



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

AGENDA

Meeting of: **Environment Committee**

Date: **Monday, 18th July 2022** Time: **7.30 p.m.**

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

**Members are hereby summoned to attend the above Meeting to transact the following business.
Members are respectfully reminded that each item on the Agenda should be carefully examined. If you have any interest, it must be duly declared.**

To be present:	Councillors	K.	Atwill	(Chairman)
		J.	Goodman	(Vice Chairman)
		J.	Bayford	
		S.	Hicks	
		A.	Kilmartin	
		C.	Lager	
		M.	Lager	
		S.	Rajeev	
		M.	Weeks	

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held 26th April 2022 (previously circulated).

3. INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of interests that Members may wish to give notice of on matters pertaining to any item on this Agenda.

4. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

An opportunity to enable members of the press and public present to comment upon any item on the Agenda.

Order Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is designated for public participation time with no individual speaker exceeding three minutes unless otherwise granted an extension by the Chairman under Standing Order 3(F) & 3(G)

5. CLERK'S REPORT

To receive the Clerk's Report on matters arising ([attached](#) at page 4).

6. COMMITTEE INCOME, EXPENDITURE & BUDGET REPORT

To receive the income and expenditure report for the period 1st April to 30th June 2022 ([attached](#) at page 5).

7. TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM ENVIRONMENT BUDGET

To receive a report and approve the transfer of funds from the Environment budget ([attached](#) at page 6).

8. OPEN SPACES MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee Meeting held 24th May 2022 ([attached](#) at page 8).

9. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

To receive the Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held 30th May 2022 ([attached](#) at page 12).

10. HIRE OF OPEN SPACES POLICY

To receive a report and to approve a change in the Hire of Open Spaces Policy ([attached](#) at page 14).

11. COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS ON WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL OPEN SPACES

To receive and review the Commemorative Items on Witham Town Council Open Spaces policy ([attached](#) at page 16).

12. SNOW CLEARANCE POLICY

To receive and review the Snow Clearance Policy ([attached](#) at page 17).

13. TREE GROUP MINUTES

To receive the Minutes from the Tree Group Meetings held 12th April and 24th May 2022 ([attached](#) at page 18).



Nikki Smith
Town Clerk

NS/GK/12.7.2022



ITEM NO: 5

Officer Report: Clerk's Report

Issue:

- Essex County Council have not yet confirmed whether the Highways Devolution Scheme will be continuing. The scheme for 2021/2022 year concluded on 28th February 2022 but as of 10th June 2022 Essex County Council were not able to confirm what was happening with the scheme.
- Minute 52(b) Environment Committee meeting of 26th April 2022 – the finger post at Maldon Road/Blue Mills Hill junction has now been replaced by Essex County Council.
- A Member's Pop-Up Stall is due to take place on 2nd August 2022 on the River Walk at Bridge Street, opposite Lidl. This will be a dedicated Climate Change Stall and volunteers are welcomed to take part on the day.

Advice:

To receive and note.

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Agenda Item 6

12/07/2022	Witham Town Council Current Year						Page 1
11:32	Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 30/06/2022						
Month No: 3	Cost Centre Report						
	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual	Variance Annual	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>400 Environment</u>							
1401 Dog & Bench Sponsorship Scheme	4,650	1,650	(3,000)			281.8%	
Environment :- Income	4,650	1,650	(3,000)			281.8%	0
4400 Operations PAYE/LGPS	35,691	126,714	91,023		91,023	28.2%	
4420 Equipment Supplies & Maintenance	3,567	4,000	433		433	89.2%	
4425 Lighting Maintenance & Utility	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	0.0%	
4431 Toilet Block - Town Park	175	7,650	7,475		7,475	2.3%	
4432 New Tree Planting	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4433 Tree Maintenance	0	9,000	9,000		9,000	0.0%	
4436 Dog Bin Maintenance	0	600	600		600	0.0%	
4437 Dog & Bench Schemes	2,025	1,200	(825)		(825)	168.8%	
4444 Fleet	1,339	4,000	2,661		2,661	33.5%	
4445 Open Spaces General	251	1,500	1,249		1,249	16.7%	
4446 James Cooke Wood	6	2,000	1,994		1,994	0.3%	
4447 River Walk	5	3,000	2,995		2,995	0.2%	
4448 Whetmead LNR	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4452 River Walk Signage	0	3,000	3,000		3,000	0.0%	
4453 Litter Bins	0	8,000	8,000		8,000	0.0%	
4455 Witham in Bloom	0	12,200	12,200		12,200	0.0%	
4457 Waste Disposal	294	1,000	706		706	29.4%	
Environment :- Indirect Expenditure	43,352	191,864	148,512	0	148,512	22.6%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(38,702)	(190,214)	(151,512)				
Grand Totals:- Income	4,650	1,650	(3,000)			281.8%	
Expenditure	43,352	191,864	148,512	0	148,512	22.6%	
Net Income over Expenditure	(38,702)	(190,214)	(151,512)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(38,702)						

