



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE  
01376 520627  
witham.gov.uk

## MINUTES

### WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Date: **Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Present: Councillors

A.	Kilmartin	(Town Mayor)
S.	Ager	
K.	Atwill	
P.	Barlow	
J.	Goodman	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
C.	Livermore	
S.	Rajeev	
M.	Weeks	
J.	Williams	

Braintree District Councillor

S.	Wilson	(Central Ward)
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)

#### 206. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bayford who was isolating, R Williams who was unwell and Pleasance who had a previous engagement. Apologies were received from Councillor Hicks after the Meeting as he had been working.

**RESOLVED** That apologies be received and accepted.

#### 207. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of Town Council held 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were received and confirmed as a true record.

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

#### 208. INTERESTS

Interests were received from Councillors C and M Lager for Minute 211(b) – Traffic Issues, as residents near to Chipping Hill Bridge.

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

There was no member of the press or public present.

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

A report from Essex County Councillor D. Louis had been received, circulated to members and was read out by the Town Mayor.

Apologies had been received from Essex County Councillor R. Playle.

District Councillor S Wilson said that no further progress had been made with the traffic lights by the A12 south junction. She also noted that the recent Rivenhall Park Phase 4 planning application had not been approved.

**211. TRAFFIC ISSUES**

(a) Speed Surveys

Members were asked which roads should be considered for speed surveys in preparation of a Vehicle Activated Sign to be installed. A discussion took place and roads suggested were – Maldon Road, Hatfield Road, Gershwin Boulevard, Flora Road, Collingwood Road, Guithavon Valley and Spa Road. Entrances into the town were also considered suitable, not including the B1018 entrance from Braintree as a fixed speed camera is already installed.

Members suggested that locations should be determined by evidence rather than perception and that it would be useful to have data regarding accidents and speeding in considering suitable locations.

**RESOLVED** That speed survey data history be obtained from Local Highways Panel and accident and speeding information be obtained from Essex Police to determine suitable locations. Item to be next discussed at the Planning & Transport Committee meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

(b) Chipping Hill Bridge

Councillors C and M Lager had declared interests.

The issue of installing traffic signals on Chipping Hill Bridge was put forward for discussion. Members spoke of the issues with the traffic over the priority bridge with suggestions made to reverse the priority direction, clearer signage and restricting heavy goods vehicles. No County Councillors were present but Essex County Councillor D. Louis had provided a technical advice note regarding highways improvements to the Chipping Hill Bridge. It was noted that some improvements were made to the bridge during 2018/2019 to improve visibility but it was considered that there were continuing problems with vehicles using the bridge.

Members agreed that any suggestions to improve the bridge should be evidence based. Members suggested that a technical appraisal should be sought from Essex County as the technical advice note provided was prepared in 2016.

**RESOLVED** That an application be made to the Local Highways Panel to implement a weight restriction on Chipping Hill Bridge.

**RESOLVED** That investigations are carried out into the issues with vehicles using Chipping Hill Bridge including considering improved signage and priority direction.

**212. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

Details of the Town Mayor's engagements attended for period 15<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were received.

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

**213. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

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

Members noted that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and that information would be circulated shortly regarding the format of the meeting and those attending.

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

**214. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- (a) **Planning and Transport Committee held 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**  
Minutes 223 – 243 (inclusive).

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

Minute 227 was discussed and it was noted that the recent application for Rivenhall Park had been refused by Braintree District Council.

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

- (b) **Community Committee held 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**  
Minutes 54 – 70 (inclusive).

Councillor Ager, Chairman of the Community Committee, gave her Report en bloc.

**RESOLVED** That the Report be received.

**215. 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.

**216. COMMITTEE REPORT – CONTINUED**  
**Community Committee held 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**  
Minutes 71 and 72.

Councillor Ager continued her Report en bloc.

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

**217. LEGAL MATTERS**

A report from the Town Clerk was received.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received.

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 9.05p.m.

Councillor A Kilmartin  
Town Mayor

NS/HA/16.3.2022