

WTC Meeting – Thursday 18th May 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.



St Johns Ambulance



Cllr David Mason

The annual Parish Meeting of Whittlesey Town Council was held at 7pm.

All Councillors were present with the exception of Cllr Wainwright who sent his apologies.

Retiring Councillor and Mayor of Whittlesey Cllr David Mason, presented charity cheques to Organisations he and WTC had fund raised over the last 12 months.

Age UK given £1,000
The Good Company £1,000
Phoenix Youth Provision £1,000
St Johns Ambulance £1,000
Whittlesey Fire Service £300



Retiring Councillor Mrs Julie Windle, present a framed picture of the opening of Peel House, and a larger canvas picture of Councillors 2019 past & elected.

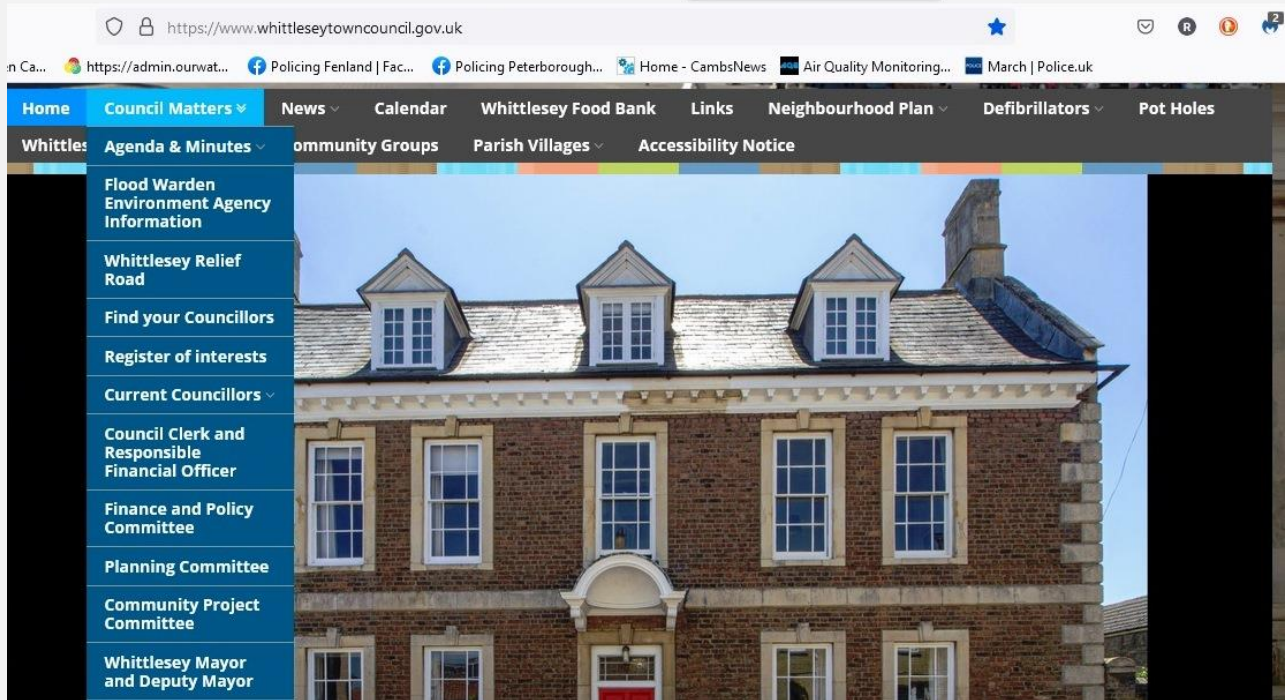
The first full Council Meeting after May 04th elections, was held at the Council Office Chamber Peel House Whittlesey @ 7:30pm

To find out 'who' your Councillor is – go to the Whittlesey Town Council Website.
www.whittleseytowncouncil.gov.uk

Go to the top Tab Bar – Council Matters

Scroll down to Current Councillors or Find My Councillors.

Contact details are then shown for your Councillor in your area.



I am Roy Gerstner 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 6,900+ postings on this site.**

I have been elected as an Independent Fenland District Councillor For The South Ward of Whittlesey along with Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor (Conservative)

I have been elected as an Independent Whittlesey Town Councillor for the South Ward of Whittlesey South along with Cllr Diana Dickinson (Conservative)

Electors in the South Ward of Whittlesey can contact any of the above Councillors. See above – how to find out who your Councillor is....