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ITEM NO: 7

Officer Report: Transfer of funds from Environment Budget Line

Issue:

Upon recent review of the 2022/2023 budgets it has been noted that the Environment Budget Line for Litter Bins is £8,000. This is over and above what is expected to be spent on litter bins this year.

A litter bin is due to be ordered to replace an outdated, open-top litter bin at James Cooke Wood which will cost in the region of £800. The remainder of the budget is not due to be needed for litter bins and there is also £20,000 in the Ear Marked Reserves for street furniture renewal which is expected to be used as part of the town centre regeneration project.

With this in mind, it is proposed to reallocate funds from the Litter Bin budget line as follows –

(a) Community Witham (Puppet) Festival

The current budget for the Witham Festival is £18,000 however further funds have been generated in previous years from additional grants and advertising in programmes. This year as the theme is due to be surrounding climate change and recycling, paper programmes are not due to be produced so there will be a lack of additional funding available.

Costs are increasing and so further funding is required to provide a successful event. It is therefore proposed to transfer **£5,000** from the Environment Committee Litter Bin budget line to Community Committee Witham Festival budget.

(b) Picnic Benches

The River Walk green in Guithavon Road has for several years had two picnic benches for the members of the public to use.

Unfortunately, both have been fire damaged and require replacing. Heavy duty picnic benches in recycled plastic, to replace the existing damaged ones, can be purchased for approximately £400 each. The funding for this could be taken from the River Walk budget (£3,000) but with the usual expenses that come out of the River Walk budget line each year it is anticipated that expenses would exceed the budgeted figure by the end of the year.

As the Litter Bin budget for 2022/2023 is overstated, it is proposed to transfer £1,000 to purchase two new picnic benches.



Advice:

Members to approve the transfer of budget funds from the Litter Bin budget line to –

- (a) £5,000 to Witham Festival
- (b) £1,000 to purchase two replacement picnic benches for the River Walk.

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Agenda Item 8



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MINUTES

Meeting of: **Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee**

Date: **24th May 2022**

Present:	Councillors	J	Goodman	
		T	Pleasance	
		S	Ager	
		C	Lager	
		S	Black	(Witham and Countryside Society)
		S	Brailey	(Witham Tree Group)
		J	Palombi	(CPRE)
		H	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
		S	Dyer	(Operations Manager)
		H	Smith	(Operations Team)
		C	Strachan	(Assistant RFO)

In the absence of the current Chairman of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee, it was agreed that Cllr J Goodman should preside as Acting Chairman of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. K Atwill, J Casement, B Fleet and N Heenan

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Steve Hicks was appointed as the Chairman of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee for 2022/2023.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Barry Fleet was appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members discussed the Terms of Reference for the new civic year 2022-2023. The question was raised whether it should include the allotments but as the allotments currently come under the Community Committee it was agreed that it did not need to be included.

It was agreed that quarterly meetings were sufficient, but that any relevant communication outside of the meetings should be shared with members of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee.

The Terms of Reference were **AGREED** for the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee.

