



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

Meeting of: **Environment Committee**

Date: **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

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

Present: Councillors

K.	Atwill	(Chairman)
J.	Goodman	(Vice Chairman)
J.	Bayford	
P.	Heath	
S.	Hicks	
A.	Kilmartin	
M.	Lager	
S.	Rajeev	
M.	Weeks	

Also in attendance: Cllr. P. Barlow

Essex County Councillor:

R.	Playle	(Witham Northern)
H.	Andrew	(Deputy Town Clerk)
G.	Kennedy	(Committee Clerk)
S.	Puckey	(Open Spaces Admin Assistant)

And two members of the public.

### **26. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillor C. Lager.

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

### **27. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## **28. INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **29. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Two representatives from Templars Community Association wished to speak about the problems incurred before Christmas with the lack of snow clearance of footpaths. It was explained that with the cold weather the snow had become compacted and dangerous, particularly for the vulnerable. They asked that the Essex Highways Salt Bag Partnership scheme be introduced as they have both space to store salt and volunteers able to spread on footpaths throughout their estate.

Councillor Playle arrived at the Meeting.

It was agreed that the items relating to snow clearance and salt bag scheme would be taken next.

## **30. SNOW CLEARANCE POLICY**

The Snow Clearance Policy was received and Members asked to review.

**RESOLVED** That the Snow Clearance policy be received and reviewed in July.

## **31. ESSEX HIGHWAYS SALT BAG SCHEME**

(a) Members were asked to consider joining the Essex Highways Salt Bag Partnership scheme.

Members recognised that the Town Council did not have resources to clear footpaths or space to store salt. They fully supported and commended the Templars Community Association for wishing to be part of the scheme and it was agreed that assistance from other groups and associations would be sought.

Members were advised that if residents cleared footpaths within the guidelines there would be no liability if someone slipped as a result. It was suggested that this advice be put on the Town Council's website so that residents would not be fearful at clearing snow from footpaths.

**RESOLVED** That the Town Council makes enquiries into joining Essex Highways Salt Bag Partnership Scheme with staff investigating details and other organisations asked to take part.

**RESOLVED** That enquiries be made of Essex County Council to see whether a supply of salt could be acquired now for the Templars Community Association.

Cllr Playle left the meeting.

(b) Members were asked to consider requesting Essex County Council for salt bins in Witham.

Members were disappointed that despite the size of Witham, the County Council had no salt bins in the town and this should be rectified.

**RESOLVED** That enquiries be made of Essex County Council to ascertain what would be required to obtain salt bins for Witham.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for attending the Meeting and their willingness to be part of the scheme.

### **32. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's Report on matters arising was received.

Members spoke of the difficulties in meeting with Essex County Cabinet Member Councillor Lee Scott to discuss the Highways Devolution scheme. It was suggested that a business case should be prepared detailing work that the Town Council could undertake.

**RESOLVED** That a business case be formulated as to how the Town Council could operate an ongoing agreement to undertake devolved work.

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

### **33. COMMITTEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE & BUDGET REPORT**

The income & expenditure and budget reports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 were received.

It was suggested that the success of the dog bin and seat sponsorship scheme should be promoted through a press and media release.

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

### **34. OPEN SPACES MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were received.

Members spoke about the need for a pathway from the River Walk to the Lidl site. There was some confusion as to the ownership of this piece of land and the suggestion was made that if it was Braintree District Council a formal approach should be made to acquire the land so it could be maintained as part of the River Walk.

The Deputy Town Clerk said that she was in conversation with the District Council regarding the ownership of the site and future plans.

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be received and noted.

### **35. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP**

The Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 were received.

The list of attendees would be amended before they were signed by the Chairman at the next Meeting on Thursday.

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group held 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 be received and noted.

### **36. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

The Environmental Policy, following a recommendation from the Climate Change Working Group, was received.

Members welcomed the Environmental Policy and considered it to be a proactive step.

**RESOLVED** That the Environmental Policy be adopted.

### **37. WITHAM TREE GROUP**

The Minutes from the Tree Group Meetings held 11<sup>th</sup> October, 15<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were received and noted.

Members commented on the good work undertaken by the Tree Group.

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

### **38. RIVER WALK SIGNAGE**

A written representation regarding a request for signage on the River Walk was received.

Members had sympathy with the comments. It was considered that those cycling fast or using e-scooters could well be drug dealing and the Special Constables had been asked to patrol accordingly. Times and incidences when this occurs could prove to be useful information for the police.

It was agreed that additional notices should be displayed at entrances to the River Walk and the bye laws should be reviewed. New line markings would be installed soon but all cyclists should be reminded to be considerate of pedestrians particularly those with children.

Councillor Hicks left the Council Chamber.

**RESOLVED** That the points raised be taken forward.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.56 p.m.

Councillor K. Atwill  
Chairman

HA/GK/11.1.2023