



# Witham

town council

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## MINUTES

Meeting of: **Estimates Committee**

Date: **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Present: Councillors

P.	Heath (Chairman)
P.	Barlow
J.C.	Coleman
J.M.	Coleman
B.	Fleet
J.	Robertson

Also in attendance: Councillor

R.	Playle
N.	Smith (Town Clerk)

### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Adelaja and Martin.

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

### 2. **INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest at this time although further in the meeting Councillor Robertson declared a Non-Pecuniary interest in the Maltings Lane Budget as the company he is employed by has delivered to the site.

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

There was no member of the press or public present.

### 4. **COMMITTEE BUDGETS**

(a) **Summary Sheet**

The proposed summary sheet showing each Committee budget line was noted by Members who agreed to discuss each in turn.

(b) Admin & Central Services

The recommended Administration and Central Services Budget for 2026/2027 was received. It was noted that the Staffing budget line included a new member of staff for which a recruitment exercise was currently taking place. It was noted that many of the other lines had been kept at the same level for a number of years.

**RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL** That the attached budget for Admin & Central Services for 2026/2027 be accepted.

(c) Community Committee

The recommended Community Committee Budget for 2025/2026 was received.

Members discussed how successful the Town Council events are and that they are provided to residents at a small cost through the precept but free to attend on the day. It was highlighted that two new events had been included, a Summer Fayre and Open Gardens.

It was explained that the Street Warden's salary would now be taken from the Community Committee budget as well as two part time Caretakers for the Witham Community Centre.

It was planned that the Community Grant Schemes would also continue this year.

**RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL** That the attached amended budget for the Community Committee for 2026/2027 be accepted.

(d) Environment Committee

The recommended Environment Committee Budget for 2026/2027 was received.

Members discussed Christmas Lighting and potential savings that could be made if timings were altered. It was decided to consider this further once the first UMS on a half-hourly basis was received.

**RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL** That the attached budget for the Environment Committee for 2025/2026 be accepted.

(e) Policy & Resources Committee

The recommended Policy and Resources Committee Budget for 2025/2026 was received.

It was noted that the budget line for interest received had remained the same. Although interest received from the CCLA and Unity savings account had increased during 2024/25, interest rates are predicted to be cut in the next financial year. Two budget line increases were proposed for surveys and newsletter as described in the report.

**RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL** That the attached budget for the Policy and Resources Committee for 2026/2027 be accepted.

(f) Planning & Transport Committee

The recommended Planning and Transport Committee Budget for 2026/2027 was received.

Members expressed satisfaction that a Speed Indicator Device would soon be installed and wished that another be included in the budget.

**RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL** That the attached budget for the Planning and Transport Committee for 2026/2027 be accepted.

(g) Maltings Lane

Councillor Robertson declared a non-pecuniary interest as the company he is employed by delivers to the site.

The recommended Maltings Lane Budget for 2025/2026 was received.

Members discussed the project and how the budget had been calculated. Potential income around EV Chargers was discussed.

**RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL** That the attached budget for Maltings Lane for 2026/2027 be accepted.

5. **RESERVE BALANCES**

The proposed Earmarked Reserves for 2026/2027 were received.

Members discussed the Community Safety/CCTV EMR and reiterated their wish to expand the town's CCTV network.

It was explained that the Charter Market EMR would be closed once all liabilities had been dealt with.

**RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL** That the attached reserve balances for 2026/2027 be accepted.

6. **PRECEPT**

The Precept Calculations based on the discussed budgets for 2026/2027 were received.

Members considered that they were satisfied with the proposed increase of £6.26 on a Band D property and agreed to recommend the proposed budget for 2026/2027 to the Full Town Council. This equates to a 12p/week increase on Band D to a total of £2.26/week

**RECOMMENDATION TO TOWN COUNCIL** That the Precept for 2026/2027 of £1,112,027.00 be approved with a net increase in the Band D Property of £6.26 to £117.52

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.08pm

Councillor Paul Heath  
Chairman

N.S/17.12.2025