5. MINUTES

A query was raised regarding obtaining Tree Preservation Orders on the Gimsons development. It was noted that this was heard by the Planning Applications and Transport Committee and is currently being looked into. This will be dealt with outside of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee as it relates to land not belonging to Witham Town Council. The Gimsons Review Group are also assessing the development.¹

The minutes were **AGREED** and subsequently signed by the acting Chairman.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk confirmed that in addition to the attached report, a factsheet had been circulated today from Environment Agency advising of their maintenance schedule for the current year.

A question was raised as to whether there was any further news with regards to land loss at Whetmead due to the A12 widening scheme. It was noted that the current proposals were agreed at Full Town Council meeting on the 11th April 2022. National Highways are due to submit their Development Consent Order (DCO) in June and any further information will be circulated with the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee once known.

National Highways have been fully consulting with Witham Town Council on the widening scheme and have advised that during construction public access to Whetmead Nature Reserve will be restricted potentially for up to one year, with the Operations Team having limited maintenance access. Members discussed the increased noise levels from the widening and that materials used were due to be noise reducing, and a fence and bund alongside the A12 would also reduce noise.

7. OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

The Operations Manager provided a verbal report and confirmed that the team were into the grass cutting season on the River Walk. A new commemorative bench had recently been installed at Moat Farm Chase and two donated Horsechestnut trees had been planted near Ebenezer Close. Anglian Water had also opened up their outfalls near Ebenezer Close to assist

¹ The Gimsons Review Group reports to the Planning and Transport Committee

with the water issues in the area although further work would be necessary to reinstate the ditches at the back of properties.

He confirmed that he had been liaising with the contractor dealing with ground investigations at Whetmead and that the ground had recently been reinstated following damage caused by the contractor. A meeting has been arranged for two weeks' time to oversee that the work carried out was sufficient. It was also noted that a new commemorative bench had been installed at Whetmead.

It was noted that the planting of wildflower seeds at the Closed Churchyard had not been successful. It was **AGREED** to revisit this with a new planting proposal to be established.

The frequency of grass cutting was also discussed with regards to the No Mow May initiative. The Operations Manager confirmed that the amenity grass area is currently cut once a week during the summer season. It was agreed that the River Walk currently has the right balance of amenity areas and wild areas.

8. POND CONSERVATION

The Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group East had provided details a pond conservation project which had been submitted to the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee to consider following a referral from the Environment Committee and members discussed suitable locations.

The pond in Forest Road was suggested as it is overgrown. It was noted that it was an ephemeral pond and as the water levels have dropped it is dry. The land also belongs to Eastlight and it was suggested that it had been part of a project before. It was therefore agreed to look into the historic notes regarding this area.

Members also discussed James Cooke Wood and the pond in the back channel. It was noted that the project also related to private land owners and that members would consider further if there was any suitable land that may fall within the project remit.

Councillor Pleasance left the meeting at 14.54pm.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that members of the Environment Committee were due to walk the whole of the River Walk following discussions of potential repairs due to the footpath and cycle ways. A survey had previously been carried out with suggested repairs necessary. Members agreed that they would like to join the walk. It was **AGREED** to send details of the survey to members.

James Cooke Wood was a location used as part of BBC Radio Essex Quest programme providing good advertising for the site. It was **SUGGESTED** that a signpost should be installed to direct the public to the woods.

It was noted that Witham Amateur Operatic Society may be holding an opera in James Cooke Wood.

Members discussed planting wildflowers and bluebells in James Cooke Wood. Ongoing tree felling is required to open up the canopy and provide more light to the floor which would aid this.

A query was raised regarding dormice in the area. The Clerk advised that ecology surveys being carried out at Whetmead as a result of the A12 widening project included a survey of dormice on the site.

Concerns were raised regarding replacing bridges on the River Walk as were installed in the 1970's and are of historical significant to the area. It was suggested that when assessed, the bridges are reviewed for both repair and replacement. The Sub-Committee were not aware of any public complaints being received.

The Witham Tree Group were due to plant 25 trees in Spa Road, but due to time constraints this will have to be delayed until the next planting season.

10. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the group will be Tuesday 6th September 2022.

Meeting concluded at 3.15pm

HA/CS/30.05.2022

Signed by Chairman

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Agenda Item 9

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD 30th MAY 2022 AT 6:30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

PRESENT: - Councillors S. Ager, S. Hicks, J. Williams.

