



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

Meeting of: **Annual Town Meeting of Witham**

Date: **2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

Place: **The River Walk, Near to Chipping Hill Bridge**

Present:

P.	Heath	(Town Mayor)
N.	Smith	(Town Clerk)

And 150 members of the public.

1. **WELCOME**

Councillor Paul Heath, Town Mayor, welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were received.

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

3. **ANNUAL UPDATE**

The Mayor gave an annual update on the work of the Town Council and its committees over the past year.

The Community Committee had continued its work in support of young people, community safety, social isolation, local events and Remembrance activities, as well as overseeing the street warden service, CCTV expansion and supporting the Witham Community Specials. The Committee also awarded grant aid to local organisations, including Witham Carnival Association, Friends of Witham St John CIC, Witham Hub, Witham Guides, Witham CA and Popcorn. The council was working with Braintree District Council to secure Section 106 funding for a small refreshment kiosk in the Town Park and bringing to fruition a historical S106 allocation for interactive public art at Witham Community Centre.

The Environment Committee had overseen a range of improvements to open spaces across the town, including River Walk path and bridge repairs, river bank works, new benches, bee-friendly

planting areas, tree works, the resurfacing of the Cut Throat Lane allotment car park, and replacement bus shelters at the railway station. Reference was also made to the Bio Blitz Day held in partnership with Essex Wildlife Trust and Essex Field Club, and to the continuing management of the River Walk, Whetmead Nature Reserve, James Cooke Wood, the Closed Churchyard and allotments.

The Planning and Transport Committee was reported as having considered 141 planning applications during the year as a consultee. The Mayor referred to the Committee's opposition to proposed parking charges in Newland Street, the installation of a Speed Indicator Device in Hatfield Road, concerns raised regarding shop fronts within the Conservation Area, and responses made to transport, bus, safer streets and planning consultations, including the Local Plan Review.

The Policy and Resources Committee continued to oversee the governance, strategic management and financial planning of the Council. Reference was also made to the delivery of Witham's Voice to households across the town and to the work undertaken by officers to improve the accessibility of the Town Council's website and documents for residents with visual disabilities.

#### **4. OPEN FORUM**

The Mayor invited residents to visit the Town Council gazebo to ask the Town Mayor and Town Clerk any questions they might have.

The following topics were raised by residents-

Pedestrianisation of Newland Street  
Planning and the Local Plan  
Drainage problems at the bridge near Church Street  
Bees' nests in residents' gardens  
Road safety in Chipping Hill  
Lockram Lane Toilets  
Lighting the River Walk by Guithavon Valley  
Witham Town Council events  
Potential bee hives along the River Walk  
Parking charges in Newland Street  
Witham Town Council Open Spaces  
The new Witham Community Centre  
Commercial ventures along the River Walk  
S106 contributions for public art

Councillor P. Heath  
Town Mayor

NS/05.05.2026