



Witham

town council

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

MINUTES

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

Date: **4th March 2026**

Present: Councillors B Fleet (Chairman)
J Goodman
P Heath

Co-optees S. Black (Witham and Countryside Society)
J. Casement (Witham Wombles)
J. Palombi (CPRE)
P. Shuttleworth (Local wildlife Interests)

Officers H. Andrews (Deputy Town Clerk)
S. Dyer (Operations Manager)
S. Puckey (Open Spaces Administrative Assistant)

4 members of the public were present.

31. APOLOGIES

Cllr Ramage and Cllr J M Coleman were absent.

32. INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

33. MINUTES

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

34. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or statements from the public.

35. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was received by Members. The Deputy Town Clerk further advised that the dates for the resurfacing of the bridges and the installation of the sculptures would be co-ordinated.

Members **AGREED** to receive the report.

36. OPERATION MANAGER'S REPORT

The Operations Manager provided a verbal update. Notable actions this quarter included reinstating a trench at the Glebe River Walk area to try and alleviate water issues on the path, creating a scalloped area at James Cooke Wood to improve biodiversity, planting three new trees at Whetmead near the photography post and completing a memorial safety check at the Closed Churchyard.

Members **AGREED** to receive the report.

37. SECTION 106 PUBLIC ART PROJECT – RIVER WALK SCULPTURES

Members were happy with the sculptures and their locations. The Deputy Town Clerk clarified that they would have a clear coating to make removal of any graffiti easier.

It was noted that Members would like to see further improvements to biodiversity on the River Walk going forward and that a hedgerow could be considered between Bridge Street and Luard Way.

Members **AGREED** to receive the report.

38. REVIEW OF JAMES COOKE WOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN

Members were happy with the management plan and were advised that a hedgerow was being considered on the edge of the wood adjacent to Oliver's nursery.

Members expressed an interest in working towards Green Flag status and monitoring the impact on biodiversity of recent work in the wood.

Members **AGREED** to receive the report.

39. LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY EVENT

The Open Spaces Administrative Assistant provided a brief summary of the event held at Colchester Zoo. There were several workshops highlighting success stories in other areas and providing tools to help interested parties help nature and engage others in their towns.

Meeting concluded at 2.45pm.

SP/5.3.26

Signed by Chairman.....