have been working with the schools regarding the parking. Trying to develop new initiatives.
3. Steve has been attending the health walks and attending community groups.
4. A lot of people have raised concerns about the flatbed truck on Murcott Rd East blocking the pavement. This has now been resolved.

108/19 WELCOME LEADER OF WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Margrave welcomed the Leader of Warwick District Council, Councillor Andrew Day, to the meeting. Various topics were discussed with Cllr Day. The new development and country park in Bishop's Tachbrook and the impact of this development and the schools on the traffic congestion; recycling issues; Mallory Grange refuse collections and lost bins; climate change and parking issues. Cllr Day was thanked for his input.

109/19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Saturday sees the Whitnash Tree of Light Switch on at St Margaret's Church. This is at 5.15pm. There is a short service inside followed by the switch on outside. Everybody is welcome. Please see Jenny to donate in memory of a loved one.

Since our last meeting I have supported the Mayor of Leamington's Quiz night, Warwick Mop Launch event where we were invited to try out the rides and a Fashion Show.

Plus of course the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Margaret's Church.

Cllr R Margrave - Mayor

110/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17th October 2019 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

111/19 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

Cllr Smart questioned the Community Map that was still on the outstanding projects list.

91/19 Mallory Grange Allotments – Town Clerk has been in contact with Persimmon Homes, but no response has been received.

112/19 OUTSTANDING PROJECTS / ACTIONS / DECISIONS LIST

Community Map the new housing developments have still not been included on the map.

113/19 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

I attend County Council meetings in my District Council role as Health and Community Protection Portfolio Holder. Public Health is a County Council function and the County lead on Health and Social Care. The District Council look after Housing, Leisure and Health for its work force and services such as Food safety. It was recognised that all partners need to work together, representatives from the NHS, The Clinical Commissioning Groups, Hospitals, Doctors, Councils and the Voluntary sector providers and organisations such as Health watch. Coventry and Warwickshire organisations work together. It is not easy with so many organisations involved, but there is a great will to try and make things work so anybody with a health need is best served by the right people.

Having been in hospital recently I cannot do anything but praise the treatment I received. But demand is increasing, with people having health issues that can be treated now that never were before. It is in every one's interest to try to keep people healthy so prevention is once again high on everyone's agenda.

The winter months are now here and the County Road gritting vehicles will be out when the frosts start. Only the main roads in Whitnash are gritted so extra care is needed on estate roads.

My County e mail 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

Having reported at the last Town Council meeting that the District Council were going to start charging to put down rat poison (though advice up to that stage would be free), It has been agreed to delay the fee for now, so this will not if implemented happen until January 2021

This is the time of the year all councils start to look at their budgets for next year. With District Councils being capped, so they cannot increase above a certain percentage, the council have to work within that budget. Housing has its own separate budget capital and expenditure with all other departments working from the other main budget.

Training has continued for both new and existing Councillors and while not appearing to be a riveting topic! The Health and Safety training was very useful. The Media training was very interesting and it is important for a number of reasons what you say or do not say to the press.

I have a large case load at the moment of concerns and help residents have asked for. They range from housing, litter, street lighting, hedges and trees, repairs, noise and parking. I cannot always solve issues but at least I can try and a good resolution if possible is great for both residents and myself (and you always learn something new) or just somebody trying often helps people to feel they have been listened to.

Judy Falp, Whitnash Town Council, Warwick District Council

Having spent most of October on holiday the last two weeks have been quiet at the district.

Judy substituted for me at planning in October for which I am grateful although it went into two days and both late finishes.

Last week's planning was also spread over two days with large applications on both days. The main one of interest to Whitnash was the new school and 150 houses at Grove farm. There was a lot of feeling on both sides about this and the discussion took one and a half hours but was eventually brought to a vote by me proposing it was granted which was carried unanimously.

Another application at Hatton for 150 houses caused somewhat of a record. No-one agreed that a new access off Birmingham Road was suitable but there were no planning grounds to refuse it as it is in the Local Plan. When it eventually came to the vote it struggled to get a proposer and seconder and the voting was three in favour and seven abstentions so it was granted by only three votes. Never before heard of.