Staff:	H	Andrews	-	Deputy Town Clerk
	S	Smith	-	P. A to the council

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr S. Ager was appointed Chairman of the group.

3 APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr J. Williams was appointed Vice Chairman of the group.

4 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members stated that they would like to have the ability to add additional councillors to the group, as well as interested co-optees. It was **AGREED** to include 'and additional interested co-optees to item 10 of the terms of reference.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

6 WITHAM INDUSTRIAL WATCH

Cllr Ager gave feedback on a recent meeting with Witham Industrial Watch and members discussed the possibility of solar panels being used by businesses on the industrial estate in Witham. Cllr S. Ager informed members that she will be visiting Witham Industrial Watch on 8th June 2022 to discuss sustainability with some of the businesses.

7 GENERAL DEBATE

Members discussed topics that they thought may be appropriate for the group to focus on, these included:

- Battery operated tools for open spaces use
- An enquiry into the public toilets budget to see if there is enough for accessible running water in the park.
- Rewilding possibilities in our open spaces.
- Climate change aspects in the Neighbourhood Plan e.g., solar panels and ground source heat pumps in new builds.
- The potential of declaring a climate emergency in Witham.
- Increasing access to climate awareness information, e.g., on the website, in The Voice.

- Ways we can make our events more environmentally friendly, e.g., reduction of plastic use, increased amount of recycling bins.

It was **AGREED** that a future member pop-up stall would be dedicated to climate change awareness and members discussed suitable resources for the stall.²

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members discussed that it is important to protect existing areas of wildlife in the town, as well as utilising pop up stalls, and welcome packs to share information regarding local climate change information.

There being no further business, the panel concluded at 7:40pm.

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Councillor S. Ager
Chairman

SS 06.06.2022

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² Climate change awareness pop-up stall noted for Tuesday 2nd August 2022, location to be confirmed.



ITEM NO: 10

Officer Report: Hire of Open Spaces Policy**Issue:**

Since the introduction of the Hire of Open Spaces Policy the policy has never been utilised and therefore no hire charges have been received by the Council.

We have had enquiries in the past made by charitable or non-profit groups to use the River Walk for their activities but, on receiving a copy of the Hire of Open Spaces Policy, no further contact has been made by them as they have been apparently put off by the charges due.

These type of organisations have been considerate in contacting the Council to seek permission to run their activity on public open space rather than just proceeding to use the land. However, the charges involved could be seen as inappropriate or too expensive for a non-profit community group. There could have been occasions where groups have used the River Walk for their activities without permission that we have not been aware of.

It is therefore considered appropriate to add an exemption clause to the policy for charities and non-profit organisations and the continuation of considering each on a case by case basis. The suggested charges in the policy could therefore be implemented on the occasions where businesses or activities attract a profit.

Advice:

Members to consider the revision to the policy to exclude charitable and non-profit community groups from the hire charges of the policy.



Hire of Open Spaces Policy

This policy underpins the hire and use of certain Open Spaces managed by Witham Town Council.



Policy Overview

1. Hire and use of open spaces are considered on a case by case basis, depending on what a client wishes to hire a space for, to what extent and what purpose.

Charges for Hire

2. In all cases regardless of length and extent of hire, a refundable damage deposit of £100.00 must be made which will be returned if no damage to open spaces areas has occurred.
3. An additional charge of £50.00 is payable in cases where vehicular access is required, and prior arrangement and a clear indication as to the use of vehicles must be provided to the Council in conjunction with insurance schedules.
4. Use of open spaces is charged at a flat rate of £20.00 per hour for weekdays and £30.00 per hour for use on weekends. Assessed on a case by case basis.

General Conditions

- At no point should the hire area be left unattended.

- No footpath or public right of way will be blocked or diverted by hirers.
- A designated point of contact must be provided who will be the responsible and accountable person for the hire.
- No alcohol may be sold on site without an appropriate licence supplied by the Licensing Authority and seen by Witham Town Council.
- Activity on any area of the River Walk hired must not impact in any way on the ecology of the site, with all natural environments not subject to any disturbance by the hirer.
- All bye-laws of open spaces must be adhered to at all times when hired.

