



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

Meeting of: **Environment Committee**

Date: **Monday, 16th October 2023**

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

Present: Councillors

S.	Ager	(Chairman)
J.C.	Coleman	(Vice Chairman)
E.	Adelaja	
B.	Fleet	
L.	Headley	
J.	Martin	
R.	Ramage	
B.	Taylor	

Also in attendance: Cllr.

P.	Barlow	
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
S.	Smith	(P.A to the council)

18. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors J.M. Coleman and A. Sloma.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

19. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held 24th July 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

20. INTERESTS

Councillor B. Fleet declared a non-pecuniary item interest in regards to item 28, Witham Tree Group, as he was a member of the group.

21. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

22. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk informed Members that the final part of the Whetmead Nature Reserve Section 106 improvement project had been approved by Braintree District Council. Work was being carried out to finalise the nature posts and interpretation design details and plants were due to arrive this month for the scheme.

The Clerk also informed Members that the planned town centre street furniture improvement scheme was due to be carried out in the coming Months. Officers were also working on the design details of the wayfinding monoliths which would be installed as part of the project.

It was also noted that Braintree District Council were currently consulting with Witham Town Council on the next phase of the Town Park improvements, which included landscaping and signage. The contract for the project had gone out to tender with a closing date of 10th November, with plans for works to start in January 2024, and full completion by May 2024.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

23. COMMITTEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The income and expenditure report for the period 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023 was received.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

24. 2024 – 2025 DRAFT BUDGET AND CORPORATE STRATEGY

The 2024-2025 Draft Budget and Corporate Strategy were received.

RESOLVED That the 2024-2025 Draft Budget and Corporate Strategy be received and approved.

25. OPEN SPACES MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee meeting held on 5th September 2023 were received.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee meeting held on 5th September 2023 be received and noted.

26. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

The Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 15th August 2023 were received.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 15th August 2023 be received and noted.

27. SECTION 106 STEERING GROUP

The Minutes of the Section 106 Steering Group meeting held on 9th August and 28th September 2023 were received.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Section 106 Steering Group meeting held on 9th August and 28th September 2023 be received and noted.

28. WITHAM TREE GROUP

The Tree Group Minutes for the meetings held August and September 2023 were received.

RESOLVED That the Minutes for the meetings held August and September 2023 be received and noted.

29. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

An Allotment Management report was received.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED That the proposed rent increase of £0.03pence per square metre for 2025/2026 be approved.

RESOLVED That Cllrs J.C. Coleman and R Ramage be appointed onto an Allotment Appeal Panel.

30. ESSEX'S WASTE STRATEGY FOR ESSEX CONSULTATION

Members were asked to consider their response to Essex's Waste Strategy for Essex Consultation. Members commented that although it was to be commended for its ambitious vision, it ultimately lacked the necessary detail.

They agreed that there needed to be a clear, consistent strategy across the whole of Essex and details included of how Parish/Town Councils can be more involved. Members also commented on the lack of a universal standard for Recycling Centres across the County.

RESOLVED That the Clerk respond to the Essex's Waste Strategy for Essex Consultation with Members comments.

31. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

A verbal report was received on Essex Highways' Parish Paths Partnership. It was noted that feedback was awaited from Members on Witham's Public Rights of Way and further input from Members would be required.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

Councillor S. Ager
Chairman

HA/SS18.10.2023