

# Full Council 23/01/2025- Notes

## **Members Present**

Alex Miscandlon AM, Chris Boden CB, Peter Bibb PB, Diana Dickinson DD, Eamonn Dorlin ED, Deel Laws DL, Jason Mockett JM, Haq Nawaz HN, Gurninder Singh Gill GSG, Elizabeth Sennitt-Clough ESC, Barry Wainwright BNW, Bob Wicks BW

**F01/2025 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.**  
Roy Gerstner RG, Saheed Arman SA

**F02/2025. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda items discussed later in the agenda and the Council to decide which items are to be discussed as confidential under agenda item number F17/2025.**

DL: usual planning portfolio holder

GSG: responsive transport

AM: portfolio holder for leisure

Confidential: Residential Flats.

**F03/2025. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV update Q3 October 2024 to January 2025**

HN: 2 complaints of noise/odour/dust – what do they relate to. AM: report does not say, will ask.

ESC: Streetscene report states homeless gent in public toilets – dealt with over a year ago.

AM: will take up with Streetscene

CB: many registered as homeless, different to rough sleeping.

ED: recognition of CCTV being helpful.

AM: police always appreciative of actions of CCTV.

DL: police may be thankful, but CCTV not very useful in Whittlesey.

**F04/2025. Police Report – Councillor only**

No liaison meeting this month, so no report. Mtg expected early Feb.

**F05/2025. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting on Thursday 19th December 2024.**

OK

**F06/2025 – Presentation by Marija Lysak – Fenland Development Officer - re 5 year Lottery Funded Project – Support Fenland (15 Mins)**

Support Fenland, own brand under Support Cambs.

Presentation to follow

DL: Networking... Whittlesey & villages – who is the contact? ML: Volunteer Cambs run the networking groups in Whittlesey library and other venues. One such meeting today. Please refer interested groups to ML

DL: confusing. So many similar groups. Good it's happening, but splintered. Got to do social media & physical posts. Need to publicise it!

DL: Hope that lottery is funding new posts ML: yes, this is 5 year lottery funds

DL: youth groups: are you going into schools? ML: yes, going into SHSCC. Talking to pupils on volunteering. Some orgs wary of legal implications of promoting volunteering.

DL: SHSCC have a breakfast club. Student led. Talking forum. Can cascade info out to other students. Suggest you look at that.

Community fundraising session 12<sup>th</sup> March

PB: Connected to schools, SHSCC have volunteer coaches – is there any centralised training? Biggest problem is getting volunteers? Any leadership development especially for youth? ML: great idea – can look at it.

ML: don't want to duplicate work others are doing. Sport Fenland are already doing a lot in similar areas.

JM: would it be helpful to include platinum woods? Would share for volunteers? ML: exactly what the portal is for!

ML: Will send details of the portal to all cllrs.

ESC: DofE? People desperate to volunteer when in them. Do you have any involvement with them?

BW: lottery funding – just to establish, or will you provide funding to orgs? ML: funding is just for the project, but can signpost to other sources of funding.

AM: 2 day course at Wisbech – 2 councillors. Feeling 'very disappointed' two councillors, but nobody ever comes to ask us for help.

ED: Last meeting at St Andrews Hall – very successful for streetpride. Two volunteers signed up. Both turned up for last 3 events and keen to continue. Please do it again!

ML: Whittlesey festival signed up 7 volunteers.

### **F07/2025 Public Forum**

9 members present.

7 wish to speak

DL: never felt need to speak in public slot before, but events need to be raised.

Planning committee inquorate this month. Very unfortunate. BNW named 4 councillors.

Went on to state was disrespectful and berate BNW for not checking facts before posting.

BNW requested right to reply. This was denied by Chair

BNW appealed, asking for one short sentence to correct an inaccuracy. Permitted. Stated that he did not, at any time, name any councillors. If they were named, it was by other people.

HN: Station Rec declared surplus to requirements. Passionate against development of green spaces. Have been working behind scenes culminating in presentation to CB to reverse this decision. He is to look into it. Public petition being approved and will be advertised on SM when approved by CCC.

Lisa Whitwell: Station Road rec – valuable green open space. Vandalism does not mean it should be sold. Could set a precedent. BNW stated on SM that it was being sold – not being sold, but proposal.

Stephen Hodson: 1. Shocked to hear that FDC considering selling station road. Info is that it was gifted to Whittlesey urban district council by Mr. Bundy. When district plan prepared, suggested that land adjacent to ...[sorry, ran out of time taking notes]

2. Air meter in Halcroft Road still missing. Where are the stats?

XXX [No name given]: Whittlesey does not need any more green space to be built on.

Tim [ESC's Partner]: Thanks to council – came to England some years ago, understand the challenges. Appreciate the efforts.

Patrick Nightingale – question on state of B1040 road with detritus on them. Amount of muck is problem. Thors should have a wheel wash. AM: it is part of PBO. Can send a note to them.

DL: Planning requirement for wheel washes on construction sites. Could be county council because mineral site.

AM: thanks to Sue were missed. Lady yesterday with mental episode in office for several hours, with police and family. She should be commended.

### **F08/2025 Agenda items for Discussion.**

#### Discussion regarding 'Demand Responsive Transport' – Cllr Boden

As leader of FDC, have made representation to CA. Pushing for those communities with no transport to get something. Christchurch & Turves largest. A year ago notified a bus service for Christchurch – not happened yet.