EXCLUSIONS

- The Council will consider waiving the hire charge fees for charity and non-profit community groups looking to hire an open space for an activity. Each application will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Agreed and adopted 12/07/2021
Review date: 12/07/2022

POLICY NO: WTC/013 - ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Witham Town Council | 61 Newland Street | Witham | Essex | CM8 2FE



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Agenda Item 11

Witham Town Council: Commemorative items on Witham Town Council open spaces

Updated: 12/07/2021
Review date: 12/07/2022

POLICY NO: WTC/22 - ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

1. This policy relates to commemorative trees and benches on Witham Town Council open spaces – the River Walk, James Cooke Wood and Whetmead Nature Reserve. It updates the previous policy for the display of commemorative items on Witham's River Walk which was approved on 27th January 2014. The revised policy refers to all Witham Town Council managed land.
2. Witham Town Council operate a Commemorative Bench Scheme for the River Walk, James Cooke Wood and Whetmead Nature Reserve. It also runs a Commemorative Tree Scheme for the River Walk which is currently dormant.
3. Commemorative items such as flowers, vases, wreaths or ornaments not permitted to be left on or around these benches or trees or on any areas on Witham Town Council land. This directive is confirmed in the terms and conditions of the Commemorative Bench Scheme application.
4. Any such commemorative item placed on Witham Town Council managed land will be removed by the Operations Team at the Council's discretion.

Agenda Item 12

Witham Town Council: Snow Clearance Policy

1. This policy relates to Witham Town Council's snow clearance procedures to be carried out by Witham Town Council's Operations Team.

One bridge near Bramble Road.
2. In the event of snow that needs clearing, it was agreed that the following areas will be cleared by Witham Town Council's Operations Team following a suitable risk assessment –

All four bridges will be cleared of snow, salted and gritted. The priority order will be the bridge near Laurence Avenue, followed by the bridge near Bramble Road and lastly the two bridges between Bridge Street and Guithavon Road.
3. Town Hall – The public pavement in front of the Town Hall is the responsibility of Essex County Council and any snow clearance and gritting should be left to them. Witham Town Council's Operations Team will clear, salt and grit the driveway leading from Newland Street to the Town Hall car park and a walkway leading to the side entrance of the building and kitchen. This should minimise the risk of slipping by staff and visitors to the Town Hall. It is not considered necessary to clear the whole car park.
4. Bridges – The Operations Team will be responsible for the four bridges along the River Walk.

The bridge near Laurence Avenue leading across the river to Maldon Road Park has high usage and is particularly hazardous as it is shaded by large trees.

Two bridges between Bridge Street and Guithavon Road which may be used by students of Maltings Academy.

Updated: 12/7/2021
Review date: 12/7/2022

POLICY NO: WTC/27 - ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13

Minutes of Tree Group meeting on the 12th April.

Present : Allan Waight, Eric Teverson, Richard Hawkes, Graham Wingrove, Barry Fleet, Mark Austin.

1. Thanks - to Eric for hosting our meetings for such a long period.

2 Apologies - Ken Davies, Stanley Brailey

3 Minutes of the 22nd March accepted.

4.Matters arising - there was no further news regarding the signage for the Memorial Park; it was decided that we would not have a presence at the annual Town Meeting this year.

5.Future planning

a) Spa Road - no further news (post meeting note - Shaun has advised that due to pressure of work, this must now be deferred to next winter);
b) Alan Road - no further news, assume may proceed next winter;
c) Templars - their grant application has been refused! Alternative options discussed - Town Council budget, councillor grants, ECC fund, us if necessary. Barry will discuss with Mel of the residents' association and our ECC contact;
d). Barry reported on his meeting with Tom Moat of ECC, having shown him a number of the sites we had planted and planned to plant. I had explained that we had not planted on ECC land because of the application challenges - his view was that the system was intended to act as a deterrent and only two approvals had been granted in Essex in the last five years! The system is now changing so that applications will now be via him so therefore internal not external and approvable. