



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

### WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Date: **Monday, 21st November 2022**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2FE**

Present: Councillors

J.	Bayford	(Town Mayor)
J.	Goodman	(Deputy Town Mayor)
S.	Ager	
P.	Heath	
S.	Hicks	
A.	Kilmartin	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
S.	Rajeev	
R.	Williams	
K.	Atwill	
P.	Barlow	
C.	Jay	
T.	Pleasance	
M.	Weeks	

Essex County Councillor

R.	Playle	(Witham Northern)
N.	Smith	(Town Clerk)
S.	Smith	(PA to the Council)
C.	Strachan	(Assistant Financial Officer)

#### 122. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor J. Williams.

**RESOLVED** That the apologies be received and approved.

#### 123. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of Town Council held 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

**124. INTERESTS**

All Councillors declared a Non Pecuniary Interest in Minute 136 because they used the Riverwalk.

**125. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public were present.

Councillor R. Playle joined the meeting at 7:36pm.

**126. ESSEX COUNTY AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE**

Essex County Councillor Ross Playle, Witham Northern, explained that he would share with the Town Clerk which pot holes are due to be fixed. Cllr Playle explained that he had written to his colleagues regarding the Newland St Road closure for the Christmas Fayre, and that it had been agreed and the Town Clerk had been informed.

Cllr Playle explained that he has asked for speed surveys to be carried out in the Witham area but at present there is no budget available. He is hoping this will be rectified next year.

Cllr Playle spoke about the Highways Devolution and that the Town Council could openly negotiate with the highways Councillor. The chairman confirmed that a letter will be sent shortly to begin the conversation.

Cllr Playle also spoke about the artwork near the Elms public house and it had been agreed with the developers that this would be saved.

**RESOLVED** That the reports be received and noted.

The Town Mayor thanked Councillors Playle and Kilmartin for their reports.

Cllr Playle left the meeting.

Cllr Jay left the meeting.

**127. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Town Mayor confirmed all of his engagements, and also added that he had attended the Remembrance Parade and the Poppy Prom the previous week. The Deputy Town Mayor stated that he had laid flowers and attended a short service on the Friday of Remembrance weekend, and that he would like this to be added to the engagements.

Cllr Jay returned to the meeting.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and noted.

**128. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk's report on matters arising was received.

The Town Clerk explained that a scam selling tickets for an event at Great Notley Discovery Park called the 'Enchanted Forest' had been spotted online. Several people had already paid

for tickets. She asked members to make residents aware of the scam. The Town Clerk also spoke about the warm room and that two Councillors had to be present at all times.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and information noted.

**129. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE**

**Proposal 1** – Members acknowledged that a 50% reduction in cutting of urban amenity verges was agreeable. Although members had no objection to the proposal they felt it was important to note that visibility and sightlines at junctions needed to be taken into consideration for safety reasons.

**Proposal 2** – Members acknowledged the proposal of sustainable planting or grass over but recommended this not to take place in the Memorial Garden or Cemeteries.

**Proposal 3** – Members acknowledged the proposal.

**Proposal 4** – Members acknowledged the review but noted that the bins would need emptying because otherwise there would be an overflow which would cause issues.

**Proposal 5** – Members acknowledged the proposal but commented that as not all residents had online access so hard copies should be made available in the Information Centre.

**Proposal 6** – Members acknowledged the review but several pointed out that if parking charges were actually reduced this could encourage people to visit the town centre. A refund scheme could be looked into where shoppers could claim back the cost of parking from the shops they visited.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and noted with additional comments.

**130. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Planning and Transport Committee held 24<sup>th</sup> October and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Minutes 128 – 157 (inclusive)

Councillor Goodman as Chairman of the Planning and Transport Committee gave his report en bloc.

**RESOLVED** That the Report of the Planning and Transport Committee be received including the additional comments.

(b) **Environment Committee held 10th October 2022**

Minutes 14 - 26 (inclusive)

Councillor K Atwill, Chairman of the Environment Committee, gave his report en bloc. He stated that the minutes would be signed as a true record in the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** That the Report of the Environment Committee be received.

(c) **Community Committee held 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Minutes 36 - 53 (inclusive)

Councillor Ager, Chairman of the Community Committee gave her report en bloc. She stated that the minutes would be signed as a true record in the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** That the information be received and noted.

Cllr Jay left the meeting

**131. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A (S5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**132. COMMITTEE REPORT – CONTINUED**

**Community Committee held 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Minutes 54 -56 inclusive

Councillor S Ager has accepted the minutes of the meeting but they have not yet been signed

**RESOLVED** That the report of the Community Committee be received and noted.

Cllr Jay returned to the meeting.

**133. LAND REPORT**

The Land Transfer report was received.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and noted.

**134. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSETS**

A report was received.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and noted.

Cllr S. Ager left the chamber.

**135. FUNDING REPORT**

The Funding Report was received.

Councillor S. Ager returned to the chamber.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and noted.

**136. RIVER WALK AND CYCLEWAY PROGRAMME**

All Members had declared an interest.

The River Walk and Cycleway Programme stage 4 report was received.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and noted.

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 9.35 p.m.

Councillor J. Bayford  
Town Mayor

CS/NS/21.11.2022