

AGENDA, MINUTES AND REPORT ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 29th May 2024



Serving the Community

Whiston Town Council
Whiston Town Hall
Old Colliery Road
Whiston
Merseyside L35 3QX
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Whiston Town Council

Whiston Town Mayor 2023-2024 Councillor R. Gaffney

Mrs. S Mayers - Town Clerk
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SM
9th May 2024

The next Annual Town Public Meeting will be held in Whiston Town Hall, Old Colliery Road, Whiston on **Wednesday** 29th May 2024 commencing at 7.30pm

Yours Sincerely

Sandra Mayers
Town Clerk

AGENDA

Apologies

1. Appointment of S. Mayers Town Clerk as Secretary for the meeting.
2. To receive the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 24th May 2023.
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Report.
4. To receive and adopt the accounts for 2023-2024.(page 4 Annual Report).
5. Report of Ashton's Charity.
6. Report of Whiston over 55's Club.
- 7 Report of Town Mayor's Charity Fund.
8. Any Other Business.
9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 28th May 2025.

WHISTON TOWN COUNCIL

At the Annual Public Meeting of Whiston Town Council held in the Main Hall, Whiston Town Hall, Old Colliery Road, Whiston on Wednesday 24th May 2023 commencing at 7.30pm the following were:-

Present

Councillor R. Gaffney

**Town Mayor
(In the Chair)**

Councillors D. Allen, J. Burke, T. Byron, S. Henry, N. Murray, T. Murray, S. Rees and K. Taylor.

P Martland- Merseyside Police.

S. Mayers-Town Clerk.

Representative – W. Longshaw, Director of Integration, St Helens & Knowsley Teaching NHS Trust.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors J. Mimmagh, C. Powell and G.Wickens.

S. McKay – Forestry Commission.

D. Milburn -Officer-Knowsley Borough Council.

Mr & Mrs Jones – Residents.

Prior commencement of the meeting Members gave a brief introduction.

1.Appointment of Secretary.

The meeting considered appointing S. Mayers-Town Clerk as Secretary for the meeting.

Resolved: That S. Mayers-Town Clerk be appointed as Secretary for the meeting.

2.Minutes.

The minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 2022 were received as a true and correct record.

3.Annual Report 2023.

The Annual Report for 2023 outlines detailed information in relation to the Township of Whiston, Whiston Town Councils finances, Members contact information and the facilities managed by Whiston Town Council.

Resolved: That the circulated Annual Report for 2023 be noted and agreed.

4.Accounts.

The unaudited accounts of Whiston Town Council for 2022-2023 (page 7 Annual Report) were circulated.

Resolved: That the unaudited accounts for 2022/2023 be noted and agreed.

5. Ashtons Charity.

S Mayers gave a brief overview of Ashtons Charity, outlining details of previous successful individual applications. The undermentioned information is a true reflection of the accounts at 31st March 2023. The fund does not represent assets of Whiston Town Council and is not included in consolidated balances.

ASHTONS CHARITY 2022-2023

CURRENT ACCOUNT	97540927	
Opening Balance	01/04/2022	£ 12,524.50
Income	£ 1728.37	
Expenditure	Donations	
Closing Balance	31/03/2023	£ 14,252.87
BUS RES ACCOUNT	85367486	
Opening Balance	01/04/2022	£ 16,613.81
Income	£ 58.93	
Expenditure		
Closing Balance	31/03/2023	£ 16,672.74

SHARES VALUE

31/03/2023 3,172.49 units, mid-market value of share £1871.37

6. Whiston Over 55's / Luncheon Club.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting of a number of activities taking place at each of Whiston Town Council's Community Centres, from weekly luncheon clubs/indoor bowls and bingo.

The undermentioned information is a true reflection of the accounts at 31st March 2023.

**WHISTON OVER 55'S FUND/
LUNCHEON CLUB**

Opening Balance Business Res Account 85371238			
	b/f		£ 4,592.60
TOTAL INCOME	£	16 31	
LESS EXPENDITURE		-	
Closing Balance as at 31st March 2023			<u>£ 4,608.91</u>
Opening Balance 89909895			
	b/f		£ 1,295.00
TOTAL INCOME			£ 250.00
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Closing Balance as at 31st March 2023			<u>£ 1,545.00</u>

7. Whiston Town Mayors Charity Fund.

The Town Clerk circulated details of the Town Mayors Charity Fund at 31st March 2023.

