

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Notes from the Meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2025 at 6.30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

Present: Cllr Miscandlon, Bibb, Boden, Dorling, Gerstner, Laws, Mockett, Nawaz, Wainwright, Wicks. Cllr Dickinson arrives at 18:48

Present by invitation: PC Callum McGarvie, Cambs Police

Officer in Attendance: Cllr Chris Boden – Temporary Proper Officer

Recording: A recording is made as an aide memoir for the minutes.

F129/2025. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllr Gill – Personal

Cllr Dickinson gave notice that she would be arriving late.

No apologies received from Cllr. Arman

F130/2025. 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 F145/2025

Cllr Laws as portfolio holder for planning at FDC.

F131/2025. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV update

No report available. It was reported to have been distributed by email, but had not been received.

F132/2025 Police Report and figures

Report from PC McGarvie:

Aware of a lack of police presence in the town, due to many protests in the area. Police have carried out 11 or 12 drug warrants & 1 dangerous dog warrant

They are aware that parking still an issue, and that is being addresses as and when resources are available. There is a new sergeant in place on the local policing team – he will attend the next WTC meeting.

Cllr Laws thanked PC McGarvie for coming in, saying he was a welcome presence and asked if councillors will still be able to use the private email address to report issues?. PC McGarvie confirmed that this is still the case.

Cllr Laws further commented that there used to be a monthly virtual meeting with all the town mayors, and asked if this would continue? PC McGarvie stated that he was not sure, but would find out and will report back to Mayor. Cllr Miscandlon stated that he did find that meeting very useful.

Cllr Nawaz commented that the commonest concerns expressed by residents were speeding & parking, particularly around AJS & New Road Schools. PC McGarvie stated that they were aware of the problem, but have many areas to cover. It is on their priority list for action. One PCSO has been off long term. The Safer Schools officer has been working with secondary schools, but will be asked to talk with Primary Schools too.

Cllr Mockett commented that there had been reports of officers attending outside schools before parents had started to gather, and then finding 'no problems'. This is pointless. He also stated, with wide support from other councillors, that 'education' had been used for far too long, and that residents and councillors were in favour of more robust enforcement..

Cllr Dorling commented that there was a lot on Social Media about parking around AJS. He himself had recently been caught in it and was stationary for 20 minutes. He requested the police discuss alternative drop off arrangements with the schools. PC McGarvie reported that some funding had recently given to AJS, and that changes may be planned. He would discuss it with other officers.

Cllr Laws agreed with Cllr Mockett that we have all been told they will 'educate' – heard it for 5 years. It needs to be enforcement. In March there was a great deal of good signage around the schools. Why is Whittlesey not using this system?

Cllr Gerstner thanked PC McGarvie for addressing drugs issues and offered congratulations on the successes achieved. He noted that parking is always an issue and has been brought up at almost every meeting. PCSOs have been issuing some tickets, but there needed to be more enforcement.

F133/2025. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council on 17th July 2025

Cllr Dorling queried whether the new Town Clerks salary figures be minuted and in the public domain?

Cllr Boden stated that as the minutes only show a salary range for the position, and not the clerk's actual salary this was acceptable.

The minutes were agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

F134/2025Public Forum

15 members of the public were present

Alan Bessant, on behalf of Saxongate Residents Group

Residents are pleased that the Kings Dyke nature reserve emergency buttressing works have been completed.

It is deeply concerning however that the Fletton Liaison Group meetings, which after the Covid hiatus were due to run every six months, appear to have stalled. Forterra are a major emissions source and, as a good neighbour, should honour their commitment to meet with regulators and the residents' group to discuss any issues and review air quality reports.

The last meeting was over 12 months ago and no minutes were ever issued. I understand the MP, Stephen Barclay, has written to them and been ignored. While there may be no legal requirement on Forterra to hold liaison meetings, they were a well-established practice before Covid and residents rightly expect them to continue. These meetings-built trust and gave the community a chance to hear directly from the operator. I would therefore ask the Town Council to write formally to Forterra, by letter or email, and insist that this good-neighbour practice is restored, rather than allow it to quietly disappear.

Being a good neighbour and contributing to the local community should include open dialogue as well as sponsorships or donations. If the meetings are to be suspended, the operator should admit that rather than leave residents in uncertainty.

Clive Thorne.

Before Christmas two trees fell from the boundary of Saxon Pit onto Peterborough Road. Largest had to be cut up for removal and could have caused an accident. Cllr Boden took it up with CCC Highways and was told in January they would send somebody to inspect and deal with it with the landowner. By summer there had been no action, so he spoke to Cllr Boden again, but found out that nothing had been done. It is disgraceful that a CCC councillor should talk to a CCC Department and nothing happen. He would like to see complaint submitted by council to CCC Highways. Cllr Boden now states trees were looked at 2 days ago, but could be a long time before action is taken. It needs urgent action before the winter weather causes more trees to fall.

Standing Orders were Suspended to allow Cllr Boden to comment

Cllr Boden stated that Mr. Thorne had raised legitimate concerns, but there were some factual error he needed to correct.

