



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

WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Date: **Monday, 19th December 2022**

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

Present: Councillors

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

Essex County Councillor

R.	Playle	(Witham Northern)
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Braintree District Councillor

W.	Rose	(Witham West)
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N.	Smith	(Town Clerk)
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
G.	Kennedy	(Committee Clerk)

143. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barlow, Hicks, Jay, Rajeev, Weeks and J. Williams.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

144. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Town Council held 12th December 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

145. **INTERESTS**

No interests were declared.

146. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the press or public present.

147. ESSEX COUNTY AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE

Essex County Councillor Louis had sent his apologies and his report was tabled.

Councillor Rose spoke about the Witham Football Club and Soccabilty in particular.

Councillor Kilmartin, in her capacity as a District Councillor, explained that a community grant had gone towards the Lunch Club Christmas Dinner. She had reported potholes and been informed that work to the station car park would recommence in the new year.

Councillor Playle said that he had reported potholes in Guithavon Valley and London Road as part of the pothole scheme. He understood that work at the station would recommence in April 2023. LED replacement bulbs on street lights would be fitted in February and March 2023, this had been held up because of a shortage of bulbs. He said that as part of an environmental programme he had ten trees to be planted but they would need to be maintained by the land owner. He referred to the recent A12 widening meeting with Essex County Council and its proposals regarding de-trunking. He spoke of the Witham Parkside Youth Centre which has almost full capacity and finally the £50m support available for projects and schemes to help residents in distress.

In answer to a question, Councillor Playle said that the Templars Crossing should have been installed in October but would now be installed in the February half term holiday.

Members then spoke about the problems with footpaths not being gritted during the recent icy weather. They were disappointed that there were no salt bins located in Witham but the Town Council had no resources to grit pavements. Councillor Playle said that Essex County Council no longer gritted footpaths but there was a partnership scheme whereby the Town Council would be given an annual allocation of salt to distribute to local volunteers. The suggestion was made that individual Essex County Councillors could use their community funds to finance salt bins.

RESOLVED That the reports be received and noted.

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

148. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

Details of the Town Mayor's engagements attended for period 14th November to 12th December 2022 were received.

The Town Mayor thanked his Deputy for undertaking engagements on his behalf. Councillor Goodman spoke about the moving testimony given on behalf of the Holocaust Trust at Howbridge School.

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted.

149. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report on matters arising.

She explained that the Warm Room had been on a trial to Christmas. Information had now been received that the United Reformed Church would be opening on a Monday too. They would be able to provide a hot cooked meal and one for visitors to take home as well following a grant from Lidl. Those who had attended the Town Hall were happy to attend the URC instead and Members would be welcome too. Members were thanked for the time they have given to the project.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

150. WITHAM PUBLIC HALL – ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

A letter was received from Braintree District Council regarding the need to re-list the Public Hall as an asset of community value and Members were asked to consider sending a letter of support.

Members agreed that a letter of support should be sent.

RESOLVED That a letter in support of the Public Hall being re-listed as an asset of community value be sent to Braintree District Council.

151. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (a) **Planning and Transport Committee held 21st November and 5th December 2022**
Minutes 158 to 186 (inclusive)

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

RESOLVED That the Report of the Planning and Transport Committee be received.

- (b) **Policy and Resources Committee held 5th December 2022**
Minutes 26 – 36 (inclusive)

Councillor M. Lager, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, gave his report en bloc.

RESOLVED That the Report of the Policy and Resources Committee be received.

152. EQUALITY POLICY

The Witham Town Council Equality Policy was received.

RESOLVED That the Witham Town Council Policy be received and approved, and the new administration asked to review in June 2023.

153. 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 (S3) and (S7) of the Local Government Act 1972.

154. COMMITTEE REPORT – CONTINUED

Policy and Resources Committee held 5th December 2022

Minutes 37 and 38

Councillor M. Lager continued his Report.

RESOLVED That the Report of the Policy and Resources Committee be received.

155. FUNDING REPORT

The Funding Report was received.

RESOLVED That the Funding Report be received and noted.

156. LAND TRANSFER UPDATE

The Land Transfer Report was received.

RESOLVED That the Land Transfer Report be received and noted.

157. CCTV EXPANSION

A report on CCTV expansion was received.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 8.58 p.m.

Councillor J. Bayford
Town Mayor

NS/GK/21.12.2022