The latest from the District about the Civic Centre will come up later tonight but I have to mention, again, the Crowdfunding Campaign. After four weeks we have pledges of £4895 plus £2,000 from Judy's Community Forum money towards our target of £11,000. If we reach that the County will double it meaning we can include the extras listed in the build.

It is disappointing to see that the local shops are not getting on board as I write this and I am, once again, asking EVERY councillor to help by spreading the word to both businesses and individuals. Even if they contribute £10 or £20 it all helps towards the target. This also applies to councillors and thanks to the five councillors who have pledged already. If we are not seen to be backing it ourselves how can we ask others to do so.

A simple way of achieving the target is if each councillor sets themselves a figure of £350 to raise. The campaign runs until the 20th December so we need all hands to the pump.

Cllr Tony Heath, Whitnash Town Council, Warwick District Council

Since the last town council meeting, I have attended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting and there have been no other meetings. Residents of District owned flats on Murcott Road have been in touch, not happy with a letter they have received regarding their balconies. I am following this up.

Cllr R Margrave, Whitnash Town Council, Warwick District Council

114/19 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY UPDATE

There will be an update on Civic Centre and Library in the confidential section of the meeting.

115/19 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Civic Centre and Library income and expenditure report was emailed to all Members.

116/19 APPROVAL OF LEGAL DEEDS AND DOCUMENTS

There were no legal deeds or documents to approve.

117/19 REMOVAL OF PUBLIC PAY PHONE IN HEATHCOTE ROAD

BT is carrying out a formal consultation regarding the intended public payphone removals. The overall use of payphones has declined by over 90% in the last decade. There is only one payphone in Heathcote Road, Whitnash. There were 146 calls made from this payphone in the last 12 months. Members proposed to remain neutral on this consultation as not all Members were in favour of removing the phone box. There were two abstentions to this proposal.

118/19 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2019

Cllr Button's report was read by Cllr Margrave:

Further to my appeal at the Council meeting a couple of weeks ago, I would like to make a further request for your generosity.

Old timers on the Council, like me, will know that I make this appeal every year, the newcomers might not be aware. We are now full-long into the Christmas Lights switch-on, which is on Sunday 1st December.

I am doing my usual appeal for wine and chocolates for the raffle & tombola stalls, along with my request for Santa's Little Helpers.

It is important that we have sufficient bottles of wine for the first prize in the raffle and enough chocolates etc to make the tombola worthwhile.

Every year my fellow Councillors are always very generous and hopefully this year will be the same.

So, if you can help please can you get whatever you are able to provide, to Jenny as soon as possible.

Also, if you know of anyone who would be prepared to help out with Santa this year, please let me know.

Thank you in anticipation, as well as thanks to those who have already contributed.

Any help on the day is always appreciated and I will be there from about 10.00.

Come along and help, it is great fun!!!!

Cllr S Button

119/19 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

120/19 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS MADE

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 9th October 2019 to 6th November 2019 was noted.

121/19 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

East: Cllr Mrs Falp reported that the area is very tidy and Warwickshire County Council will be looking after the roads and Warwick District Council will be taking care of the park.

North: The overgrown bushes / hedges at Elderfield have been reported and Warwickshire County Council have written to the owner.

South: Cllr Mrs Burkinshaw reported that the litter on Harbury Playing Fields was still there and the drain cover outside 76 Erica Drive had still not been repaired.

West: Cllr Franklin has spoken to the resident who has erected a new fence and gate that opens onto Washbourne Playing Field. The resident is aware that he cannot use the gate to access the field unless he asks for permission from the town council.

122/19 APPROVE MINUTES OF STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30th OCTOBER 2018

The minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on 30th October 2019 as circulated at the Staffing Committee meeting held on 5th November 2019 could not be signed as there was no seconder. (The minutes were approved at Town Council meeting on 14th November 2019).

123/19 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 31st October 2019 are received. There was one abstention.

124/19 REPORT OF HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

Cllr Barton proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Hall and Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 31st October 2019 are received.

125/19 REPORT OF STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Margrave proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 5th November 2019 are received.

126/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 16th January 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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