

Minutes 01/21

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17th June 2021
at 7.00 p.m. in Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash.

PRESENT

Councillors: A Barton
B Franklin
Mrs L Burkinshaw
G Cancilla
Mrs J Falp
T Heath
R Margrave
W Pickett
T Shepherd
B Smart
R Sparkes

Mayor
Deputy

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

01/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Button and Colledge. Apologies for absence were accepted.

02/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

03/21 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

04/21 POLICE

The Police sent apologies and their report was emailed to all Councillors.

The previous month's crime figures from 13th May, up to and including 13th June 2021, are as follows:

ASB – 17 calls to the police for anti-social behaviour related incidents.

These calls were 8 involving neighbour disputes, 5 youths were involved including leaving litter on the field, 3 involved domestics within families, and 1 vehicle noise nuisance.

Burglary – 1 call to the police in relation to residential burglaries. This was family related

Damage – 2 calls to the police in relation to criminal damage. One involving a damaged fence and one where a window was smashed.

Drugs – 0 drugs related calls this month.

Vehicle crime – 1 vehicle crime related calls in the Whitnash beat code.

Brick put through rear window of vehicle by St Margaret's Church.

In total there were 118 reports to the police in the last 4 weeks previous we had 67 reports which is an increase in calls for service to the police.

The increase in incidents were expected due to coming out of lockdown restrictions.

We are aware of unreported incidents hence if we do not know of it then we cannot respond and there will be no record. We must ensure that the public do report all incidents to us that we should be aware of.

Whitnash Policing Priorities

1: Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour impacts on the community in many ways so as a team we will patrol all of our known ASB hotspots, as much as possible, and respond to reports as quickly as possible when reported to the team. We hope our work is recognised by the low number of ASB calls to police but we must reiterate that all ASB incidents are in fact reported to the police via 101/999 so that there is an official record of the incident.

Intelligence led drug patrols rely on intelligence being generated by the team and also from information being supplied to us by the community. The more intelligence we can gather, about any type of incident, allows us to focus our patrols and target criminality.

We still encourage the public to report anything they believe to be suspicious in relation to drug activity and as a team we monitor our local intelligence on a daily basis.

We have been patrolling Harbury Lane Recreation field, and completed over 47 patrols of the field and local parks. We have managed to speak to youths some local some not mainly around tidying their rubbish up and not to smash bottles etc.

The youths we have been speaking to have been engaging fully and I am sure there has been an improvement on the rubbish been left.

Just to note most of the cans and bottles were soft drinks and crisp packets.

2: Speeding

The team have pre planned speed checks for next month along with the support of the Community Speed Watch group also completing checks.

3: Intelligence led drugs patrols

Patrols have been completed in the hot spot locations

Facebook live

Unfortunately, this event had to be cancelled but we will try and arrange another one soon.

Just for reference Donna got married in May so she is no longer PC Donna Smith but PC Donna Parry.

Best wishes

Donna, Jess & Steve

Members proposed that the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner are invited to attend the September 2021 Town Council meeting.

05/21 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

I have not carried out any Mayoral duties since my election to which I thank you. All. I seem to have done over the last few weeks was helping residents with their problems. The first being the increased noise and the erection of a marquee at Whitnash Sports and Social club. The other problem was rats at Janet Robinson's house, I thank Judy for her input on this matter. There was also a problem with trees at Washbourne Playing Field.

Unfortunately, Leamington Town Council got its borders mixed up and the Mayor of Leamington strayed onto our territory at Champion School. An apology has been received.

Can I just mention committee membership? Can I please ask those councillors who have not returned their forms then please do so? My second comment is that I would like all members to be on either the Hall and Playing Fields Committee or the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Before Cllr Burkinshaw says, I appreciate all the work she has done and is doing on the Civic Centre and no doubt when the work is done she will join one of the other committees.

I am also disappointed to report that the Covid banners around the town have been slashed. This is not a true reflection of the Town.

I am also disappointed to report the service of thanksgiving for the Monday, 4th July 2021 has had to be delayed due to the restrictions not being relaxed.

