

# WTC Meeting – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

**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.



Members of the Council present: **11**

Apologies received from Cllr Black – No other apologies received from other Councillor(s).

Members of the public present: **13**

**A Presentation by The New Queen Street Surgery :** Was again cancelled at very short notice, this being the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive month the same has happened – little notice given.

**Previous minutes:** These were in the pack.

**Street Scene Officers Report :** This has **already** been published on this Web-blog

**Public Forum: Mr Alan Bessant,** (Saxongate Residents Group),



*We recently circulated an email to some of the councillors which included details of the FDC planning meeting which approved the change of use for Church Field Farm (HGV trailer park) (F/YR23/0546/F).*

*During that meeting concerns were raised about the potential impact of leachate or run off **IF** IBAA or a derivative has been used. The hardstanding is already in, and it was clear to us there was not oversight or clarity on the type of materials which have been used.*

*We are concerned that CCC seem to have no issues over industrial bottom ash aggregate and treat it as a standard building product. The Environment Agency do appear to have concerns, and this is reflected in the permit requirements for Industrial Bottom Ash processing, the regulatory position statement. The EA consider it a waste product but have yet to issue updated guidance and have said they are under resourced. There are stronger rules in Scotland and Europe and The science around toxic health risk from forever chemical contamination is developing.*

***We request that Whittlesey Town Council makes its position on the material and the current regulatory situation clear to residents, agencies and operators.***

*We worry If significant quantities of IBAA are used in our area without proper controls this could have far reaching consequences for the towns and its residents long term health and wealth.*

### **Items for Discussion from the Agenda.**

1/ **Cllr Boden** – Presented a draft ‘Zero Percentage’ increase for Whittlesey Town Council precept (Council Tax), a debate took part in mainly supporting for the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> year a ‘Zero’ percentage increase, even though WTC has made and increased in many instances support for Community Groups and Events. Cllr Boden asked that if anyone wished for items to be included or modified in any way to send before the next Finance & Policy Meeting.



He also indicated that there was ‘word’ on the street that the Combined Authority Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough was planning to increase the ‘Transport Levy (Tax) by 20%

(RG Note – Well-well-well - As is normally the case – A new ‘small tax’ is introduced – Oh it is only 10p a week – next and following years starts jumping up =

**Stealth Taxation** – They all do it not just this somewhat unpopular fellow....Dr Nick Johnson.

2/ **Cllr Boden** – CCTV Service Level Agreement, (SLA) which is due for renewal spring next year. After the recent ‘Ram Raid’ at the Nationwide Building Society, where the CCTV camera which sits very nearby did **not** pick up the incident and we are told was ‘stuck’ looking down Market Street – there has been again much public concern.

(RG Note – Every year as far as I can remember Councillors have been questioning the ‘**Value for Money**’ the SLA costs – presently around £9,000 a year) and what the Police do with any information is again very questionable.

The SLA runs for 3 years, Cllr Boden also quoted as to what 'use' the system was. Cllr Boden like many of us had visited the 'New' CCTV Centre based in Peterborough, 'Massif disappointment that the Police for what-ever reason continue **not** to enforce at least on an occasional basis especially the No Access/Pedestrian Only rule on High Causeway.

The Police and ourselves last month highlighted that the solution could be 'Rising Bollards' Cllr Bodens personal option 'We are very disappointed that they (the Police) have failed repeatedly to do what it is that we had asked them to do – using the camera's that we have been paying for and they have the facility to do – and we would wish to suspend the SLA until we (WTC) can manage to pay for the Bollards to go up and can be looked at again.

**(Full extract will be in the Council minutes – will be published next month)**

**Cllr Laws** – I am consistent with this is this 'Value for money' – How Camera's are monitoring High Causeway. *"I totally agree it should be suspended - I do not consider it to be a deterrent"*

**Cllr Sennitt Clough** – Agreed with both Cllrs Boden and Laws.

**Cllr Mayor** – *"I have always supported the CCTV, what concerns me is that Rising Bollards just wont work because it would be need to be connected to the CCTV System.*

**Cllr Wicks** – *CCTV has been discused many times in this forum, about the excuses which have been presented to us over an extended period of time – We have not had the support from the Police that we should have had and at this moment in time I would fully support the suspension of any contract. I would even consider engaging the Police and Crime Commissioner on this.*

