

WTC Meeting Thursday 17th April 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.

AGENDA (Previously published on this Web-Blog)

10 Members of the public in attendance.

11 Whittlesey Town Councillors in attendance, apologies from Cll's Elisebeth Sennitt Clough, Jason Mockett and Haq Nawas.



The Street Scene Officer. Cllr Gerstner asked for it to be minuted, he had reported a Fly-Tipping incident one day and by the next morning it had been removed by the FDC Rapid Response Team (Saxon Road). Clerk to note.

POLICE REPORT :- Again no report from the Neighbourhood Police Team, some debate took place about us being fed up that this happens regularly and it is time to involve someone higher up the ranking chain.
Clerk to address.

PRESENTATION BY MR MATT PAGE :-



The main part of his presentation has already been published on this site.
Which I have included again at the end of this report.

Highlighted all the events being put into our town (again) for the coming year, including the newly revamped Bus Festival, a bigger Armed Forces Weekend, and the armistice weekend in November.

The forthcoming VE celebrations.

Mr Page has asked for 'Volunteers' to help at the events, he can be contacted via MoreMusicRadio. moremuzicradio@gmail.com

Just received Sunday Evening...

*Firstly, thank you for taking the time to listen to **More Muzic Community Radio's** plans for Whittlesey in 2025 and a glimpse into some of our exciting projects for 2026.*

There were a few things I didn't get to cover during my time with you last Thursday, so I'd like to quickly share some updates:

*We're launching a new quarterly magazine called **THE VOICE**, focused entirely on **Whittlesey, Eastrea, Coates, Turves, and Pondersbridge**. This not-for-profit publication aims to highlight local stories and promote community spirit. Advertising in the listings will be free, and a half-page ad will cost just £20. If you have news to share or would like to contribute a column, please do get in touch!*

As part of our commitment to inclusivity, we're preparing to train two individuals with Down's Syndrome to host their own radio show — giving them a creative platform and welcoming them into the More Muzic family.

*We're also proud to be working closely with the local PCC and Royal British Legion on a special event: "**Tribute to Valour**" — a Remembrance service to be held at St Mary's Church. Our aim is to place Whittlesey firmly on the map with meaningful, community-driven events that honour and inspire.*

*I hope Thursday evening gave you a real sense of the passion and dedication that drives both myself and the **More Muzic Community Radio team**. (I only wish I'd started this journey 20 years ago!)*

Of course, putting on these events does come at a cost, and as a Community Interest Company (CIC), we aren't allowed to make a profit. I'll be applying to the council for funding and support to help us continue delivering impactful projects for the community.

We're incredibly proud to have already won one award — and we've been nominated for two more. Fingers crossed we can keep that momentum going!

Thanks again for your time and support — and enjoy the images and mp3s

Public Forum – Unfortunately the first lady speaker, very few of us could hear what she was saying, even when the Clerk asked her to speak up. I don't know who she was or what she was taking about.

Eamonn Dorling - (as a member of the public) Highlighted the impending upgrade to the Manor Centre and Fields, namely the all-weather running and walking track that will be 1.4 km long.



Some concerns at the Friends of The Manor meeting regarding 'Paddleboarding' and issues with quality of the river water, this has been highlighted by River Bailiff Mr Roy Bridson. Further concerns on air quality within our town.



Robert Windle – Congratulated all the 'Volunteers' that consistently help our events to be successful.

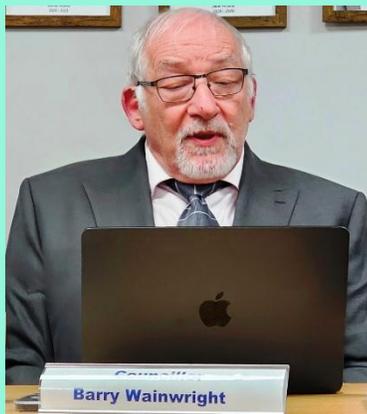
The 'BIG BASH' event takes place 22nd June. Other events being The Whittlesey Festival and the annual Christmas Extravaganza, most of which is sponsored and grant funded. Whittlesey Town Council does support most of these group.

(Note) Applications for funding or grants are looked at an individual basis



Alan Bessant - Asked that the minutes supplied to WTC by Johnsons Aggregates are incorrect. as no response from a previous request. Several scheduled meetings with Forterra had not come about and this is historical, again little or no information on their Air Quality data.

Peter Baxter – Brought to Councillors and public attention, the 'missing' Air Quality monitor that had been taken away in September 2024 and had still not been returned.



