



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | Essex | CM8 2FE

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

AGENDA

MONDAY 8TH AUGUST 2022 AT 6.30PM, COUNCIL CHAMBER

MEMBERS:

S. Ager
S. Hicks
C. Jay
J. Williams
R. Williams

OFFICERS:

H. Andrews
S. Smith

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2) APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEE

To approve the co-option of John Palombi onto the Climate Change Working Group.

3) MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the meeting of Climate Audit Panel of 30th May 2022 ([attached](#)).

4) CLERK'S REPORT

To receive a verbal report.

5) WITHAM INDUSTRIAL WATCH

To receive an update from a recent meeting with Witham Industrial Watch.

6) CLIMATE CHANGE POP-UP STALL

To receive feedback from the Climate Change Pop-Up stall held on 2nd August 2022.

7) RECOMMENDATION FROM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To consider the Environment Committee's recommendation of 18th July 2022 for the Climate Change Working Group to produce reports for specific actions to be taken forward.

8) DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

To discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the Council declaring a climate emergency and the implications of making a declaration.

9) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other relevant topics for inclusion in future business.

10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To consider the date and time of the next meeting of the Climate Change Working Group.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD 30th MAY 2022 AT 6:30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

PRESENT: - Councillors S. Ager, S. Hicks, J. Williams.

Staff: H Andrews - Deputy Town Clerk
 S Smith - P. A to the council

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr S. Ager was appointed Chairman of the group.

3 APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr J. Williams was appointed Vice Chairman of the group.

4 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members stated that they would like to have the ability to add additional councillors to the group, as well as interested co-optees. It was **AGREED** to include 'and additional interested co-optees' to item 10 of the terms of reference.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

6 WITHAM INDUSTRIAL WATCH

Cllr Ager gave feedback on a recent meeting with Witham Industrial Watch and members discussed the possibility of solar panels being used by businesses on the industrial estate in Witham. Cllr S. Ager informed members that she will be visiting Witham Industrial Watch on 8th June 2022 to discuss sustainability with some of the businesses.

7 GENERAL DEBATE

Members discussed topics that they thought may be appropriate for the group to focus on, these included:

- Battery operated tools for open spaces use
- An enquiry into the public toilets budget to see if there is enough for accessible running water in the park.
- Rewilding possibilities in our open spaces.
- Climate change aspects in the Neighbourhood Plan e.g., solar panels and ground source heat pumps in new builds.
- The potential of declaring a climate emergency in Witham.
- Increasing access to climate awareness information, e.g., on the website, in The Voice.
- Ways we can make our events more environmentally friendly, e.g., reduction of plastic use, increased amount of recycling bins.

It was **AGREED** that a future member pop-up stall would be dedicated to climate change awareness and members discussed suitable resources for the stall.¹

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members discussed that it is important to protect existing areas of wildlife in the town, as well as utilising pop up stalls, and welcome packs to share information regarding local climate change information.

There being no further business, the panel concluded at 7:40pm.

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Councillor S. Ager
Chairman

SS 06.06.2022

¹ Climate change awareness pop-up stall noted for Tuesday 2nd August 2022, location to be confirmed.