**Cllr Gerstner** – *There is a lot of history which goes back for many many years, certainly over 20 years it has always been a very emotive subject – quite rightly so...I like the Mayor have supported the CCTV in the past, and as being Chairman of NHW is in line with what everbody is trying to achieve – However with the most recent incident and history – some may not know someone many years ago a Local man was knocked over in a hit and run incident on Market street by London thugs – he spent some years in rehabilitation. I also now support the suspension of the contract.*

**Cllr Wainwright** – *Had spoken with the Manager of the CCTV Control since the Nationwide incident and he made no mention of the camera being 'stuck' – however it was pointing along Market Street when the incident took place. He asked the manager whether images from the CCTV Centre could be publicised to should how good images were....'that is a difficult area to progress down. I would go with the general opinion in that it is not worth the money.*

**Cllr Mockett** – *We are getting caught up with what happened at Nationwide – The camera's can't be everywhere at all times. He had been shown excellent images of the Manor Field (previously reported here) Having CCTV and Rising Bollards works with one another. We should pull Sgt Arnold to account – we want our PCSO to go to the CCTV Centre and use the evidence to prosecute people. Call the police in and hold them to account.*

**Cllr Nawaz** – *Agreed with Cllr Mocket – I have a meeting with The Police & Crime Commissioner tomorrow. How long do we suspend for and how do we re-instate.*

**Cllr Dorling** – Prevention – He was at a meeting where he asked how many CCTV Cameras there was in Whittlesey and no one at the meeting was aware that there is 4 in Whittlesey – No signage to publicise. Concerns that if no CCTV the criminal element would be aware.

The Police and Crime Commissioner cannot be of much help in that he is not allowed to influence or interfere in operational matters.

**Cllr Boden** – Suggested that we should write a letter to the Manager of the CCTV Centre, 'We as a Town Council are minded to suspend the SLA – but we would invite him with a suitable senior representative from the Police to our next meeting at full council to discuss the issues which are involved – we should further more consider alternative means of controlling the Bollards at High Causeway assuming they go ahead.

If the Police would say they would do what they originally some 3 years ago that they would do – which would to use the CCTV camera's which we pay for - which they have such good images of – and do what they said they would do in the first place.

**Cllr Gerstner** – Explained that the High Causeway issues were a 'Grey area' which after a long period was cleared up and we were told the Police could use CCTV images for enforcement purposes – they have never do it – My concern is that we could get them (The Police) - and their answer will be 'They don't have the resources'...The PCSO is not allowed access to the CCTV as -They are classified as 'Civilian employees. Enforcement on moving vehicles and stationary vehicles is subjective.

WTC are requesting that a presentation by the CCTV and a Senior Officer from the Police should attend a Council Meeting. **Unanomous decision by full council.**

The proposal that if/when Officials attend the meeting it should be held in public. It should be arranged as a separate meeting to allow sufficient time for questions and answers.

**(RG Note – A full audio recording was made)**

**Planning Committee** – **Cllr Turner** was elected to sit on the WTC Planning Committee.

**Whittlesey Target Shooting Club** – Cllr Mocket lead the debate supporting the Club, and getting a contract in place, the club has a very long history, it is very important that WTC fully acknowledge and support the Club. The future of the Leisure Centres could impact on the future of the club, who have increased their membership to around 130.

**Council Meeting Dates....** Various option were discussed.

**Platinum Wood – Cllr Dorling** informed the updates on the WTC project.

The project is going very well, and has been well received by the public.

We are now moving with Phase II – only 3 tree's were lost this year and these along with another 12 tree's and 5 fruit tree's will be planted this December.

The central area, has this week been cleared by our local contractor, to make an area, for which either wild Flowers or planting could be carried out.



The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Wood established by Whittlesey Town Council and sponsored by some generous 40+ individual and Local business donations is located at the end field Yarwells Headlands to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

It is a 'quite area' – promoting biodiversity and pollination, there are at present 105+ 'new' trees of which 15 are fruit trees. This year a 'Herb Garden will be established.



**Date of the next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023**



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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 am aware that some Councillors post on Social Media.

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 the **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. **e&oe**

©Roy Gerstner. 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).