

WTC Meeting - Wednesday 08th July 2020 #1

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

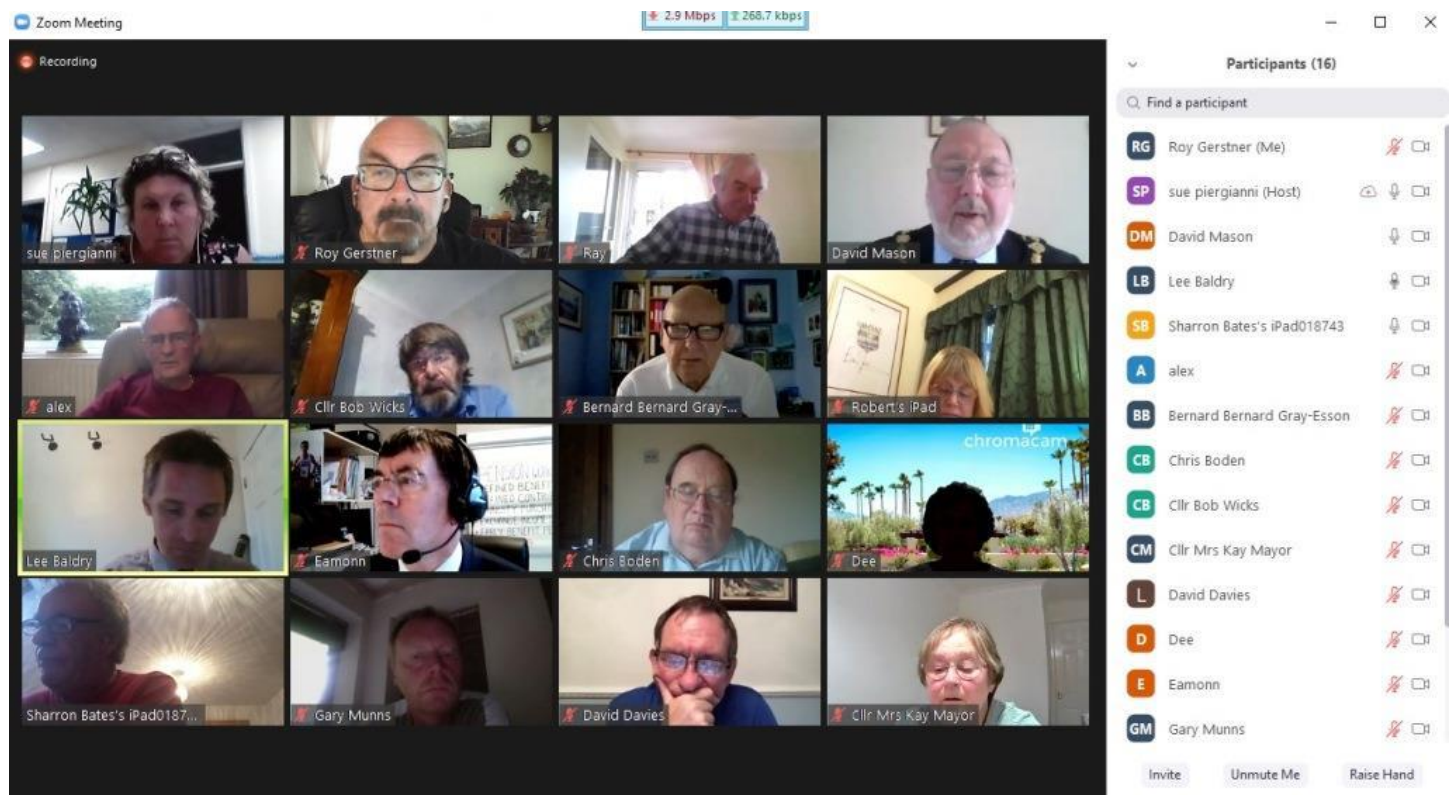
I am the only Councillor in Whittlesey who makes regular reports on meetings, I have done this for more than 9 years both as a member of the public and as a Town Councillor.

This Meeting was held by Video Conferencing Platform 'Zoom'

I will report the more salient aspects of the meeting.

Members of the public present :- 1

Members of the Council present :- 12
(Apologies Cllr Lang-Whiston)



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, it displays 'Zoom Meeting' with network statistics: 2.9 Mbps and 268.7 kbps. A 'Recording' indicator is visible in the top left. The main area is a grid of 16 video thumbnails, each with a name label below it. The names are: sue piergianni, Roy Gerstner, Ray, David Mason, alex, Cllr Bob Wicks, Bernard Bernard Gray..., Robert's iPad, Lee Baldry, Eamonn, Chris Boden, Dee, Sharron Bates's iPad0187..., Gary Munns, David Davies, and Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor. On the right side, there is a 'Participants (16)' list with a search bar and icons for each participant, including mute and video status. At the bottom right, there are buttons for 'Invite', 'Unmute Me', and 'Raise Hand'.

