Witham town council

Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE
01376 520627
witham.gov.uk

MINUTES

Meeting of: **Environment Committee**

Date: **Monday, 3rd April 2023**

Place: **Town Hall, 61 Newland Street, Witham.**

Present:	Councillors	J.	Goodman	(Vice Chairman)
		J.	Bayford	
		P.	Heath	
		S.	Hicks	
		A.	Kilmartin	
		C.	Lager	
		M.	Lager	
		S.	Rajeev	
		M.	Weeks	
Also in attendance:	Cllr.	P.	Barlow	
		H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
		S.	Smith	(P.A to the council)

39. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillor K. Atwill.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

40. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held 09.01.2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

41. INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

42. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of public present.

43. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's Report on matters arising was received.

Members were informed that the new line markings on the River Walk and work at Ebenezer Close had been delayed due to the poor weather.

Members were also informed that volunteers were currently being obtained for the Salt Bag Partnership, and some residents and businesses have shown interest.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

44. COMMITTEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE & BUDGET REPORT

The income & expenditure and budget reports for the period 1st November 2022 and 28th February 2023 were received.

Members noted the large overspend due to staffing matters and suggested an exception report may be an easy way for Members to see the causes of any overspend.

RESOLVED That the income and expenditure report be received and noted.

45. SECTION 106 FUNDING

Members were informed that this would now be a standing item on every Agenda, to ensure opportunities for funding through Section 106 can be identified and explored.

Members agreed that ideas for Section 106 projects should predominately come from the Open Spaces Action Plan, but raised some other suggestions which included:

- Improved "Welcome to Witham" signs.
- Blackwater Rail Trail improvements.
- Accessible footpaths.
- Work to the boundary at the All Saints Churchyard.
- More secure cycle storage in appropriate locations.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

46. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

The Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held 12th January 2023 were received.

Members raised concern over item 22, in which becoming a paperless council was discussed, as it would need to be considered that not everyone is comfortable working in a virtual format.

Members were pleased with the suggestion to get younger people involved with the Council's Climate Change Working Group, but that if children from the secondary schools were invited

to attend that the younger year groups be considered, as the older years would be busy with exams.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group held 12th January 2023 be received and noted.

47. OPEN SPACES MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee Meeting held 14th March 2023 were received.

Members were informed that in regards to item 6, Braintree District Council Planning Enforcement was looking into the land, and potentially had plans for it.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee Meeting held 14th March 2023 be received and noted.

48. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that a response was awaited from Essex Highways with regards to joining the Parish Paths Partnership and consideration should now be given to which areas the Town Council would like to include on joining the scheme.

Members agreed that it would be extremely beneficial and some things they wanted to achieve through the project included:

- All routes registered as public rights of way.
- An appropriate standard of footbaths that are clear of encroachment and poor surfaces.
- Paths to be safe and accessible.
- A well linked walking route that avoids primary roads.

RESOLVED That the report be resolved and noted.

RESOLVED That Witham Town Council joins the Parish Paths Partnership.

49. ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST WILDER TOWNS

Members received the recommendation to join the Essex Wildlife Trust's wilder towns scheme.

RESOLVED That the recommendation be received and approved.

50. WITHAM IN BLOOM

Members received the report.

Members agreed that this project should be encouraged as it makes the town a more attractive and uplifting place, which could incur economic benefits through increased visitors, however sufficient volunteers would be needed.

RESOLVED That the recommendation be received and approved

There being no further business the Vice - Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.30p.m.

Councillor K. Atwill
Chairman

HA/SS 11.4.2023

LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY