

# Witham Town Council

Town Hall  
Newland Street  
Witham  
CM8 2FE

Tel: 01376 520627

Email: [townclerk@witham.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@witham.gov.uk)

Website: [www.witham.gov.uk](http://www.witham.gov.uk)



## MINUTES

Meeting of: **Town Council**

Date: **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Present:	Councillors	T. A.	Pleasance	(Town Mayor)
		J.C.	Bayford	
		J.C.	Goodman	
	Mrs	A.	Kilmartin	
		M.C. M	Lager	
	Mrs	S.C.	Lager	
	Mrs	J.M.	Money	
		J.R.	Pullen	
		R.P.	Ramage	
	Mrs	J.	Williams	
		R.	Williams	
		J.	Sheehy	(Deputy Town Clerk)
	Mrs	G.	Kennedy	(Committee Clerk)

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P.R. Barlow, P. Horner, Mrs J.A. Kempf, W.J. Rose and P.M. Ryland who had previous engagements.

### 2. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Town Council held 30<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

### 3. INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

**4. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There was no member of the press or public present.

**5. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's Report on matters arising was received.

It was stated that notification had been received that a meeting of the Witham Strategy Group would be held in the Town Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

It was reported to Members that the Deputy Town Clerk and the Open Spaces Supervisor would be having a site meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July in Mill Lane with Essex County Council staff to investigate a blocked drain that caused periodic flooding to consider the appropriate course of action to be taken.

**RESOLVED** That the Report be received and information noted.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**PRITI PATEL, MP – PUBLIC MEETING**

A letter was received from Priti Patel, MP, thanking the Town Council for the support given to hold the public meeting on crime and anti-social behaviour.

**RESOLVED** That the letter be received and noted.

**7. PEOPLE POWER**

'People Power' – findings from the Commission on the Future of Localism was received.

Members recognised the recommendations by the Commission which included suggestions that principal authorities are reluctant to hand power and assets down to Town & Parish Councils but considered that little could be done at a local level and further action on Localism would be required by Central Government.

**RESOLVED** That 'People Power' be received and noted.

**8. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

Details of the Town Mayor's Engagements were received.

Councillor Mrs S.C. Lager explained that she had also attended the crowning of the Carnival Queen.

**RESOLVED** That the details be received and noted.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Community Committee Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Minutes 1 – 17 (inclusive).

Councillor R. Williams, Chairman of the Community Committee, gave his Report en bloc.

Minute 4 – Town Clerk's Report

It was noted that the Town Clerk would be making enquiries regarding the element of tasking of the Special Constables.

Members were informed that the Special Constables and some Police Cadets would be attending the Witham Carnival.

Minute 7(d) – Anti-social behaviour – Rickstones Recreation Ground

Members were informed that a site visit had been arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> September with the Chief Executive Officer and Leader of Braintree District Council to try and resolve the anti-social behaviour in this area.

Minute 8 – Business Plan – Special Constables

Members proposed to explore the scheme whereby employers allow their staff time off to be Special Constables through Employer Supported Policing.

Minute 12 – Community Reports

Members who serve as representatives on outside bodies were asked to ensure that they provide one or two reports a year to the Council on what organisations were doing.

Minute 16 – Youth Task and Finish Group

Councillor Mrs A. Kilmartin reported on the newspaper reading scheme that had proved very popular at the Maltings Academy and would be used for the Ofsted report. She added that she would like to see it develop as a Town Council initiative. The purpose of the scheme was to help young students develop critical thought and analysis of media.

Members requested that a policy for the new Senior School Bursary Scheme be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval once drafted.

**RESOLVED** That the Report of the Community Committee be received and noted.

(b) **Environment Committee Meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Minutes 1 – 10 (inclusive).

Councillor J.C. Goodman, Chairman of the Environment Committee, gave his Report en bloc.

**RESOLVED** That Report be received and noted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Minutes 1 – 11 (inclusive).

Councillor M.C.M. Lager, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, gave his Report en bloc.

**Minute 10 – Apologies for Absence Protocol**

Members agreed that it was good practice to record the reason why Members are unable to attend Meetings and were reminded that reasons must now be given when not attending a meeting.

**RESOLVED** That the Report be received and noted.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

**10. CONTRACTUAL MATTERS**

A verbal report was received.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received.

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)**

(a) **Environment Committee Meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Minutes 11 and 12.

Councillor J.C. Goodman, continued his Report en bloc.

**RESOLVED** That the Report of the Environment Committee be received and noted.

(b) **Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Minutes 12 – 15 (inclusive).

Councillor M.C.M. Lager, continued his Report en bloc.

**RESOLVED** That the Report of the Policy and Resources Committee be received and noted.

**12. PUBLIC DOMAIN**

Members agreed that no item discussed in Private Session should be moved into the Public Domain.

**RESOLVED** That no item discussed in Private Session be moved into the Public Domain.

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 8.07 p.m.

Councillor T.A. Pleasance  
Town Mayor

JS/GK/13.7.2018