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WTC Full Council 20/03/2025

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.

Notes from meeting – Cllr Barry Wainwright

Members Present.

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

F37/2025 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.
Saeed Arman SA, Roy Gerstner RG

F38/2025. 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 F55/2025.
Hanging Basket Watering.

DL: FDC Portfolio holder for Planning. Will not discuss or vote on planning matters.

F36/2025. Street Scene Officer Report G CCTV update
In document pack. No comments

F40/2025. Police Report – Councillor only
Still no physical meeting. Report enclosed in pack.
BNW: Parts of the report are marked as allowable for public dissemination. Will the chair report those parts in this meeting?
AM: No. They will be in minutes of the meeting.

F41/2025. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting on Thursday 20th February 2025.
PB: Not as true record – what has been recorded as a “heated exchange” was all on one side.
Also 18 members of the public left. The minutes should record the reason.

AM: comments noted.

ESC: Would like to point out that she was frequently interrupted by Councillors and public. The Public were going to leave after public forum anyway.

AM: Noted. Reminder that public only allowed to speak in public forum.

[Note: no resolution and vote to accept the minutes?]

JF42/2025 – Presentation by Rox Croot – Community Liaison for Coop in Whittlesey and Coates – How they support community groups in the area.

Community Champions: Lincs co-op scheme. Comm groups are allowed to apply for 6 months. Donations from store made to orgs.

Green space projects – working alongside community too improve environment. Tree planting, litter picking, etc. Not started this period yet.

Wellbeing walks. Free to attend. Tea/coffee provided at end. Provided funding for insurance etc. none in this area yet.

Community Cuppas: talking loneliness. Open to all. 4 in operation, none in this area. Health Pods: free health checks, trained pharmacy staff available. Help with referrals.

In store donations for local groups, raffle prizes, fund raising, sponsorship opportunities. New stores: research for help needed.

AM: Food waste?

RC: nothing in place but looking into a scheme that stores can operate. Will keep WTC updated. JM: Keen to speak about health pod in Coates, elderly demographic. Will email later for info.

GSG: Any funding in place for villages for transport?

DL: Are you engaging with Coates School? Coates Tots group.

RC: yes, aware of concerns over road. Also speaking with PCSOs. Will be going into school for Road Safety talk and competition on road safety before store opens.

ED: WTC has project – Platinum Wood – have a group, friends of Platinum wood. I want to make improvements to the environment. Would WTC qualify as an umbrella organisation?

RC: Yes, would be OK. Can use umbrella organisations. DL: Have contacts in walking groups. Can forward.

AM: Active Fenland also have walking groups in area.



©RWT Fenland Community Radio

F43/2025 Public Forum

To allow any member of the public to address the council. Time allowed 15 minutes in total to be split equally between the total amount wishing to speak.

16 Present 5 to speak.

ED: Possible that FDC could be dissolved. What will happen to Assets etc? What planning is WTC taking?

Robert Windle: Saw on blog that monies have been saved in Whittlesey manor solar panels at £45k less than budget. £12k to support Whittlesey relief road?
Quarter million spent on this so far, could be better spent.

Mayors Duck Race on bank holiday Monday – please publicise.

Community booklet being republished – if there are any changes, please forward.

Tim Clough: Would the council consider implementing a policy to deal with vexatious complaints/abusive behavior etc.?

Stephen Hodgson: When is the air quality monitor coming back? Missing for many months

Yesterday was world happiness day. Sunday times check on happiness quotient in schools: SHSCC 2nd from bottom. Should the council look into this?

Peter Baxter: Barnack Estates founded 20 years ago. Since 2004 it has built 2m sq ft of quality warehousing in Cambs, but nothing in Whittlesey. Why has he not worked out a deal in Whittlesey? Not the only investor that WTC has turned down. Peter Grice turned down which has left town the poorer. Who is going to invest in Whittlesey?

F44/2025 Agenda items for Discussion.

Proposal to clarify the management for the Tennis/Netball courts at the manor future –
Cllr Bibb

AM: Letter of intent to come to WTC (for F&P) – not yet produced but will come. PB: No decision yet at FDC: Can discuss options before proposals.