During summer DRT proposed. People request service 48 hrs beforehand. For Wimblington, Chatteris, march. Asked about Turves. Extended. Started last week. Operated Monday to Saturday.

Then discovered only one bus to cover 38,000 people. Will increase is needed. Free 2 weeks, then £2 per journey.

DL: does it include bus passes? – yes.

Who records figures? – all recorded on booking.

AM: is there a poster? – not seen one.

HN: leaflets printed and delivered to turves. Some phone calls received, thanks.

Commendable effort by CB, but needs extending to Coates & Whittlesey, would be great help.

GSG: keeping track of numbers & demand – have had customers trying to use the app, but faced 2/3 hour wait, so not useful. This is not being recorded.

BNW: Does it cover the whole of turves?

CB: covers all the concentrated housing, but not some of the outlying properties

BW: Applaud efforts of CB. Hopefully letter from BW/BNW to Mayor forwarded spurred this action. Still a strong need for improved service across whole region. Just one step forward, still work to be done.

GSG: Was free period due to waiting for operator's license? Could we do the same for Whittlesey to PBO. Stagecoach service little used late at night.

CB: delay in operator's license due to sub-sub-contracting. 2 week free trial was deliberate policy. Illegal for LA to put on a service competing with franchised service.

DL: what data is recorded? Does it include abandoned requests?

GSG: does not expect abandoned requests to be counted from experience with his app.

BW: Some publicity gives a Huntingdon number. Is that recorded?

ESC: concern is for skewed data – need to convey that concern to CPCA.

CB: Great that we have this, but still massive problems with busses and CPCA – seems to be that busses in the south can never be withdrawn. One service had subsidy of £248 per passenger. CPCA combined with school service to bring greater efficiency. Another service Isleham to Newmarket has subsidy of £285 per passenger – 0.96 passengers per journey!

#### Proposal for Additional member to join the Planning Committee – Cllr Mockett

Reason? To strengthen the committee, not about numbers.

DL proposed and elected unanimously.

#### Proposal from Cllr Gerstner to apply for a grant to provide a storage / education / community Structure at QEII Platinum Jubilee Wood in Yarwells Headland (supporting papers attached).

Applying for windfarm money.

DL: have been approached by Jubilee Wood committee about requirement for planning permission. Offered some advice that it should not be a container as not sympathetic to the area. FDC looking at making a formal arrangement. Group handling it have made a marvellous area. Public usage is massive. A building could be used for storage for education etc. Could be a container that could be externally clad to blend in. If WTC put in an application get a discount.

JM: first look at picture and it looks like heritage centre again. No proper costing on build or maintenance, or on usage.

ESC: 'We' have to prioritise the public's funds. Need more discussion around the project. Needs a full proposal.

BW: need guidance on what is being proposed. Before any grant application is made.

DL: Will need site layout, materials etc – would be Full Application. May be public volunteers???

HN: Apart from planning implication, management and maintenance of the building is an issue. It is public money. Suggest council reconstitutes a group to oversee planning & day to day running.

CB: suggest agreement in principle, subject to further details.

ED: Starting point would be need for storage facility for tools etc. 2<sup>nd</sup>, space for volunteer refreshment/shelter. 3<sup>rd</sup>, place for training/education of volunteers. Looking for 'outline' agreement from WTC.

ESC: undertaking a project, have to give an idea of numbers – research similar projects. Absurd to say 'impossible'.

AM: On grant bodies, ask for number of people affected. RG asking for agreement to move it forward, it is acknowledged as incomplete.

JM: 40' containers can be craned in. Cannot support his ever. RG & ED don't want to widely advertise due to risk of vandalism.

ED: At no point has he said he is worried about vandalism. Manor is renown for problems, but 'broken window' policy is key.

BW: It is only a vision. Can see no reason not to continue development, with progress reports.

CB: Proposal agree in principle, but subject to ratification before application for planning or grants. 2<sup>nd</sup>: PB

ED: Glassmoor bank was end January, now end of February. Burnthouse next application end of august.

### Budget 2025/2026 – CB

At last meeting v2 budget presented with deficit of £10k. Included allotment fencing at £25k (one-off cost, probably be less). Current cash position is very healthy. Happy to put this forward as final.

Proposed to increase the precept by £3k. (equiv to 1% reduction in real terms).

Proposed budget as circulated by clerk. 2<sup>nd</sup> DL

Unanimous

### **F09/2025. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.**

None

### **F10/2025. To report the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 20th January 2024 and receive minutes from Monday 16th December 2024**

Draft minutes form 20<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Agreed at next mtg to look at change to SOs on apologies

Close to wording on free use of chambers.

### **F11/2025 To report the financial documents.**

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st December 2024
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments.
- To report the year-to-date figures

All in pack, considered by F&P as OK.

YTD figures generally OK, but an error may have been made, with £7k additional expenditure.

Payments in pack. F&P recommend approval.

### **F12/2025. Consultations**

None

### **F13/2025 Information only.**

Climate Leaders report – attached.

JM: appears that ED has become 'Climate Leader'. ED: before JM joined council.

This seems to have slipped through election of outside bodies and committees each year.

Can be put in the appointments list for future?

CB: Now is not the time to discuss.

ESC: are there others in climate group. ED is WTC representative.

Will go to F&P

Coates Fete – 31st May 2025

Time tba.

**F14/2025 Invitations.**

CCTV Control Visit PB expressed interest.

**F15/2025. Date of next meeting –Thursday 20th February 2025**

**F16/2025 – Exclusion of the press & public**

**F17/2025. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F02/2025**