Cllr Adrian Barton – Mayor Whitnash Town Council

06/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 15th April 2021 and 20th May 2021 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

07/21 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

08/21 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

I was very pleased to be elected again in May for my second term of office as your County Councillor for Whitnash. Thank you to those who voted for me and my team of District and Town Councillors who helped me over the last four years. I will of course serve all residents and even if I cannot always solve your issues, I will try to keep you informed.

We held the annual meeting of the County Council and I was given a role on the Regulatory committee. This covers County planning applications. I have been involved in planning for over 26 years at town and District level and did at one time work in the County Development and Waste regulations department. I will always try to go to as many other meetings as possible to make sure Whitnash's voice is heard. I have started to look at what I can do with my highways budget with Golf Lane traffic calming and road surfacing in Ashford Gardens possibly being the first actions.

I am pleased that my County Councillors Grant fund is now open with £6000 over the year to grant to organisations. An online form can be found at the Warwickshire County Council web site, search for County Councillors grants.

Cllr Judy Falp County Councillor for Whitnash

Warwick District Council Reports:

The workload at the District Council has increased over the last two months.

I have attended five cabinet briefings, two cabinet meetings, a full District Council meeting, a Programme Advisory Board meeting and a South Warwickshire Crime and Disorder Partnership meeting with Councillor Heath.

Residents have contacted me on issues with trees, neighbours building work, planning matters, disability adaptations and noise nuisance.

My portfolio has changed to mirror the Portfolio in Stratford District. I no longer have the responsibility for Health. Covid of course continues and the need to deal with matters concerning that. Along with the Armed Forces Covenant, Internal Health and Safety a range of nuisance issues (pet noise, smells etc), Food Hygiene and Public Houses Taxi and Kennels and Catteries licensing I do now have Parish Champion, Safeguarding and Anti-Terrorism!

The District continues to have the Climate Emergency as its Highest Priority. There is then a range of projects it hopes to complete or start on in the next couple of years. This includes our Community Centre, Kenilworth Leisure facilities, The Riverside House sites future, The Cultural Quarter in Leamington, the Leper hospital in Warwick and Bishops Tachbrook County Park and the Commonwealth games Bowls and Cycling events to name just a few of them.

Cllr Mrs Judy Falp, Whitnash District Councillor

Since I was elected Deputy Chairman of Warwick District Council, I have relinquished the role of Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee but remain a member. The team at Riverside House have been very busy checking that licensed premises are adhering to the Covid regulations regarding numbers, sanitisers and ventilation especially in temporary structures since the opening up of licensed premises.

My other main work has been on planning. As you know East Whitnash was refused yet again after A C Lloyd had tried to alleviate some of the concerns raised by residents following the first application which has gone to appeal.

I did express a warning that should A C Lloyd win the appeal on the first application they would not need to include the changes offered in the second one but that was ignored and, yet again it was refused by 7 votes to 5.

As with both applications there has to be sound planning reasons to refuse an application which is in the adopted Local Plan. This was pointed out at the committee meeting by the District solicitor, the Chair of the committee and the planning officer presenting the report. This advice was totally ignored and the application refused.

Now the appeal on the first application has been set for July and WDC barristers have warned that we do not have a case to win the appeal and recommended we withdraw our objection. This, if we went ahead, could cost the WDC between £200k and £400k in costs. This is money we desperately need to carry out our programme in the next years as we are already £4m in debt due to Covid

The other major application that was decided this month was the Newbold Comyn redevelopment to include cycle trails on part of the old golf course financed by British Cycling and the renovations of the club shop and buildings to include a café with an open area. This, despite opposition stirred up by misinformation by a few, was approved 10-1.

Cllr Tony Heath, Whitnash District Councillor

Nothing to report.

Cllr Robert Margrave, Whitnash District Councillor

09/21 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY UPDATE

Steady progress is being made now we have some decent weather. The car park has had its first coat of tarmac also the skateboard area. Inside the partition walls are being constructed and the ceilings erected. The expected completion date is now the 9th August. If anyone is interested in a walk round in about four weeks' time, please drop me an email.

The committee is now drawing up the list of items required to fit out the centre which will be a huge task itself. The football / Rugby pitches are being levelled ready for the grass seeding. It is not expected they will be ready for the 2021/22 season so as to allow for the grass to establish itself.