WHISTON TOWN MAYORS CHARITY FUND 2022-2023

The Town Mayor operates a Charity Fund which during the year received revenue from fund raising events.

This fund is then utilised to donate money to organisations who work for the benefit of the Whiston Community.

This fund does not represent assets of the Town Council and is not included in consolidated Balance Sheet.

Opening Balance	01/04/2022		<u>£ 807.58</u>
Income 25/10/22	£ 620.00	M. Burke Thompson	
Income 22/12/22	£ 935.00	M. Burke Thompson	
	£ 1,555.00		
Expenditure 20/06/22 Donations	£ 700.00	J.A.Parker	
Balance	31/03/2023		<u>£1,662.58</u>

8. Any Other Business.

a),Resident: Why do the Council charge St Leos School parents to use the car park when dropping off children ?.

Answer: The school had an arrangement with the Council, and it was agreed that a concessionary rate of £8 per hour be charged equating to £12 per day during term time. A number of more sustainable options had previously been explored. The school parents had benefitted from the usage for many years and due to the change in Whiston Town Council's hire groups, it was having a financial impact to open and close the car park to accommodate parents.

b).Resident. Why is the road closure still in place at Lickers Lane ?, A resident had previously contacted United Utilities who identified the delay as a technical issue, due to a large number of rocks being dislodged.

Answer. A couple of dates have been identified for the re-opening of the road which is to be expected between the 9th and 16th June 2023. This also brought about a conversation around the poor condition of the road since the road closure of Fox's Bank Lane.

c).Resident. Many trees have been cut down on Stadt Moers Park, although a local resident (tree surgeon) is of the opinion that a number of the trees are not diseased.

Answer. A large number of the trees have been cut back due to a disease called Ash dieback, which it is believed can easily spread. Town Clerk to check this out with the Rangers based at Stadt Moers Park.

d) Resident. There is still an issue with people driving up Halsnead Avenue, although this is a one-way system. Also, this resident has had, on four occasions, cars driving into her wall and has previously taken this up with the Borough Council asking for bollards. This request has never progressed.

Answer. The police are fully aware of traffic not complying with the one-way system and have run a couple of spot check days. P. Martland, Merseyside Police said he would again take up this issue. The Town Clerk will contact the Borough Council regarding the cars crashing through the resident's wall and push for the implementation of bollards. Only recently a number of objections to the implementation of speed restrictions have been put to the Borough Council Highways Department.

e) Resident. Whiston Cemetery, why has the consultation been brought forward to the 5th June 2023?. It is clear in the Local plan of 2014 S884 that an area of land that has now been earmarked for a housing development was previously identified as an extension to the burial ground.

Answer. It was made clear to the residents that every single Green Party Councillor fully supports the residents and strongly opposes the development.

f) Resident. What is happening with the former Penny Black Public House site.

Answer. It has had planning approval for bungalows / flats.

g) Resident. At the Town Council meeting held in April the Clerk was requested to write on behalf of the residents, and an assurance was given that the responses would feed back to residents.

Answer. This was done and any responses received have now been posted (once permission has been given) on Whiston Town Council's website www.whiston-tc.gov.uk, under the heading: Whiston Woods.

h) Resident. We still have a lack of regular bus services that accommodate Whiston and residents asked why can't the 61 cover the Lickers Lane route.

Answer. The bus companies provide services that will generate income and, if a service is not being used on a regular basis, in the past, these routes have either been massively reduced or withdrawn. The Mersey Region Bus consultation is due to take place at Whiston Town Hall Council Chamber on Thursday 8th June 2023, commencing at 12 noon. All residents are welcome.

i) Resident. Each day at 4.30pm a number of scrambler bikes are on Stadt Moers Park. This is also happening at the weekend and making a number of residents very cautious about going onto the park for a walk, as the speed of the scrambler bikes is going to cause an accident.

Answer. Over the past three months Merseyside Police have been training quad bike riders who will hopefully be deployed to problem areas. Residents were encouraged to report any incidents to the police to allow them to gather the information and then allocate a response.

j) Residents. Concerns were raised with regard to poor visibility when exiting Paradise Lane onto Greenes Road. This is due, in the main, to the developer who has erected a display

board. Shaba the Italian Restaurant in Whiston village, has been set up with tables, chairs etc although never been open.

