



# Witham

town council

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## MINUTES

Meeting of: **Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee**

Date: **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025**

Present:	Councillors	J	Goodman	(Vice-Chairman)
		P	Heath	
	Co-optees	S.	Black	(Witham and Countryside Society)
		P.	Shuttleworth	(Local wildlife Interests)
	Officers	H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
		S.	Dyer	(Operations Manager)
		S.	Puckey	(Open Spaces Administrative Assistant)

### 23. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr B Fleet, J Casement and J Palombi. Cllr Ramage and Cllr J M Coleman were absent.

### 24. INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

### 25. MINUTES

The minutes were **AGREED** and subsequently signed by the Vice-Chairman.

### 26. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present

### 27. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was received by Members. The Deputy Town Clerk further advised that the photo post had been used already and the photographs were available to view on the website.

Members **AGREED** to receive the report.

### 28. OPERATION MANAGER'S REPORT

The Operations Manager provided a verbal update and reported that the Operations Team were up-to-date with their work across open spaces. Notable actions this quarter included a successful community cut and rake day at Mill Lane Meadow, the installation of new bait bins at the pond and a new photography post at Whetmead.

The Operations Manager further advised that a fallen tree in the river, close to the Kingfisher nesting site, will be investigated for potential removal and that the erosion in the same area is a long-term problem requiring professional advice. It was also clarified that the bee hotels were intended for solitary bees and that the bee haven on Glebelands was opposite a CCTV camera to deter vandalism.

It was noted that there had been no complaints about motorised bikes on Whetmead this year but the idea of a V-gate, between Whetmead and the concrete bridge, would be considered if the problem returned.

Members **AGREED** to receive the report.

**29. REVIEW OF THE RIVER WALK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Members were still happy with the Management Plan but suggested including the freehold acquisition date and potentially referencing the cut and collect at Mill Lane Meadow.

The Deputy Town Clerk clarified that the management plans were available on the council's website and, following discussion, it was agreed that the documents would be made available in the Information Centre and a notice on the council's noticeboards would signpost residents to the documents.

Members **AGREED** to receive the report.

**30. RIVER WALK BIODIVERSITY**

Members welcomed the activities within the report and were keen to get more children involved in the monitoring activities.

Members **AGREED** to receive the report.

Meeting concluded at 2.45pm.

SP/3.12.25

Signed by Chairman.....