

WTC Meeting Thursday 11th December 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).

15 Members of the public in attendance – Member of the Press in attendance.

Notes taken by Cllr Barry Wainwright.

Format and slight editing has taken place to make web-friendly.

Present: Cllr's CB (Chris Boden), ED (Eamonn Dorling), BNW (Barry Wainwright), BW (Bob Wicks), AM (Alex Miscandlon), PB (Peter Bibb), DD (Dianna Dickinson), AB (Alec Branton), SA (Saeed Arman), HN (Haq Nawaz).

F184/2025. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the absence.

JM (Jason Mockett RG (Roy Gerstner), DL (Dee Laws)

No apology received: GSG (Gurninder Singh Gill).

F185/2025. 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.

Pensions.

ED: introduced financial advisor for pensions.



After a proposal by Cllr Barry Wainwright and unanimous vote for, Whittlesey Town Council have bestowed it highest honour of the Town to Wally Newman.

The proposal was the Mayor and other Councillors of the Town of Whittlesey do hereby confer upon Wally Newman the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Whittlesey as an act of gratitude for his services to the country and the town and in recognition of the high esteem in which he is held by the community of Whittlesey".

Members of the public also backed the proposal in the Public Forum.

Once the vote had been made a spontaneous round of applause was made around the room. Wally was delighted to receive the official letter and thanked everybody concerned firstly for the nomination and the positive outcome.

F186/2025- Presentations.

Getting Britain Back to Work

HN: local version of national program.

Get Cambs & Peterborough back to work.

Primarily to do with sickness – Economically inactive people.

Fenland is at bottom of index of multiple deprivation & NEET (Not in employment, education or training)

Amanda Wood – Asst Director for Skills & Employment CPCA

Plan written in partnership with NHS & jobcentres.

Local version of white paper from Government – work towards 80% employment across region.

Also, how services are tackling inequalities and work together.

Cornerstone of Local Growth Plan. 0-year plan.

Rising inactivity, mainly through student population.

Fenland 25% inactive.

Plan approved at board 2 weeks ago. Publish after Christmas.

C&P one of 8 areas in Youth Guarantee’.

AM: Great advocate of apprenticeships. Not taken up by CPCA.

BW: Peterborough College remove assisted transport. Key thing in rural area.

BNW: Transport to work & college needs big bucket of money.

CB: Fenland in a very poor place for education & training. Comparison of 296 local authorities. Fenland came bottom in education, skills & training. South Cambs almost at top of list! Local skills improvement plan coming up. £12m adult skills fund. Historically spent in a way that is biased against Fenland. Transportation is a huge problem. Have made request that transportation in Adult Skills Fund. Not historically part of it, but a fundamental block.

Response: Last academic year, 986 adults (in Fenland?) able to access funding. Should be a policy in place to support transport.

ED: 3 Problems – Employer reluctance if not very good. ‘Work Experience’ – lasted 3 weeks at a time. Allowed employer to ‘trail’ employees. CV enhancement. Had better transport. Should not be up to employer to provide transport.

Response: WE critical part of journey back to work. Government putting in requirement for 2 weeks for all. CPCA operate regional skills hub to schools. Measure quality of careers advice.

PB: Discussion moved from everybody to young people – secondary school is failing, transport is atrocious – what about bringing trainers to the schools? Raises aspirations, raises expectations in the schools, raises awareness of fenland potential.

AM: Bringing employers into area to discuss with schools – why not in Whittlesey?

Response: Is a requirement, should be happening. Many schools in rural communities struggle to get engagement. Can check on what the situation is in Whittlesey. CCC also have a responsibility for NEET.

BW: Used to be a scheme called Trident work experience – employment taster – gone. Transport to secondary health care – no Whittlesey transport to Kings Lynn.

DD: Agree make use of local teachers? Fenland is agricultural – should design course for local needs, not just general.

HN: Whittlesey 'Cinderella' town. Fenland Cinderella region. Now understand the deprivation index. This is a real opportunity to make a difference.