Answer. Town Clerk will contact planning enforcement team regarding poor visibility at junction of Paradise Lane and Greenes Road and make enquiries regarding the Restaurant.

k)Resident. What is happening with the building in the cemetery which was to be built with stone and glass from the original Whiston Hospital Chapel?.

Answer. This is to be downscaled due to materials and costs and is currently being reviewed by the architects.

l)Resident. Trains overcrowding coming into Whiston Station, and residents are unable to get onto the trains. A resident who has a disability was refused access to the train due to the area identified for wheelchair access being blocked. No offer of help was given to the resident by Merseytravel staff.

Poor access for wheelchairs to the shops on Dragon Lane, Whiston. due to a lack of drop kerbs.

Answer. The Clerk will write to Merseytravel regarding the train issues and lack of support for people with disabilities. The issue reference provision of dropped kerbs at Dragon Lane shops will be taken up by Borough Councillors.

9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 29th May 2024.

The Meeting closed at 8.56pm

Amendment

At 8.35pm Councillor D. Allen requested the use of the microphone as herself and her colleague Councillor S Henry could not hear what was being said, the subsequent refusal by the Chair Councillor R. Gaffney led to Councillor J. Burke offering to and changing seats with Councillor D. Allen to enable her to be in a better seating position.

5. Ashtons Charity.

The undermentioned information is a true reflection of the accounts at 31st March 2024. The fund does not represent the assets of Whiston Town Council and is not included in consolidated balances. One donation was agreed by the trustees in the sum of £2,500 for M.D.

ASHTONS CHARITY 2023-2024

CURRENT ACCOUNT		97540927	
Opening Balance	01/04/2023		£ 14,252.87
Income		£ 1728.37	
Expenditure	Donation/ Room Hire	£ 2509.00	
Closing Balance	31/03/2024		£ 13,472.24
BUS RES ACCOUNT		85367486	
Opening Balance	01/04/2023 £16,672.74 Interest:£14.16		£ 16,686.90
Income		£ 185.99	
Expenditure			
Closing Balance	31/03/2024		£ 16,872.89

SHARES VALUE

31/03/2023 3,172.49 Per unit 42,892.08

6. Whiston Over 55's / Luncheon Club.

The activities taking place at each of Whiston Town Council's Community Centres, weekly Luncheon Clubs/Indoor Bowls and Bingo.

This fund does not represent assets of the Town Council and is not included in consolidated Balances.

WHISTON OVER 55'S CLUB

Opening Balance Business Res Account 85371238

	b/fwd	£	4,608.91
TOTAL INCOME	£ 63.94		
LESS EXPENDITURE	£200.00		
Closing Balance as at 31st March 2024		£	<u>4,472.85</u>

Opening Balance 89909895

	b/fwd	£	1,545.00
INCOME			
EXPENDITURE		£	60.00
Closing Balance as at 31st March 2024		£	<u>1,485.00</u>

7. WHISTON TOWN MAYORS CHARITY FUND 2023-2024

The Town Mayor operates a Charity Fund which during the year received revenue from fund raising events.

This fund is then utilised to donate money to organisations who work for the benefit of the Community.

This fund does not represent assets of the Town Council and is not included in consolidated Balance Sheet.

Councillor M Burke Thompson - Town Mayor 2022-2023 Fundraising

01/04/2022	Balance	£	107.58	
25/10/2022	income	£	620.00	
22/12/2022	income	£	935.00	
		b/f 01/4/23	£	1,662.58
27/04/2023	Donation	£	275.00	Whiston Willis Primary School
	Donation	£	275.00	Halsnead Primary School
	Donation	£	275.00	St Leos & Southmead School
	Donation	£	300.00	Dog Trust- Merseyside
	Donation	£	130.00	Whiston Luncheon Club
	Donation	£	100.00	Whiston Over 55 bingo
	Donation	£	100.00	Breast Mates
	Donation	£	100.00	1st Whiston Scouts
			£	1,555.00

Councillor R. Gaffney - Town Mayor 2023-2024

c/f 31/3/24 £ **107.58**