Local highways officer & supervisor were very supportive and asked had asked him (Cllr Boden) to write and complain about the lack of action. Problem lies with the bureaucracy – there had been two departmental reorganisations in the timescale. The survey was done on Tuesday and a letter was being sent to the landowner. The underlying problem was that it should not have needed all the intervention. Cllr Boden has put in a request for discussion with highways officer to discuss this and other issues

Standing Orders Resumed

Stephen Hodson:

I have put in 3 times for relief road to investigate funding options, but never had any feedback The other week a vacancy on the Johnsons' liaison committee was discussed and Cllr Bibb offered his services, but was sidelined. He would like to point out that a volunteer better than drafted man.

Peter Baxter:

When did Whittlesey have a future? Why did original people build their prestigious houses here? What would they think today? He was concerned about the condition of the former NatWest building. He had spoken with conservation officer at FDC and learned that the owner is being uncooperative. Above the door it says 'BANK' – was it built originally as a bank? It could reflect a very important part of history of banking in England. Condition is not just a fault of people here, but of all residents. A way should be found to purchase and use for community use.

Standing Orders were Suspended to allow Cllr Laws to comment

Cllr Laws stated that the planning dept is very busy. The building is currently under enforcement action and waiting for a court case. We cannot speed that up.

Standing Orders Resumed

Cllr Dorling speaking on behalf of a resident who was unable to attend this meeting

The resident asked will anybody at the council be issuing a statement addressing the current allegations being spread concerning the toxic culture within the council

Robert Windle:

On Radio Fenland they recently had two guests who were Special Constables. Could we have a campaign within Whittlesey to recruit more specials in this area?

There was concern about the Manor Centre and lack of publicity about what is going to happen there. There is a consultation process tomorrow AM at Market Sq, and PM at the centre, but no times have been published. No leaflets, no banners. Poor publicity. Nothing on Freedom Leisure web site. FDC need to get this right, for the people of Whittlesey.

Police do have monthly sessions for the public to bring their concerns – they should be held under the Buttercross, where they are more visible.

Compliments to the mayor for being out and about promoting the new businesses, and the people who have taken on the admin work in the absence of the clerk.

F135/2025 Agenda items for Discussion.

Proposal; Maintenance person: Dee Laws

Cllr Laws noted that no decoration or routine maintenance had been carried out on Peel House or the Council Chambers since 2019. A suggestion for finding a regular 'handyman' maintenance person has been put to the Finance & Policy committee for discussion.

Cllr Boden notes that a final decision will not be made by F&P, but they will make proposal to Full Council.

Proposal; MVAS: data, locations, costs, movements, and a way forward: RG

Cllr Gerstner commented that WTC have 12 MVAS signs. Initially these worked well, but over the years the data received has been declining. Now no use to anybody. Can we get something more useful? Some new technology available. Do we carry on funding them? Or do we plan on replacing them with something better? Julie Clerk (force-wide coordinator for SpeedWatch) is back in place to receive stats

Cllr Mockett stated that he is concerned that they are being moved around without ward councillors being consulted.

Cllr Laws offered her view that the MVAS units are important – there are 'rat runs' and speeding hotspots all around the area. It was decided when first acquired that they went to different locations on a rota. Fixed signs suffer from driver fatigue – drivers get used to them.

Cllr Mockett responds that this then may be a truer reflection of the actual state of affairs.

Cllr Bibb suggests that any decision should be decided on how efficient it is, and what benefit accrues? Have we got them in the right places?

Cllr Miscandlon replied that the locations were initially decided in discussion with local residents.

Cllr Boden stated that he welcomed decision to get the units. They have a great deterrent value. He has one just outside bedroom window, so is probably better placed to see the effect they have on drivers. They mostly affects those just above the limit, causing them to slow down. They tend not to have any effect on those who are travelling well in excess of the speed limit. Produce good data, but we currently nowhere to send it.

Cllr Wainwright commented that there are currently 12 signs working and one waiting repair. These are rotated around 28 approved locations, being moved every six weeks. The company tasked with moving the signs reported that many of the battery units are near end of life and do not last for the full six week placement. Data was scarce, though. In the last 2½ years he had only seen two lots of figures published.

Cllr Dorling suggests that we should be looking towards a phased replacement of the signs, as there seemed to be general agreement that they were a good idea.

Cllr Laws commented that data has been available, but clerk may not have forwarded to all. Will get the latest data downloaded and distributed.

Cllr Gerstner proposed: **That this council continue with the use of MVAS signs and that the Finance & Policy committee investigate the replacement of batteries and/or signs as appropriate.**

Seconded Cllr Miscandlon. Carried Unanimously

Proposal; LHI Applications: Agree process moving forward: Dee Laws

Cllr Laws stated that she had brought this to the meeting in order that councillors had the opportunity to consider schemes that they may wish to put forward for consideration in good time, rather than leave it to the last minute as has happened on some occasions.

Cllr Wainwright confirmed that No decision has yet been made on last year's applications – CCC had state that the decision would be 'October at the earliest'. He also confirmed that he had received a request to submit online a confirmation that Whittlesey Town Council intended to submit a new application this year. He had so confirmed. No details were required at this stage, a simple statement of intent that a submission was expected was all that was required.

