

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL - Finance & Policy Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 16th February 2026 at 6:00pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

Present: Councillors Boden, Dorling, Laws, Mockett, Nawaz (Arrived at 6.25pm) and Wicks.

Not on the committee: Councillors Miscandlon and Dickinson.

Officer in attendance: Miss Angelika Piotrowicz- Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

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

FP111/2026. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the absence.

Councillor Arman- Work

Councillor Singh- Medical.

FP112/2026. 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.

Councillor Laws- In case a planning application is discussed.

FP113/2026. To confirm and sign the minutes from the Finance & Policy Committee held on Monday 19th January 2026.

Minutes proposed by Councillor Laws, Seconded by Councillor Mockett.

- Councillor Boden signed the minutes as a true record.

Request was made by the Town Clerk to sign and date each sheet of the of the minutes.

FP114/2026. 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.

3 members of the public present.

Robert Windle- handed a submission for consideration for a grant application for the booklet. The booklet has been running for seven years. It has grown from 8 pages to a potential of 56 pages in June. Circulation has increased from 500 to 2,500 copies. Request was made for support to produce either 2,500 or 3,500 copies.

- This will be considered at the next Finance and Policy meeting.

FP115/2026 Financials.

1. Bank Reconciliations to 31st December 2026.

- **The correct bank reconciliation is 31st December 2025.**
- Two items are missing, savings account and Mayor's account.
- The mayor's account is a private matter and not reported to the committee.
- Suggestions to have a template with all bank accounts to report on, including savings accounts. This could be a spreadsheet and updated monthly.

2. Year-to-Date Figures.

- They represent the $\frac{3}{4}$ of a year position, expecting to see an average of 75% expenditure.
- Some items are expended in one lump sum, going from 0% to 100% in one month.
- The Clerk will be looking at the allocation to individual cost codes to ensure uniformity of treatment compared with previous years.
- Some percentages may not be accurate, especially with both income and expenditure under the same cost code.

3. Payment List for Approval (198-225)

- The payment list runs from vouchers 198 to 225.
- A new code (222) was created for staff welfare.
- Councillor Mockett raised concerns about the value for money from trade recycling and the use of data from MVAS. Councillor Mockett will write and circulate a paper on MVAS prior to the matter being brought back to the Committee next month.

Payment List for approval was proposed by Councillor Laws and seconded by Councillor Dorling.

Vouchers 198 to 225 are recommended to Full Council for approval. The total amount is £24,395.60 net.

FP116/2026 Agenda Items for discussion.

- 1- To consider whether to continue to arrange and hold Parish Assembly meetings-**DL**
 - There is no legal requirement for a Town or Parish Council to hold a Parish Assembly.
 - The Chairman of the Council, two members of the Council, or six local government electors can convene such a meeting.
 - Councillors have no status in the Parish meeting, and those not on the electoral register aren't allowed to attend.

The Town Council will no longer automatically convene a Parish Assembly meeting.

- If anyone wishes to convene a meeting and fulfils the statutory obligation, they can hold it at the Council Chamber.
- The person who puts the meeting forward is responsible for making the arrangements.
- **This will be put forward to Full Council.**

- 2- Review of Cleaning contract-**BW**

- There have been comments regarding the current cleaning contract.
- The contract will be reviewed by the Property Working Group, likely at the end of March.
- The current cleaning company was given a 3-month trial period, which will be reviewed by both sides.
- The Property Working Group will bring any issues that need to be addressed by Finance and Policy.

- 3- Next years budget- **BW**

Councillor Wicks said that there is a potential overrun on the Eastrea Village sign projects from the 25/26 financial year due to planning issues.

- There could be additional cost for the sign, but the council would get a reduced fee.

FP117/2026. Additional Information.

EPC- ED (Will be circulated in pack)

- British energy is looking for opportunities to donate to public buildings to improve their energy efficiency.

- They have a large amount of money for this purpose.
- A list of buildings needs to be submitted, including the residential flats, commercial premises, public room and office in the current building, as well as the Eastrea centre and Coates Village Hall.
- Government has dropped the limit for EPCs, there is a cap on spending for EPCs, once that cap is hit, exemptions may apply even if the target grade C isn't reached.

Next steps are, to wait and see what British Energy is willing to do before obtaining quotes.

FP118/2026. Donation Requests.

- Fact Community Transport.
- Councillor Boden who is a trustee of FACT Community Transport cannot participate in the discussion of this.
- Councillor Laws has been volunteers to chair this item.
- This application shows a total of project costs of £1000.

It was proposed by Councillor Laws this application is granted, unanimous vote, Councillor Boden and Wicks did not participate in this vote.

- **This application will be brought forward to Full Council.**
- Whittlesey In Bloom.
- **A proposal is made to refuse this grant application. The vote results are 3 against, one abstention and one declaration of interest from Councillor Laws**
- **FP119/2026. Date of next meeting – Monday 16th March 2026 at 6.00pm.**

Meeting Closed at 7.20pm.

FP120/2026– 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.

- Rent Increase on Flat 8B.
- Water Tender
- **This will be moved to a confidential session.**
- **Confidential minutes will be provided.**

Councillor Boden

Chairman

Finance and Policy.