

# WTC Meeting – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February #1

**Disclaimer:** These observations are not the 'official' minutes of the meeting, these are supplied by Whittlesey Town Council, normally (1) month following the meeting and can be viewed on their website. Decisions and Voting at this meeting will be ratified and confirmed at the following months meeting.

I was unable to attend this meeting and the report(s) are from my correspondent(s) who were present.

Council observations:- The agenda for this evenings meeting was published on this Web-Blog on the 07<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Members of the public present :- 8

Members of the Council present :- 10

Absentee's :- Cllrs Bristow, Davies, Windle & Gerstner.

**Street Scene Officer:** Dawn Sadler congratulated the Street Pride Litter Pickers and advised that FDC recruiting apprentices for Environmental Health. The current apprentice has now qualified as an environmental officer, applied for a role and was successful.

Food hygiene has now come back in house at FDC.

**Cllr Eamonn Dorling** – Asked whether there was a funding issue in respect of Street Pride – Ms Sadler agreed to investigate and get back to Cllr ED.

**Public Forum:** Mr Steve Hodson asked for standing orders to be stopped as there were a number of speakers – The chairman Cllr Mason declined the request.

Deborah Slater (Defibs) asked for a defibrillator to be placed onto the 'new' council offices.

Mr Steve Hodson – Ref Masterplan wanted section 8 particularly to be noted, transport improvements – relief road and request WTC support this and pointed out that in the past CCC Cllr Count had said he supported this road. Section 8 is certainly in the final report but Councillors and members of the public were issued with a draft document that did not include section 8 and was about half the number of pages.

Mr Richard Hunt asked WTC to raise a committee to sort out information re-flooding and road closures on the B1040 (See later report Cllr Laws)

Mr Peter Baxter stated that Whittlesey needs a by-pass and does not believe the proposed bridge will make matters any better – ref traffic in Whittlesey. Asked Cllr Boden to be interviewed and go on YouTube.

Ms Cheryl Wright looking for support for WTC for Fenland Flag.

Ms Liz Crosby The Masterplan states Whittlesey has the poorest health outcomes in Cambs. A relief road that stopped heavy lorries through the town would improve this.



**Cllr Boden** answer to Mr Baxter's question – Cambs advisory freight map is a requirement, its importance is for commercial Sat Navs that should divert heavy goods, unfortunately the A605 is down as a freight route and is classed as Whittlesey's By-pass, he agrees this should not be so. Cambs CC are no longer in control of this and The Combined Authority is..

Cllr Boden will raise this to ensure the A605 is taken off the route.

A relief road is also the remit of the Combined Authority and if a relief road does go ahead there must be extensive development of Whittlesey.

Mayor Palmers statement to the press – traditional thinking must be challenged.

Kings Dyke Bridge is on track, planning permission is tight and if the 'new' tenders do not fit in with it -The Bridge has to go back to the beginning?

**CCC David Connor** Referred to e-mail received from the 'new' Project Manager overseeing The Kings Dyke Bridge project – states the tendering returns are due by **13/03/20** – there is a good interest and is hoping for strong bids – the decision is targeted for **24/04/20** CCC will be issuing updates on all key milestones.

Pondersbridge LHI (See several previous monthly reports) – there is a small shortfall in funding – request this is made up.

Turves Bus Shelter – ordered but can only go where previous Shelter was located – as Cambs CC owns this piece of land – Cllr Laws challenged this as small children have to cross the Railway Crossing to get to it.

**Property Working Group:** Due to hand back Grosvenor House (The old Town Council Offices) to the landlord and repair costs etc. have to be discussed the stairlift and other items are WTC property.

Peel house domestic tenants are having condensation and water issues, inspection has taken place and minor repairs are required.

Flat felt roof - it is leaking also gutters asked for repair estimates so far nobody coming forward.

Fire door rotten and replaced. Now need a wall in the communal kitchen only one quote provided approved at £1700

Re Office space - Isacam are renting one office CCC a 2nd office for children with learning difficulties

Young technicians now have found the 6 months' rent for an office as well as being included on the Mayors charity list It was agreed young technicians are given a 6 month short term tenancy and meanwhile they will look to local businesses for sponsorship for the rest of the year

**Cllr Mason** said a deposit will be held as for other tenants.

**Growing Fenland: Cllr Laws** said many had said no consultation in fact there had been plenty the plan has been approved.

**Cllr Boden** referred to the £5 million grant available to Fenland towns suggested Whittlesey could use some of this to provide a business plan for a relief road.

**Cllr Eamonn Dorling** requested that a Business Plan for a Bypass is put together and that WTC should be involved.

**Other Business: Cllr D Laws** Neighbourhood plan is going forward so far there have been **458** landowners farmers and land agents putting forward land for consideration there are other areas of farmland council might see as relevant for commercial/residential development so a further advertisement will be going out to give these people the opportunity to apply. Councils will then decide which land is appropriate and a public consultation will take place this summer.

**Cllr Dee Laws:** B1040 attended many meetings asked Peterborough Council to attend no reply investigating costs of automatic signs also additional flap signs.

Not possible to actually raise the road by 1 meter as not a financially viable project as a 'B' road also looking at high tides and then flooding times co-ordination. This part of the discussion referred to the North Bank Road not the B1040

**Cllr Eamonn Dorling** suggested that WTC does not have any influence and that our views should be taken into account. Cllr ED suggested that predictions on flood risk that Highways relied on when closing roads was faulty too frequently resulting in closures of a 'Dry Road'. Cllr Laws replied that Cllr ED was totally wrong.

**Cllr Kay Mayor:** VE day everything is in place Fri 8th May VE Day small ceremony and church service VJ Day August bigger event with a band and service in the church.

**Cllr Bob Wicks:** Looking for people to train as recycling champions.

**Cllr Dee Laws:** Had discussions with Skanska re speeding signs - discussion about the mobile interactive speed signs we need to go out to tender for moving them around Whittlesey.

**Cllr Miscandlon:** Morlocks have agreed to provide 3 for £6731.00  
others will be purchased using LHI (Local Highways Improvements)

**Cllr Ray Whitwell:** Public footpath is mainly used by dog walkers request for a dog poo bin approved.

**Cllr Miscandlon:** Planning committee will suggest refusal of applications that will increase traffic in station road area until a relief road is approved



**I am Roy Gerstner.**

The Independent Councillor for **St Mary's Ward South - Whittlesey Town Council.**

Primarily I report on Council meetings & business to keep the electorate informed on both what I am actively involved with and in part other interests that I believe the electorate within Whittlesey & District may also wish to be informed.

My Web-Blog is community based and I report and comment on many other subjects.

**I occasionally make a mistake and am more than happy to correct this if it pointed out to me.**

If you have any issues or concerns outside of the St Mary's Ward South, please contact your own local Councillor. If you contact me – I am more than happy to forward onto them.

**The date of the next full Council meeting will be: - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7:30pm**

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