Cllr Heath – Chairman Civic Centre Committee

10/21 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PHASE FUNDING

A copy of the funding for the construction phase of the Civic Centre and Library was emailed to all Members and noted.

11/21 INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Internal Auditor's Report was emailed to all Members. Cllr Barton thanked Catherine, Jenny and Kerry for their work.

12/21 APPROVE AND ADOPT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT SECTION 1
(PAGE 4)

Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2020 – 2021 was approved and adopted at the Town Council Meeting and signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer.

13/21 APPROVE AND ADOPT ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT SECTION 2
(PAGE 5)

Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2020 – 2021 was approved and adopted at the Town Council Meeting and signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer.

14/21 ADOPT REVIEWED REVENUE RESERVES POLICY

The reviewed Revenue Reserves Policy was approved and adopted. All Members voted in favour.

15/21 ADOPT AMENDED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The amended Financial Regulations were approved and adopted. All Members voted in favour.

16/21 COPY OF ASSET REGISTER

A copy of the Asset Register as at 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 was emailed to all members. Depreciation of assets was questioned. The commercial concepts of depreciation are not required or appropriate for this method of asset valuation. For reporting purposes therefore, the original value of fixed assets will usually stay constant throughout their life until disposal.

17/21 DELEGATED POWERS FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee is unable to meet face to face as there is no WIFI connection in the Community Hall Delegated Powers were given to the Chairman and Clerk until such time as face-to-face meetings can be held.

18/21 WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL 'WELCOME BACK FUND'

Members unsure of where the potential funding could be spent.

19/21 SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

The consultation runs until 21 June 2021. Cllr Franklin urged Members to complete the questionnaire the Clerk emailed to all Members and return it to him so that a response can be collated.

20/21 DIRECT DEBIT MANDATE 2021

A copy of the Direct Debit Mandate as at 8th June 2021 was emailed to all Members.

21/21 LEAMINGTON LITTER PICKERS

It was proposed that information is placed on the Town Council website making litter picking groups aware that both Acre Close and Washbourne Playing Fields belong to Whitnash Town Council and that permission is needed before litter picking can be carried out on our playing fields. Insurance is also required and litter has to be removed from the playing fields and properly disposed of. Litter cannot be left for a third party to collect. The Town Council Groundsman litter picks the playing fields from Monday to Saturday. Whitnash Town Council regularly organises litter picking on the playing fields.

22/21 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 7th April 2021 to 8th June 2021 was noted.

23/21 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter of complaint have been received regarding the erection of a large marquee and noise nuisance at Whitnash Sports and Social Club. It was proposed that a letter is sent to Whitnash Sports and Social Club regarding the complaint.
(Cllr Sparkes declared an interest as a Member of Whitnash Sports and Social Club).
2. There is a problem with rats at a residence in Heathcote Road. Cllr Barton thanked Cllr Mrs Falp for the help she has given to try and resolve this ongoing issue.

24/21 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS MADE

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 7th April to 8th June 2021 was noted.

25/21 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

East: The grass around the Welcome to Whitnash sign in East Whitnash has been reported. There is Giant Hogweed growing in Brook Valley.

North: Resurfacing of the footpaths outside some properties in Whitnash Road has been done. There is a pothole on the traffic calming hump near St Margaret's Centre.

South: The bollards in Coppice Road were mentioned again.

West: Repairs have been undertaken to footpaths in Landor and Washbourne Roads. The trees on Landor Road near the junction with Franklin Road need pruning and the roots are lifting the footpath. The mound in Washbourne Playing Field has been flattened.

26/21 REPORTS OF CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Heath proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Civic Centre and Library Committee meetings held on 22nd April 2021 and 27th May 2021 are received.

27/21 REPORT OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS MEETING

Cllr Shepherd proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Christmas Lights Committee meeting held on 3rd June 2021 are received.

28/21 REPORTS OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Cllr Heath proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings held on 6th May 2021 are received.

29/21 REPORT OF HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Barton proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Hall and Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 13th May 2021 are received.

30/21 REPORT OF STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Barton proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 4th May 2021 are received.

31/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 15th July 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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