

# WTC Meeting(s) Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 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.

Prior to the Council meetings, retiring Mayor for Whittlesey, Cllr Kay Mayor, presented a number of cheques from monies raised at various events throughout the year.

Caring Together  
Trinity Tots

The Sue Ryder Foundation  
Holiday at Home

Fens Hands  
The Whittlesey Festival



**The annual parish meeting was opened and closed.**  
**(Mr Robert Windle spoke – RG will report on a separate post)**

## **Full Council Meeting.**

12 Councillors were present: Absent were, Cllr Laws and Wainwright.

County Councillor David Connor present.

New Councillors Gurninder Singh Gill and returning Town Councillor Alex Miscandlon (already a FDC Councillor) both Conservatives.

8 Members of the Public were present.

**Elect The Mayor of the Council 2024/25** (after some pause) Cllr Mockett proposed Cllr Alex Miscandlon. No other nominations. (Elected)

**Elect Deputy Mayor of the Council 2024/25** Cllr Sennitt-Clough proposed Cllr Dianna Dickinson. No other nominations. (Elected)



Cllr Alex Miscandlon  
(Photo RG)



Cllr Dianna Dickinson & Cllr Alex Miscandlon  
(Photo Courtesy RWT Photography)

**Elect a Leader of the Council 2024/25** Cllr Nawaz proposed Cllr Jason Mockett (Elected)  
**Elect Deputy Leader of the Council 2024/24** Cllr Nawaz proposed Cllr Chris Boden (Elected)



Cllr Jason Mockett



Cllr Chris Boden (Photos Courtesy RWT Photography)

**Presentation by Whittlesey Rifle Club.**

David Ranson (Vice Chair)

RG Note Full transcript at the end of this report.

## Public Forum:

**Cllr Dorling** – Spoke about a request for an agenda item on communications which was redacted. He wished to bring it to the Public Forum. He had previously requested 'Who' managers overall control following the introduction of a Facebook page by WTC. He had asked about this on another occasion.

He was advised it was being passed onto the Finance & Policy Committee - it has not been. He asked what methods and strategy will WTC use to communicate transparently and reliably to residents.

**Steve Robertson** – Asked that at the next Council meeting whether Cllr Nawaz could give a brief report on the duties he has undertaken since elected as leader of the Council and what Cllr Mockett's plans are for the coming year in this role?

**Peter Baxter** – Spoke about Public Health – he quoted a 'male' in South Cambs is likely to live 4 years longer than Cambridge. He went on at some length about 'polluted air'. (RG Note – I was told by Mr Baxter prior to the meeting he was coming to express his views on Councillors not replying or acknowledging his correspondence – he did **not** bring this subject up)

**Julie Windle** – The recent fashion show organised by Mrs Corrine Wooding and herself in aid of Sue Ryder raised £2,320 which was part of the Mayors Charities this evening.



## Meeting Dates for Whittlesey Town Council.

**Cllr Gerstner** – Stated that in previous years we have had proposed dates in November for discussion and by January will have been completed – asked whether in future years this could be brought forward rather than so late this year – Chair stated they will endeavour to do so. **Cllr Boden** asked whether what the basic principles were for the dates.

He was given a sheet with the proposed dates for WTC Full Council, Planning, Finance & Policy, and Projects Committee's.

**Cllr Laws – Double Yellow Lines – Cllr Boden** has the notes from Cllr Laws, suggested that WTC could fund Yellow Lines off Comptons Brook/Off West Delph, a small area of London Street and Woolpack Lane and one near Scaldgate to submit for current year.

**Cllr Mockett** highlighted the ongoing issues around New Road School. This has been a long-time issue. **Cllr Mayor** commented about Mill Road being used as a 'Rat Run' – had a meeting with Highways Engineers – later was advised there was no County Funding for this (Eastfield Road/Eastrea Road and this would have to be funded by an LHI, Cllr Mayor stated it was Mill Road residents who were complaining.

**Several other Councillors** commented about New Road School issues.

**Cllr Mockett** stated that the entrance to New Road School had been changed.

The debate then moved onto issues concerning Parking Tickets and enforcement by the PCSO's.

(RG Note Some Councillors appear still not to fully understand who/where and how parking enforcement is carried out in Fenland.)

The PCSO's have issued tickets to residents who park illegally outside of schools.

**Cllr Mockett** was disgusted, that further education on illegal parking needs to be done instead of enforcement.

**Cllr Boden** – operational matters of the Police are not the responsibility of the Police and Crime Commissioner and it comes down to the Chief Constable and what his leadership is on matters such as this.

**Chair – Cllr Miscandlon** asked whether a letter should be written to the Chief Constable.

**Road Conditions – Cllr Wicks** – referred onto Cllr Connor who had an extensive document.

(standing orders suspended) **Cllr Connor** – Primarily the lack of maintenance on the A605 and other roads. Cllr Connor gave a long explanation on what he had done to try and get improvements carried out. He highlighted that after his intervention, County Council sent out an engineer to measure the defects and measure all the repairs that need to be done (A605) The engineer came back with an estimate cost of £220,000 + Traffic Management costs.

This was put to the Director of Highways, the engineer re-contacted Cllr Connor to inform him he had been allotted £20,000 (Not the £220,000 to do the job properly).

Cllr Connor was disappointed in the amount of his time and that of the engineers to be told there was no money – he went on to state that most of the money was being allocated to the South of the Country which was unfair – but that is what the Liberal, Labour and Independents do to us at County Council – the roads were not perfect when 'we' were in charge (Conservatives) but they are 'blooming well much worse now' – The Coalition do not care about Fenland one bit.

The debate went on for some considerable time.

(RG Note **Cllr Boden** stated that the leader of Cambs CC went on the radio and stated that the roads in Fenland are in such a bad state – that it would cost too much to repair them, the answer was for drivers to drive more slowly).

**Cllr Boden** agreed with **Cllr Connor** that ultimately it was 'party political' and would be down to what happens in the elections of May next year.

(RG Note – I did receive 3 emails (1 Councillor 2 Public) that they thought the debate had more of a 'political bias and electioneering (their comments) than actually keep trying to get things done'

The debate has gone on for some 25 minutes and move sideways onto Buses, which has been covered in length previously.

**Cllr Gerstner** advised Cllr Boden and the rest of the Councillors, statistics from the 2021 Census, where it stated there were some 44,000 rated households in Fenland, taking around 10% of whom would not be liable for Council Tax – It would mean that the Mayor of the Combined Authority receives for the average Band D property £36:00 per household x 40,000 that's **about £1:4 million** – and we're getting rewarded back in Bus Services with a very small amount – We in Fenland are again subsidising other parts of Cambridgeshire. Stated we're not getting Crumbs – but singular 'Crumb' off the table.

Council Meeting lasted for 1 hour 46 minutes and was recorded by myself and others.

**Date of next meetings:**

**Monday 03<sup>rd</sup> June @ 19:30 WTC Planning**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June @ 18:00 Finance & Policy**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June @ 19:30 WTC Planning**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June @ 18:30 Full Council**

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

[www.whittleseytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://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 had over 4,000,000 hits 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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