F187/2025 Presentation from CCC: Ralph Butcher Causeway
No representative from CCC

CB: Head of complex infrastructure will look to confirm attendance on 22/01/2026

78 weeks since traffic lights put up.

June 2025 told work starting 8/7 for 22 weeks. Schedule was for 20 weeks, but +2 allowance.

They have put out release every 2 weeks.

3 weeks before end, state end of January.

December & January worst months for closure of North Bank/B1040.

Have pushed for alternatives, including removing restrictions. Also said that alternative routes will be examined to ensure they are in a fit state to take the traffic. Response today – remedial work identified on Milk & Water Drove. B1095 an order being placed for patching work early January (night work).

B1040 an order being placed for patching works. Will be after M&W Drove?

CB: Using written question at next meeting.

BNW: FOI statement disclosed

CB: Asks for copy also Michael Fisher

ED: Many people concerned about when bridge is accepted, who is liable if problems recur?
Will it be insurable.

CB: Problems emerged during snagging period. MF looking at contract termination date – plan is to hand over on 31/03/2026

Followed by agenda Item for Discussion - **Ralph Butcher Causeway - Barry W**

BNW shared the content of an FOI request he submitted on the bridge project.

He asked five specific questions: When did CCC first become aware of the latest slippage to program (30/10/2025);

How long was the delay before the public were informed (12 days from formal notification on 3/11/2025);

Was there a process in place to examine the progress reports from the contractor and determine their accuracy or were they simply taken at face value? (process of weekly meetings with Jones Bros and “regular site visits”).

Was the contractor asked for confirmation of the end date at any time, and did they confirm the 8th of December date, or admit to some slippage in the programme? (Program discussed each week at progress meetings, slip declared formally on 3rd November).

Is there a plan for a review of the Project Management of this contract by CCC, given the adverse effect on Whittlesey and the A605 transport route? (There is no formal review planned).

The latter statement that no formal plan was to be carried out raised some surprise and discussion. Cllr. Boden asked for a copy of the FOI response to be sent to him and Cllr Fisher, as the written responses contradicted some of the information they had been given.

[Copy of FOI response attached to these notes]

F188/2025. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV update

ED: Noted the statements concerning Provision of Dog Fouling materials and questioned what and where these were. BNW answered that he has received a stock of 60 ‘No Fouling’ street notices and has been putting them up around the area.

F189/2025 Police Report and figures

No report ‘operational matters’ Only one report has been seen in the last 9 months

F190/2025. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council on Thursday 13th November 2025.

OK

F191/2025 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.

15 members present

4 speakers

Peter Baxter: Listed Building act planning committee has legal duty to preserve conservation areas & listed buildings. How did council apply their responsibility.

SO (Standing orders) suspended.

AM responded that Chair of planning had no authority to change status.

PB Has been told on many occasions what the situation is

Disrespectful to council & AM personally

PB: believe that is wrong.

AM: Chair of committee only has responsibility to consider planning meetings

SO, Resumed

Robert Windle: Extravaganza on Saturday. Expanded to 9 rides.

Need volunteers. Thanks to SA for help with this & other events.

Advanced sales going well – 200 sold.

Wally Newman – Endorse nomination to Freedom.

Mark Cross: Contacted Jones Bros last year. In 2003 Starr Knothole was dry. Large fissures in walls of knot hole. Water was entering fissures and softening clay. Will never be fixed. Fissures at least 70' deep.

On Jobs there are no apprenticeships for young people. A605 drains in Eastrea Dip haven't been cleaned. Also, alongside Saxon Pit

Julie Windle: Echo support for Wally Newman.

F192/2025 Agenda items for Discussion.

To reinstate a property/premises group for Peel House buildings.

(previous members Cllrs David Mason, Alex Miscandlon & Eamonn Dorling) - DL

CB: DL's suggestion is to reconstitute a working group – suggest it be passed to next F&P – agreed.

Local Highway Improvements (LHI) WTC submission on or before January 2026.- DL and Barry W.