Other Items for Discussion : Cllr Wainwright – The two 'LHI's' (Local Highways Improvements) he had a meeting with an official from Cambs CC and had visited both sites (High Causeway and A605 Coates Layby)

The main issue with High Causeway (scored maximum points) – was that CCC will not support 'Rising Bollards and suggested a 'Manual Barrier' – through the discussion, a manual barrier is totally unacceptable, not practicable – decision to forge ahead and to go to a higher ranking official to promote the 'Rising Bollard' argument.

It was noted that whilst the 'official' was being taken along High Causeway – witnessed several vehicles, illegally using the pedestrian only area.

Several options to address traffic cutting through the Coates layby were given.

Cllr Gerstner – Informed Councillors and public, the length of time this item has been on the agenda, several years, and we are at a point where it can not be let-go, this is our only opportunity to try and resolve the issue placed before us, and urged support to take it to higher levels of Cambs CC – a vote took place and all voted in favour/unanimous.

Debate - Regarding the Hallcroft Road Air Quality Monitor being away so long, for so called 'calibration' The supplier had quoted a 2 week turn-around, it was requested that FDC should ask for a 'refund' on hire charges against the supplier – Clerk to deal with.

Stagecoach Bus Services. – This topic has been well aired on social media; with I have to say per usual a LOT of misinformation. The information given at this meeting by Cllr Boden was that Routes 31 & 33 were being looked at to be amalgamated. (RG Note Knowing Stagecoach NOT engaging with either Councils of Public, it may well be a decision has already been made.)

Ralph Butcher Causeway – Again I've posted a lot of updates on this Web-blog, - it is planned that work will begin in May! – and should be completed by September! – One carriage way will remain open, and some resurfacing work will take place afterwards.

Cllr Gerstner – Noted how poorly this had all been handled, CCC had just been fined £6 million for safety issues regarding the Guided Busway – most will not remember the years of legal arguments and faults to the Busway, although 'most' of Whittlesey residents not directly effected must have cost CCC/ratepayer a lot of money.

The VE Day Celebrations – 08th May further news as we get closer.

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

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 15+ YEARS BOTH AS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND AS A TOWN AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.

I have made 9,000+ postings on this site.

I had over 6 ½ Million 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 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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From Matt Page – Previously posted

I'm writing to you with warm anticipation for our meeting tomorrow at The Council offices regarding the "**Award Winning**" **More Muzic Community Radio events planned for 2025** that bring so much vibrancy to our town. I'm genuinely looking forward to connecting with you all and having a thoughtful discussion about this.

To help us make the most of our short time together, I wanted to gently share a brief outline of the key areas I'm hoping we can touch upon. My aim is to ensure we explore these points with care and work towards a positive and nurturing outcome for our community:

- We'd love to highlight the many ways **More Muzic Community Radio** contributes to the heart of our town and the lives of our residents. We're so passionate about actively shining a positive light on Whittlesey and fostering a strong sense of community spirit through our various events and collaborations.
- We're also excited to share our plans for events and collaborations throughout 2025, which truly reflect our deep commitment to supporting our local organizations and enriching the tapestry of our community. These include:
 - The much-anticipated return of **The Ragdolls at the beautiful St Mary's Church.**
 - The relaunch of the **Fenland Bus Show on June 8th** – we've listened to the community's feedback following the Fenland Busfest and are thrilled to bring this back.
 - **The Whittlesey Armed Forces weekend, scheduled for June 26th-29th, 2025.** Following its wonderful success last year in raising vital funds for local and military charities, as well as our local churches and the Army Cadets, we're planning for it to be even bigger this year.
 - Heartfelt collaborations with **St Andrews Church on a nostalgic 1960s event and a poignant Wartime event.**
 - Our continued support for **St Mary's Church with a captivating 22-piece big band performance of "Tribute to the Movies"** and a **moving wartime film show.**
 - The return of the cherished **"Memory Lane" film shows** the welcoming space of Coates Church.
- It's also important for us to emphasize our year-round dedication to community engagement. We truly believe that nurturing our community is an ongoing journey. As a "Company in the Community," we offer these events freely, with any donations gratefully received to help us with essential operating costs like rates and equipment.

I've attached copies of the event posters for you to have a look through. They offer a glimpse into the detailed schedule of events you're already familiar with and the impact we've had on our community over the past year, which I hope will provide a helpful and warm context for our conversation.

We also have one or two little extra surprises in store, which I'll be delighted to share with you all tomorrow evening!

Thank you so much for your time and thoughtful consideration. I truly value your attention to this, and I have a strong feeling that by working together with open hearts, we can achieve a positive outcome that truly serves the best interests of our community.

Respectfully yours Matt Page part of your The More Muzic Community Radio Team

