

WTC Meeting – Thursday 16th March 2023

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 13+ 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).

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

Members of the Council present: - **13**

Apologies from Cllrs Whitwell

Agenda for this meeting has been previously been published on this web-blog.

A separate Post has been published for Street Scene, Police and CCTV Reports.

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

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Police Report:-

Whittlesey has a new 'Neighbourhood Sergeant' – Sgt Arnold, we are promised similar communication as with his predecessor in that as Councillors there will be monthly meetings with key stakeholders and that we will receive crime statistics on a regular basis.

Our Neighbourhood Team has recently taken on a second PCSO. They have been quite active in the Town in targeting both illegal and inconsiderate parking, which is one of the priorities given to the team by public filling in a recent questionnaire..

Councillors commented that Vandalism had increased and e-scooters were becoming a problem.

I was noted that if the Police catch a person on an e-scooter they are given a warning, the serial number is recorded and 'if' caught a second time the e-scooter is confiscated.

Public Forum.

Mayors Chain of Office – In January - Cllr Laws propose WTC would like to purchase new links to commemorate the Queens platinum and the coronation. Cllr Boden said these can prove expensive so would like estimates to replace first. Cllr Mason advised the collar the chain sits on was a cheap version and has never fitted properly therefore feels a new one needs to be bought too.

At this meeting, a quote had been received to purchase a new link for the coronation, refurbishment of the collar/chain and links + a new velvet collar - £1471, it is the only item that belongs to the Council, a vote was taken 11 in favour, 1 against and Cllr Gerstner abstained.

Hanging Baskets for Whittlesey.

This was debated under confidential item at the end of the meeting as it involves financial information, it was discussed and a new contractor has been appointed at less cost than last year.

Kings Coronation.

The 'three' planned music events, are progressing as per plans.

LHI & 20 MPH New Initiative.

This discussion lasted sometime, and I'll cover the main points, LHI is a 'Local Highways Improvement' whereby 2 small programs can be applied for a year – Paths and Roads, Yellow Lineage for example. Last years applications were for a residents requested 20 MPH along Ramsey Road & Church Street, this is very well advance, WTC must contribute 10% of the cost. Running in parallel is a new plan by (Central Government and County Councils) to introduce a 'Blanket 20 MPH' Zone through a whole Town or District (Excepting 'A' Roads) It was decided after a good debate, to go ahead with the Ramsey Road/Church Street plan, as both we as Councillors and Residents have been campaigning for nearly 5 years for this to happen. It was decided (Cllr Gerstner stated that 'we' had not asked the electorate/residents

their views on a 'Blanket Zone' for the whole of Whittlesey (Excepting 'A' Roads) and both Wisbech and March Councils had rejected this proposal.

One of the biggest issue/concerns is 'Who' polices the 20 MPH Zone, when it is already challenging to get 30 MPH Zones policed.

Nationally where 20 MPH Zones have been introduced....most responsible drivers adhere to the rules, as usual impatient people do not.

King Charles framed portrait.

Item postponed until suitable portrait and costing known.

Outside Bodies.

Cllr Gerstner had sent his recent meetings with various groups and Organisations to the rest of the Councillors. (It is well documented on this Web-blog).

Other Business.

Solar Panels.

We were advised that at long last the Solar Panels are producing much more electricity/power than before and that software was in place to monitor the output of the Solar Panels.

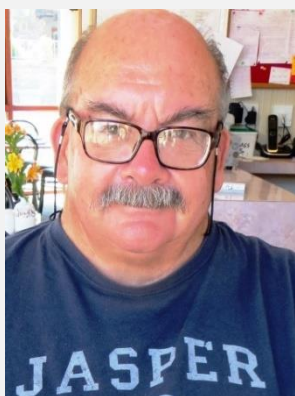
Cllr Gerstner asked Cllr Boden.

The time frame for the next phase of a strategic reported for the proposed 'Whittlesey Relief Road (Bypass) – Cllr Boden stated 6 to 12 months.

Confidential Items were the discussed.

Date of future Council Meetings: - to be held at Peel House (WTC Offices)

Full Council Thursday 20th April 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.

On May 04th you will be electing your Councillors for Whittlesey Town Council and Fenland District Council. I hope you exercise your democratic choice to vote at this election.
I hope you will vote for me....