ED: MVASS data does not support speeding.

CB: Not the average that matters – it's the numbers that exceed. Exceptions are noticed. Massive change in Teal Road with the opening of Hartley Grange. Needs to be a physical way to stop the speeders. Only possible to put in traffic calming on skater street.

BW: On double yellows – enforcement. BNW: not compliant

CB: Needs civil enforcement. Have £400k towards work necessary to correct signage & markings. Last estimate is £900k

HN: Double yellows only useful with enforcement. Chicane on Teal Road.

BW: Propose Teal Road. Sec HN. Passed 7x1

BNW: Will the council consider funding additional yellow lines. – can be considered at a future date

Citizen's advice.

CB: Costs increasing from £6,800 to £7,980 and want a 3-year agreement.

Accept charges but delay SLA

CB/BNW – unanimous.

Proposal That to commemorate his centenary, the Mayor and other Councillors of the Town of Whittlesey do hereby confer upon Wally Newman the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Whittlesey as an act of gratitude for his services to the country and the town and in recognition of the high esteem in which he is held by the community of Whittlesey.-Barry W
BNW spoke of Wally Newman's contribution to country and the town. Granting of freedom agreed Unanimously, to some applause from the public gallery.

Ralph Butcher Causeway - Barry W

Already dealt with

MVAS Batteries.

Morlocks now in administration. Still trading. Batteries can be obtained from 3rd party. Fenland Electrical – less than £1k, Unanimous

F193/2025. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

Progress report on Rail Working Party- Included in pack.

PB: Representative, but not able to attend meeting – ED substituted. Many improvements.

HN: A public consultation on Whittlesey station on 9/1/26 on the Market Place and on Whittlesea Station 24/01 10am to 2pm at Aldi supermarket.

CB: Visits are only part of the consultation – will be a full consultation process will be publicised. Consulting on 3 different schemes for comment. Common part is footbridge over the line.

F194/2025. To report on the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 8th December 2025.

Standing order amendment: Poll Cards

CB/BNW - unanimous

Standing order amendment: Public Questions

CB/BNW - unanimous

Standing order amendment: Whittlesey Southern Relief Road Committee

Doesn't need a SO to set up a working group.

Propose set up a SRR committee & make a standing committee at next annual meeting.

CB/BW - Unanimous

F195/2025 To report the financial documents.

To report the bank reconciliation to 30th September 2025 per Scribe

To report the list of payments 1st July 2025 to 30th September 2025 per Scribe

To report the year-to-date figures to 30th September 2025 per Scribe

Bank reconciliation now produced by RFO in Scribe.

LOP CB'SA – unanimous

F196/2025: WTC Budget 2026/27 Version 0 discussion.

V1 submitted

BW: Ask for village sign for turves to be added to next year.

ED: Change Jubilee Wood to Platinum wood. Glassmoor bank grant for £1200 agreed but never received. Also £3k maintenance for platinum wood. Rollover of previous year's budget?

CB: Rollover applied to money donated to PW. CB/ED - unanimous

F197/2025. To report on the minutes of the Planning Meeting on Monday 24th November and Monday 8th December 2025.

In pack.

F198/2025. To report the minutes from Community Projects meeting on Monday 24th November 2025.

In pack – no proposals to bring up

F199/2025. Consultations

None – but railway coming up.

F200/2025 Information only.

Mud Walls- DL

Nothing presented

WTC Christmas closure is from Tuesday 23rd December 2025, back open on Monday 5th January 2026.

Report on meeting with CCC Highways on A605 works planned for 2025, 2026 & 2027- Barry W
A brief summary of the roadworks planned for Whittlesey was presented – a lot of works are planned; some dates are still fluid.

[Copy of report attached to these notes]Fenland nature survey analysis- ED

F201/2025 Invitations.

None

F202/2025. Date of next meeting - **Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 6.30pm.**

F203/2025– 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.

Meeting closed at 9pm

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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 9,800+ postings on this site. 9 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 do 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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FRG 2022

Feliz Navidad



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