Public Forum - Mr Bernard Gray-Esson spoke about the upcoming VJ (Victory over Japan) anniversary which is commemorated on the 15th August – It is hoped that a ceremony will take place in Whittlesey.

Police Matters - Members of the Council received the monthly update from The Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Mr Lee Baldry - Interim Team Leader - Delivery of Kings Dyke

Mr Baldry gave a quick run up to the recent signing of the contract to build the Kings Dyke Bridge awarded to Jones Bros.

There is now mobilisation for the construction. The supply chain is well advanced. There are weekly meetings around the fine details of technical aspects, engineering technology risks assessments concerning the effects on the A605 along with the building ongoing at Lindom homes also along the A605

The actual 'real' start of the project is still to happen (Covid).

There was a few questions asked.

I asked whether a 'live' feed could be placed in the public domain – so that 'we' can see the progress happening at the site.

This will be taken back to the builders/CCC – there maybe photographs from 'drone' footage at some point in the future.

County Councillors Update - Cllr Boden – Requests from the public in respect to The Re-flooding of the Fens' and wide scale tree planting, Cllr Boden stated this is not a practical solution as tree's take a lot of water from the ground and 'The Fens' cannot sustain wide scale tree planting.

Cllr Connor - Inter-active signage – still ongoing, **Cllr Laws** stated she has been campaigning for 11 years. The latest costings for '4' sign boards are in the region of £65,000(!!!)

I stated that on Monday this week - The A605 was closed to traffic @ Kings Delph, there had been a lorry shed its load at Pondersbridge and Ramsey Road was closed and the North Bank was operating with a broken down vehicle and another vehicle that had run out of petrol causing a jam.

The 'perfect storm' again, and with the impending long term road works (Kings Dyke) this signage is now required with some urgency.

Cllr Laws – The Growing Fenland initiative, 8 potential projects identified for Whittlesey, requiring capital expenditure, the main contenders being:-

A Heritage Walk and Cycle Route,

The Heritage Centre based at Kings Dyke (Must Farm Project)

The Buttercross area (Markets)

Electronic Signage for Information re road works/closures and other information.

Cllr Mason: Further to last month's motion to give Ex Mayors/Chairman's 'A Medallion' in recognition of service. Costing were given ranging from £3237.55 (+VAT) to £1140.90 (+VAT)

a vote was taken for the least expensive option 11 for and 1 against (myself)

(I have voted on 3 occasions against this initiative on the grounds of cost to the rate payer)

Must Farm Heritage Centre is still in the pre-planning stages with Peterborough CEO Gillian Beasley still supporting the plan. The cost of the Heritage Building is in the region of £308,000 – The land being gifted by 'Forterra'

Local Highways Improvements (LHI) – Much debate around 'Yellow lines' and **Cllr Mason's** suggestion that a 20mph speed limit on Church Street.

Finances of WTC: Cllr Boden – A 'flexing' of the current budget is in progress – this is because many of the 'budgeted' items (Music events will now not take place) –

Finances are looked at and debated at The Finance & Policy Committee (Monthly)

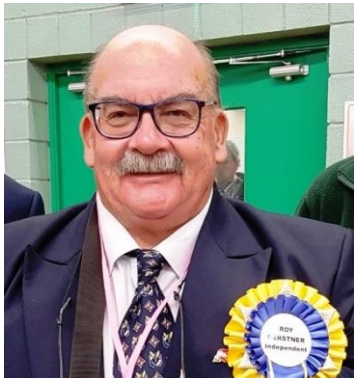
Cycle Racks – Fenland District Council are seeking Town Councils to identify place to put cycle racks – several suggestions including Peel House, outside of Betfred's, Cycle Route 63

There is no full Town Council meeting in August

The next scheduled full Town Council meeting will be on Wednesday 16th September 2020

Future meetings in the foreseeable future will be held on the above 'ZOOM' Platform.

Members of the Public as able to 'Attend these meeting' – You need to register with the Town Clerk beforehand. You are also able to table questions in advance again through the Town Clerk.



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 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.

If you have a generic issue or wish to make a comment I am more than happy to publish or promote any community events – (subject to meeting publishing criteria)

e&oe ©Roy Gerstner.