Members of the public present :- **17**
Members of the Council present: - **13**
Apologies from Cllr Wainwright

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

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

The retiring Chairman Cllr Mason asked for nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Nomination for next Mayor was proposed as Cllr Kay Mayor which was unanimous on the vote. Nomination for Deputy Mayor proposed as Cllr Dee Laws which was unanimous on the vote.



There has been no Crime, Street Scene or CCTV Reports received at this time. should they arrive later – I will publish.

From Agenda item ; - Presentation by Mr Martin Curtis 'Issues relating to 15 minute city and 20 minute neighbourhood planning concepts.

(RG - The idea is simple: **Plan your city around making sure all necessary amenities are within a 15-minute walk** - but some see it as a plot to stop people from leaving their neighbourhood and remove their rights.

20-minute neighborhoods are places where residents have easy, convenient access to many of the places and services they use daily including grocery stores, restaurants, schools and parks, without relying heavily on a car.



Mr Curtis gave his case for the introduction of a 15 and 20 minute concept and made robust points on several occasions about there being **conspiracy theorists** – putting out false information primarily on social media.

(RG ; informed that he had several residents who had lobbied against this 'plan' and stated it was **not his personal** view he was putting to the Council and Public.

He read out a short version of what he had received.

I don't see how they can apply to Whittlesey. We do not have the infrastructure.

This was a small historic agricultural market town.

I think people are now either retired or commuting.

We have the drugs and crime issues to resolve with more people coming in.

We have no hospital, stretched health centres the manor is in a dire state, People seem unhappy with the schools we have few green spaces, crap buses, a train station miles away, poor youth provision etc etc.

Fenland does not score well for deprivation.

Better to fix all the basics with common sense under the applicable planning rules (which have allowed the mess) before jumping on another ideological fad, at a time of great uncertainty and huge economic challenges. Let the rich cities show us the way.



Public Forum.

Alan Bessant :- Commented again this month about the Saxon Pit/Jenkinson's retrospective planning application being refused.

That Jenkinson's were still operating.

Concerns about the emptying/discharging of water from the 'Victory Pit' into Kings Dyke.

In respect of Saxon Pit discharging without a current permit to do so.

The lack of monitoring of what is being discharged.

Robert Windle :- Promoted the for-coming 'BIG BASH' event 18th June, there will be a lead up – Big Bash Week along with a Golden Age Event at the Manor Centre (Details later)

Other Items discussed

Cllr Boden :- Air Quality results will give hard data – smells and noise issues continue. FDC Environmental will formulate results.

Fenland District Council Monitoring Data

https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/site/latest?site_id=scsbgx758

Cllr Boden :- 15-minute city and 20-minute neighbourhood planning concepts – although basic idea may sound good, it was all about doing away with cars, people in Fenland do not have the same facilities as those in City areas. Reliance on cars is still required. Cambs County Council is being driven by further parking restrictions and congestion charges are being introduced. Letter to be written stating WTC opposition to 15- & 20-minute concept.

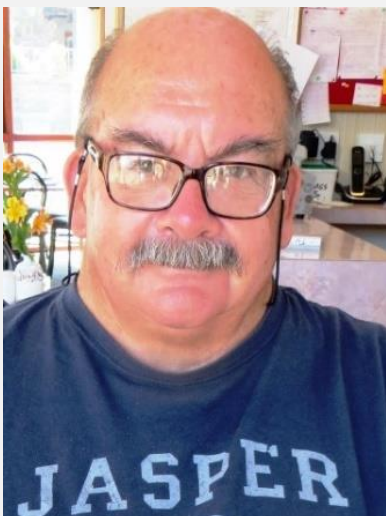
Cllr Gerstner :- Asked about volunteer coverage whilst Town Clerk on Holidays or absent. There didn't seem to be much support – Chair suggested it was discussed at the next HR meeting.

Cllr Dorling :- spoke on School Streets are traffic management scheme (RG Note :- I have attached document at the end of this report.)

Cllr Laws :- Informed that Mid Level Commissioners were now more pro-active on unlicensed boats

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

Full Council Thursday 22nd June at 19:30



I am Roy Gerstner. The Independent Councillor Fenland District Councillor For The South Ward of Whittlesey
The Independent Whittlesey Town Councillor for the South Ward of Whittlesey).

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 Whittlesey 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.

Please remember I am the only Councillor who gives you regular information and updates on this web-blog.

Cllrs Black

Boden

Dickinson

Dorling

Laws

