

WTC Meeting – Thursday 22nd June 2023

Disclaimer: These observations are **not** the 'official' minutes of the meeting, they 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.

(l-r) Cllrs Mocket, Nawaz, Wainwright, Whitwell, Wicks, Arman



(l-r) Cllrs Black, Boden, Dickinson.

Members of the Council present : 13 – apologies received Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor



Members of the public present : 11

Election of Leader of Whittlesey Town Council, one nomination Cllr Ray Whitwell.

Election of Deputy Leader of Whittlesey Town Council Cllr Chris Boden

There were no other nominations.

Outside Bodies : This is where Councillors are asked and nominated to various outside organizations, such as Wind Turbine Funders, Citizens Advice, Extravaganza, Fletton Liaison etc.....

What happened next was a travesty to our local democracy – although some may say otherwise. The ruling conservative group appeared to have already (group meeting the day before) made their minds up about who was going on what committees.

The 'newly' elected leader (Cllr Whitwell) had a pre-prepared piece of paper with ALL the Conservative nominations, with the exception of a few of the (4) Independent Councillors. The meeting then degenerated into something of a comical farce....with some (Conservative) Councillors, unaware whom they were voting for, on one occasion they (The majority Conservatives) voted for Cllr Wainwright to be the representative on the CAB, the Town Clerk had not been able to count the votes – decided to have another vote – this gave one Councillor (Nawaz) to correct his Faux-pas - to put this mildly and in true context – and I dare say some will not like my description – somewhat 'Micky Mouse' and totally out of governance procedures. Personally, I requested to be put on four outside bodies and at the beginning was not mentioned once.

For myself I am a member of several Organisations in my own right, I have not sat around doing nothing for years waiting for a Council to 'give' me a position. I am very proud that I support 12 Community Organisations and have done for many years.

Cllr Wicks was both angry and upset on the proceedings. The other 3 Independents could not believe what we were witnessing – and to top off – all in front of 11 members of the public.

After some objections, Cllr Whitwell decided to have a vote on each position, again with the Conservatives 9 present to 4 The Independent Councillors were voted out each time. One Conservative appeared not to know whom she was voting for or from what.

In fairness (As I try to be) Cllr Mockett generously offered his position on one group to Cllr Wicks, who upset as he was declined the invitation. In all my time attending not only Whittlesey Town Council and many others I've never seen or heard anything like what happened on Thursday evening. A Town Council should not be as politically biased as I and 11 members of the public witnessed on Thursday evening.

3 Members of the public contacted me the following day – I understand that Clls Wicks and Wainwright have also been contacted by the public and confirmed their utter surprise on the procedures and debate on these Outside Bodies.

It is all very well Cllr Whitwell has stated 'things' could have been handled better. Stop politicising a Town Council – we are here for our residents and the public. Undoubtedly this has shaken whatever confidence the public who were present have.

Moving on....

Public Forum :

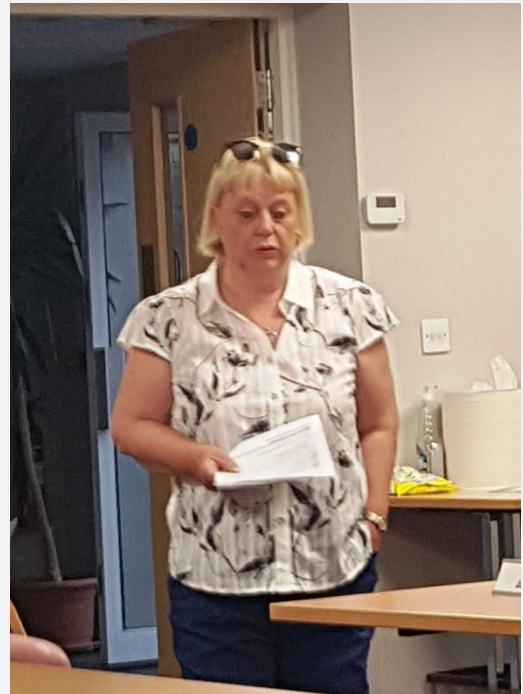
Alan Bessant : Requested that the residents group – Saxongate be considered for a position on the Fletton liaison group when the next meeting occurs.

Julie Windle : Highlighted issues and concerns at Whittlesey Post Office, when 90% only one counter is open, on many occasions there are queues forming and it has been known to be closed because of lack of staff.

Robert Windle : Congratulated the Council and the Councillors leading the 'Queens Green Canopy' campaign, namely The QEII Platinum Jubilee Wood. He also gave thanks and congratulations to the organisers of The Coates Village Fete. Robert has published a fantastic guide to Community Groups, with contact details. There will be copies at Whittlesey Town Council Offices (when open)



Mr Robert Windle, Cllr Dee Laws Deputy Mayor



Mrs Julie Windle.

Other Business :

Cllr Elisabeth Sennitt Clough, gave an observation on local schools and transport availability and viability, a commitment to a better understanding of schools and transport.

Cllr Wicks – No buses from Coates and the outlying villages. The Bus comes from March.

Cllr Dee Laws - Stated that the Whittlesey Town Council Website is some 8 years old and she had set up a working group, to look into modernizing/updating the site.

Cllr Bob Wicks – The Council have had no dialogue or presentation with either Sir Harry Smith or Alderman Jacobs schools for over 3 years, it is time to invite the Principal to update Council and Public on the Schools progress.

Cllr Dee Laws - Attended the monthly meeting with the Neighbourhood Sergeant, although details are not allowed to be published, she informed the meeting that 4 e-scooters have been confiscated in the past month or so.

Cllr Roy Gerstner – Gave a prepared statement from his meeting with the Chair of The New Queen Street Surgery – Patients Participation Group, written by Ms. Alison Bacon the Chair of the PPG. I read out the questions and answers we had received from the Senior Doctor and Patient Manager.

Irrespective of what 'Social Media' states and says – NQS is Not, and I repeat Not in Special Measures, and has never been so. This is again the keyboard warriors having spread false information. Yes there are ongoing shortcomings at NQS, they are very well aware, and as always not sitting and doing nothing, they are trying to rectify the appointments, but as in the National availability of Doctors there is a shortage.

We both thanked the surgery for seeing us at very short notice.

Cllr Eamonn Dorling – Gave a presentation on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. He touched on The Community Fridge program that may come about, but it will need a number of dedicated 'volunteers' – He also touched on a 'Repair Café' and asked for support of WTC.

To find out 'who' your Councillor is – go to the [Whittlesey Town Council Website](http://www.whittleseytowncouncil.gov.uk).
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.

The next Full Council Thursday 20th July at 19:30



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 7,000+ 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)

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 it to 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.

Mr Alan Bessant.

Mr Robert Windle.

