

WTC Meeting Thursday 21st March 2024

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.



12 Councillors were present: Absent were Cllrs Mockett, Black, Laws and Turner.
8 members of the Public were present.

(RG Note, that today Cllrs Simon Black and Luke Turner (Conservative) have resigned with immediate effect from Whittlesey Town Council, both had served less than 1 year.)

Public Forum: Mr Robert Windle, informed and reminded those present that The Big Bash event will take place on the 23rd June, there will be events held in and around the town during the week building up to The Big Bash.



He then informed on an update of The Whittlesey Extravaganza event, many of the committee had decided to retire after a number of years. A new committee is in place, Mr Windle taking on the role of Chairman and Mrs Julie Windle the role of Treasurer. (I -RG R-RW)

A new 'Flip Booklet' – of organisations in our area had been produced.

(RG Note, I will publish in the near future)

Mr Bernard Grey-Esson, complained about City Fibre Cable leaving exploratory holes unfilled which now had weeds growing.

Items for Discussion from the agenda.

1/ New Queen Street Surgery/Lakeside: Cllr Gerstner



A 35 minute debate/discussion lead by myself on the 'ongoing' concerns and issues at Whittlesey New Queen Street Surgery. I explained to the 10 Councillors and 6 members of the Public, recent and not for the first-time serious shortfall in service being given by NQS.

I explained facts from the Care Quality Commission report from 2022 and asked 'What has been done to address' these shortfalls.

I supplied statistical information on feedback from patients. Several other Councillors including Cllrs Sennitt-Clough, Boden, Wicks, Mayor and Dorling all had input to the debate.

I highlighted the letter received from MP Steve Barclay (published here last week) and although some progress has been made, it was out opinion that there was still a very long way to go in order to meet the standards we expect from our local health provider.

I stated that one lady had paid in excess of £130 to see a doctor at the Fitzwilliam Private Hospital, because she was unable to see one at NQS.

(RG Note I have as everyone is aware published on the Web-blog issues and statistics regularly, I am a founder member of the NQS PPG (Patients Participation Group)

There is a PPG meeting at NQS this Monday 25th March at 11:00

It was agreed to formulate a letter with some 6 or so questions from WTC to Lakeside/NQS in respect of items discussed. The letter will be sent during the next week in advance of Lakeside/NQS coming to give a presentation to the Council at the May Meeting.

(RG Note, this letter has now been drafted and will go to Lakeside to be posted Tuesday)

2/ Outside Body updates: There were none, at which point Cllr Dorling asked and challenged why there none, the Council being in place for some 9 months and no reports.

3/ Asset of Community Value: Cllr Nawaz explained briefly what this was in respect of The Tree Horseshoes Public House in Turves.

(RG Note, there had been representation from Chair of Turves & District Residents Association Mr Stephen Goldspink at Monday night's WTC Planning Meeting –

Around 30 people who live in Turves have set up a residents' association in order to formalise their efforts to stop The Three Horseshoes pub on March Road from being demolished.



Chairman Stephen Goldspink explained that the new Turves and District Residents' Association (TDRA) has applied to Fenland District Council (FDC) to have the pub designated as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). ACV status can be taken into consideration by a local authority when it considers planning applications and can also trigger a six month pause in proceedings if a community group wishes to buy the asset.

4/ Bus Services: Cllr Wicks Highlighted the ongoing lack of Bus Services for our rural area. **Cllr Boden** explained as he has done on several occasions, that the Mayor of the Combined Authority has now increased a 'special precept' of £36 per household in Cambridgeshire to fund/subsidise bus Services, however very little of coming our way, on the table a later service may come about from Peterborough but nothing yet has been decided.

AOB: Cllr Wainwright: There will be a memorial service in honour of those who lost their lives when a Lancaster Bomber crashed near Eastrea @ The Eastrea War Memorial April 19th @ 10:45



Figure 4: Eastrea War Memorial

The vision, at this time, is for a granite block, approximately 500mm cube, with an angled top to be placed in the garden, upon a concrete foundation. The granite block to carry a stainless-steel plate engraved with the names of the crew, the 57 Sqn badge, and a brief description of the loss. Actual wording is to be agreed with the interested parties.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th April 2024

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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 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 7,500+ 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).

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FRG 2022