- FDC may offer a long-term lease.
- FDC continue as is, with an online booking system
- Lease CIC to manage.

AM: all options under discussion at FDC.

GSG: no point discussing until letter arrives.

Proposal to raise a formal complaint against CCC highways regarding their lack of communications,
objections to TTRO's and lack of updates regarding long standing road closures – Cllr Mockett.

BW: has had to challenge TTROs that isolate villages. Benwick Road has been closed since November, still no update. TTRO to close Burnthouse Road.

HGVs increased in Eastrea. Very poor communication.

JM: no issue with Highways – very quick to respond when asked.

HN: Can understand BWs concerns. Dealt with Burnthouse issue – spoke to highways. Couldn't have been more helpful. No complaints. Formal complaints may antagonise relationships.

BNW; Finds Highways to be immediately responsive when called or emailed, but then little feedback. 'Whittlesey Roadworks' web page has not been updated since January. Still states Benwick Road to be reopened 'early march'.

GSG: dangerous game to make complaints. Can antagonise the other party.

ESC: Agree with BW & BNW. But I feel that this is not the best time to expect a response with looming CCC Elections. May not get a response before May.

ED: On two occasions have presented concerns about Drybread road – restrictions on development by CCC Highways. Appear to be dealing with FDC and making decisions on Drybread Road and don't let councilors or residents know.

CB: Agree that CCC are very poor at responding. They know they have failings. TTROs fulfil the statutory requirements. Don't feel a formal complaint will help. Where they fail to take necessary action could be cause for complaint, but by individuals. Rather than council as a whole.

DL: TTRO are a stat requirement, thanks to the clerk for circulating. Dates cover wider time to allow for delays.

CCC Highways is not a single entity. Have several departments. DL gets effective responses from street licensing group, who issue contractor's licensing.

BW: Contact often made, without any response:

Proposal fails: 5 for, 6 against

Proposal 20mph zone on the Birds Estate (resolution: (a) that the Clerk write to CCC Highways to advise that, following the opening up of Teal Road to the new Hartley Grange estate, 20 mph road signs need to be installed on be Skaters Way, leading from Hartley Grange Estate in to Teal Road starts, as the newly opened road means that cars entering the zone from Skaters Street do not pass a legally required 20 mph road sign – Cllr Boden

CB: zone is already in place. Asking that clerk writes to Highways that opening Teal Road to Hartley Grange means that road signs need to be installed.

DL: Correction: Skaters Way, not Skaters Street.

ESC: May be in throws of installing – have noticed signs in that area. CB: New signs are fine, but the new opening has no signs.

ED: Recent signs were replacing ones originally in place. To do with extension of 20mph zone around alderman Jacobs.

Prop: CB. Sec: ED Passed Unanimous

Proposal considers investigating whether lamppost L2BDT (or a nearby lamppost) would be suitable to be set up to bear one of our MVAS devices, to warn drivers emerging from Skaters Street onto Teal Road if they are exceeding 20 mph – Cllr Boden

Local complaints of speed in this area. It used to be a very quiet area, now very much busier. Need to address the way road system has been built, with rat-run starting to be used. Tried to stop linkage with Teal Road and put break in Allison Homes development. But I already see vehicles coming off Hartley grange

Requesting that bracket be attached to lamppost in that area for MVAS use. Spare MVAS needs repair. Prop CB, Sec: DL, Passed unanimous

Night-time works closure of Eastrea Road (debate only - no resolution required) – Cllr Boden.

Well-advertised of 2-week closure of A605 between Dandelion Way & Cemetery Road. (Note: road Cemetery Road to Kellyvision repaired last year due to skid resistance)

One option was too close A605 for a period! Now a series of 10-15 closures at night from 8pm to 6am. Residents still have access from one direction or another. Decoy Lakes Road will be signed as unsuitable for HGV.

No weekend work, unless they fall behind, then will let residents know by letter. What if... B1040 closed by flooding. Then will leave A605 open and delay work. ED: SHSCC in this area – access for classes in evening?

CB: can't guarantee directions, but access should be provided. Emergency vehicles through access maintained at all times.