Cllr Boden commented that the junction of Teal Road into Skaters Way desperately needed traffic calming, but it is unlikely that a scheme could be prepared for this year's submission.

Cllr Mockett asked who suggestions should be made to. It was agreed that the Community Projects committee would be the most suitable venue.

Proposal; Dog waste bin on new Barrat Homes Development Eastrea Road: JM

Councillor Mockett reported that the Whittlesey Lakeside development has nowhere to leave dog waste. He requests agreement to purchase a bin.

Cllr Laws stated that she thought it was a part of planning application for that development to provide dog waste bins. She will check. If not can we agree to purchase a bin?

Cllr Laws proposed: **If provision of Dog Waste bins was not a requirement of the Whittlesey Lakeside development, that this council fund the purchase of waste bins.**

Seconded Cllr Mockett. Passed unanimously

Additional proposal: By-election poll cards: Proposal: That the default position in any Town Council election, or by-election, is that Polling cards should be provided to the electors, except where there is a specific motion in council that they are not provided for any single election or by-election.

Cllr Boden apologised that an email error had meant that this proposal had been left of the initial agenda. Historically there are very few Town-only by elections where such a clause would come into effect. Discussion with Cllr Wainwright had suggested the best way to progress this was to bring it to the Finance & Policy Committee to agree an amendment to standing orders.

Cllr Wainwright confirmed that he was happy with this approach and therefore **withdrew the proposal.**

F136/2025. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

Cllr Miscandlon reported that the Burnthouse Windfarm Fund had made a sum of £6,000 (six thousand) available to Whittlesey Town Council. Half of this sum was to go towards heating and lighting costs for community bodies making use of the council chambers. The remainder was intended for distribution, at the councils discretion, to local causes as small-sum grants in accordance with the general principles of the fund.

There was much discussion, with many councillors contributing.

It was generally agreed that the availability of the grants was to be widely advertised and applications sought from as many organisations as possible. Distribution was to be left to the mayor, and all decisions to be transparent and open to scrutiny.

F137/2025. To report the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on 22nd September 2025

Cllr Boden reported that as he was only recently back from holiday, he had not been able to complete all financial documents. He had completed the bank reconciliations to end august. He will get all the other figures complete to end of September completed and distributed as soon as possible.

A suggestion to reduce energy costs by diverting excess solar power to heating the hot water system was to be investigated by the Finance & Policy committee.

The new Town Clerk, Angelika Piotrowitz starts on Monday. Cllr Laws will be with her all week, Cllr Miscandlon will attend on Monday, and Cllr Wainwright on Wednesday.

A request for £500 for the manufacture of a Village Sign for Eastrea had been agreed at F&P.

Cllr Boden **Proposed that Full Council confirm this.** Seconded by Cllr Wicks. Passed unanimously.

The annual AGAR submission had been picked up at external audit. A wrong comparator figure had been entered into one of the boxes. The figure in last year's AGAR had been amended and signed, but uncorrected figure had been included in this year's AGAR by mistake.

A Second error concerned the figures for uncashed cheques. The clerk had put in a figure to adjust for expected invoice that had not materialised by the year end, to put the spend in to the correct year for when the service was carried out. The Auditor objected to this and the figures had been corrected. The updated AGAR has been resubmitted and is now approved.

The auditor requested new Bank Reconciliations – these have been done and were circulated in the documents for this meeting. new bank reconciliations by close of business today.

Cllr Boden **Proposed these figures be accepted.** Seconded Cllr Wicks. Passed unanimously.

It was noted that the new Town Clerk is to undertake training on Scribe as early as possible.

Questions had been raised at F&P concerning the two bus shelters which have been damaged. At Kings Dyke, CCC have finally accept responsibility. We are now waiting on start date. At Aldi this is subject to an insurance claim. Cllr Boden will provide the insurance details to Cllr Laws to follow up. Cllr Miscandlon stated that the removal of the damaged bus shelter is important – it presents danger to public and is an eyesore.

F138/2025 To report the financial documents.

- To report the bank reconciliation to 31st August 2025
- To report the list of payments & uncashed payments.
- To report the year-to-date figures

Cllr Boden stated these will be presented to the next meeting.

F139/2025. To report the minutes from the Planning Meeting on 22nd September 2025

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting are in the information pack provided to this meeting.

F140/2025. To report the minutes from Community Projects meeting on 8th September 2025

The minutes have not yet been circulated – They will be submitted to the next meeting.

F141/2025. Consultations

Cllr Laws reported that there is to be a Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation livestream on 21/10/2025 via YouTube

F142/2025 Information only.

Nothing to report.

F143/2025 Invitations.

Funeral of Sue's father 24/10/2025 1:30 St Andrews

F144/2025. Date of next meeting – Thursday 16th October 2025

F145/2025– Exclusion of the press & public

Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, it is resolved that, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of items to be discussed.

No business to discuss

F146/2025. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F130/2025

No business to discuss

Meeting Closed at 20:24