

WTC Meeting – Thursday 15th December

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 Council, Public and Community Group meetings.

I have done so for more than 12+ years both as a member of the public and as a Town Councillor. **I have made 6,000+ postings on this site.**

I report on the more salient aspects of the meeting(s).

I was on holiday when this meeting took place, and am grateful to our correspondent for taking notes for me to publish.

Members of the public present :- **4**

Members of the Council present: - **10**

Apologies from Cllrs Mockett, Boden, Munns & Gerstner.

The agenda for this meeting has been published on this web-blog.

I have already published report for Street Scene, Police and CCTV.

(Note, the full Police report we are not allowed to publish in the public domain)

Concerns about cars entering A605 from High Causeway and inconsiderate parking (e.g. The boat and trailer (Park Lane/Church Street)

Parking patrols continue with multiple tickets issues.

Patrols at Grosvenor Car Park -Anti-social driving concerns reported.

Warrant issued concerning Drug supply.

Public Forum.

Mr Robert Windle - Is very upset about the Growing Fenland Fund, there are no minutes or transparency, all decisions appear to be made in the dark.

They would not engage with him, he emailed the members but has not received a response.

Originally there were two youngsters (SHSCC?) but they are no longer involved and do not appear to have been replaced. He considers their views to be important.

Was the meeting to decide on Heritage money quorate?

The proposal to CPCA that Boden was to have presented was so verbose that Cllr French refused to present it to the meeting on behalf of Cllr Chris Boden.

The 'En block' voting left members uneasy and was the same reaction.

Only £45k has been earmarked for Whittlesey at the Manor. Other leisure centres receiving energy efficient solutions are being paid for by FDC – why should this funding be used when FDC could have paid for it?

There is no appetite for consultation on a Southern Relief Road costing £200k-£300k yet the opportunity (with matched funding) to get £250k for the youth has been lost.

F157/22 Items for Discussion.

EV points, Still waiting for two more quotes, decision to provide EV points and pay as you go was taken at the previous meeting.

Bus Routes 31/33 – Cllr Boden not present – deferred

Kings Coronation Cllr Windle -. Agreement at F&P to provide £10k in the budget '...for anything we want to do'!

LHI. D Laws is working on a bid for solar lighting on the Millennium Bridge.

Deadline means it needs sorting this year before Town Clerk leaves for Xmas and New Year.

Post Office. It appears that the Post Office has upgraded at least 2 positions with new tech and that a 3rd and a 4th could be upgraded. On one day, 3 operatives were working behind counters, plus a member of Keshco on the outside, taking some of the work away.

Cllr Mason will write to the post office asking for clarification.

Mission Statement: Agreed to embrace and use on web site. Cllr Dorling or a replacement after May, to develop.

Budget: Cllr Miscandlon referred to the Coronation change and implored Councillors to submit requests for funding NOW so that planned expenditure could be woven into the budget.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Cllr Bob Wicks to propose objecting to the the Greater Cambridge Partnership's proposal for a Sustainable Travel Zone.

Cllr Wicks explained that he found the move to be a stealth tax and that WTC should write to the City Council to object in the strongest possible terms.

It was noted that Cllr Steve Tierney is responsible for a similar move by FDC.

Cllr Dorling was a lone voice explaining that congestion is an increasing problem, not just the fourfold increase in emissions from static vehicles compared to free flowing, but that car ownership in 1970 was 1 car per family, in 1990 it was 2 and in 2000 it was 3.1.

This has an impact on employees getting to work on time the people living in the area and the NHS staff at major hospitals like Addenbrookes, Rosie and Papworth.

He explained that the Council need to deal with the problem and introduced Park and Ride systems to help reduce congestion. Also, that WTC have no right in interfering in their solutions – how would we feel if they objected to building the Kings Dyke Crossing?

Anyway, he was the only vote against and there were no abstentions, so WTC will send a letter of objection.

F162 Cllr Dorling asked whether Councillors were now seconding their own proposals (Whitwell on Coronation £10k)

Apparently the corrected version was kept in the file but not amended to members. He carried on because of concerns was that the true nature of the increased spending request had not been made clear for members to consider.

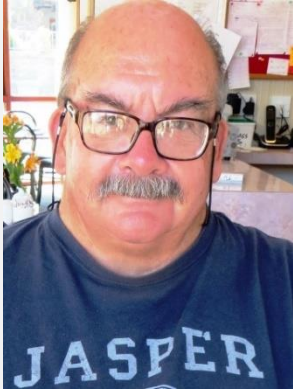
Was a firework show being considered? And would £10k be the final figure?

The QEII Platinum Wood. Cllr Dorling highlighted the statement attributed to Cllr Gerstner in response to Cllr Munns asking whether sponsors could pick their own trees and could they plant them. Cllr Gerstner response (Projects meeting) ...they could not pick a species of tree, **but they may be able to plant their own trees.**

Cllr Dorling objected to this because taking that statement in isolation could result in someone picking trees out of their garden and planting them in the QE2 Platinum Wood, they could be diseased, and the species might be non-native or incompatible. They certainly would not carry a plant passport number. It was agreed that only authorised planting would take place.

I took the opportunity to thank all the volunteers that worked hard in frosty conditions to achieve a result that I was proud to be part of and singled out Street Pride. D.M. thanked you and I for organising the community event and that all reports have been favourable.

**Date of future Council Meetings: - to be held at Peel House (WTC Offices)
Full Council Thursday 19th January 2023**



I am Roy Gerstner. [The Independent Councillor](#) for St Mary's Ward South - Whittlesey Town Council.

Primarily I report on Council meetings & business (Both at FDC & WTC) 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 events, meetings and subjects.

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

If you have any issues or concerns outside of the St Mary's Ward South, you are welcome in the first instance to 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.

Church Services.....

CHRISTMAS EVE

15:00 • Christingle and Nativity Service at Holy Trinity, Coates

17:30 • Nativity Service at St Mary's, Whittlesey

20:00 • Christmas Carol Service at St Andrew's, Whittlesey

21:30 • Holy Communion at St Thomas, Pondersbridge

23:30 • Holy Communion at St Mary's, Whittlesey

CHRISTMAS DAY

09:30 • Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Coates

10:30 • Christmas Celebration with Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Whittlesey

Monday 26th December

09:30 • Holy Communion at St Thomas, Pondersbridge