BNW: will there be a system of communication with National Highways if A47 closes? CB: in theory, but given past performance in this area, it's not likely to be effective.

Proposal to secure long term open space agreement – Station Road Recreation Ground – Cllr Mockett.

JM: Taken off the asset list, but now with new authority coming on board there is a risk that it may return to the table.

HN: Passionate about green spaces. Have been lobbying CB as leader of FDC about long-term lease on peppercorn rent. CB supports and is being worked on.

DL: Tree survey done; report being compiled. Attempts will be made to put any healthy trees on TPO.

The land is owned by FDC with restrictions on use that will require Charity Commissioner permission to change.

Land could go to WTC either by sale or lease, but FDC required to gain fair value. – needs independent valuation. Will be high due to potential for development.

CB: Any decision made by FDC can't bind future UA. Land is prime development land. Legal advice is that Charity Commission likely to give permission if benefit is in keeping with original grant – funding refurbishment of Manor Leisure Centre would likely qualify. Need to look at ways to safeguard the rec for future.

TPO would not prevent future development. Land would not qualify for ACV.

Long lease from FDC to WTC – would transfer to new authority. Would have liabilities for WTC. Responsibilities for maintenance & insurance. Can make sure the lease is drawn up to the best advantage of Whittlesey. 125/250-year lease?

HN: Things not as simple as may seem at face value. Much happening behind the scenes. Thx to CB & DL.

ED: bring to attention that we already have land belonging to FDC at Platinum Wood – currently managing that, would like to make sure that it is not lost when FDC goes.

DL: Lease on Platinum Wood is being looked at.

JM: amend proposal that we push FDC for quick resolution
Passed 10:0. CB Abstained for conflict of interest.

F45/2025. To receive Councillor G outside body reports.

Johnson Aggregates – Minutes (RG Note Has now been published on the website)
Report in pack. No Comments made.

F46/2025. To report the minutes from the Finance G Policy Meeting on Monday 17th March 2025 and accept the minutes from Monday 17th February 2025

CB: Minutes pack. Donation Request for Whittlesey Festival for £5k recommended by F&P - agreed unanimously.

F47/2025 To report the financial documents.

To report the bank reconciliation to 28th February 2025 – Best indication of financial position is bank rec on 31st March. At the end of Feb, have good cash reserve.

To report on the list of payments G uncashed payments.

OK.

To report on the year-to-date figures

OK.

F48/2025. To report the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 17th March and accept the minutes from Monday 3rd March 2025

OK.

F46/2025. Consultations

1. Consultation – PR1110 Proposed 30mph speed limit – A605 Eastrea to Coates.

CB: Formal consultation – WTC should indicate agreement. Prop: CB, Sec: BW, Unanimous.
F50/2025 Information only.

DL: **NatWest Bank & Parish Rooms:** Enforcement: S215 notice was deficient, enforcement not appropriate. Further issues were discovered. FDC reviewing options. Likely to serve batches of notices. Replacement S215 notice already drafted. Looking to get access to view condition. The land registry has several pending changes.

St Mary's – interest from public. FDC in contact with owners, structural engineer being consulted. To prevent further deterioration enforcement have requested works to support the southern wall, clear growth and make waterproof. S215 notice being considered. Formal requisition of ownership being sought.

F51/2025 Invitations.

Mayor's charity dinner in April.

F52/2025. Date of next meeting –Thursday 17th April

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www.whittleseytowncouncil.gov.uk

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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 14+ years both as a member of the public and as a Town and District Councillor.

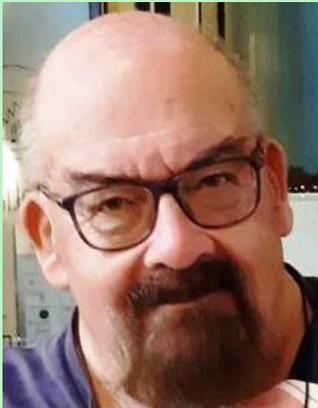
I have made over 9,500+ postings on this site.

I had over 6,500,000 hits on this site.

I have been elected as the **Independent** Fenland District Councillor for The South Ward of Whittlesey along with Gurninder Singh Gill (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 do 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.

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FRG 2022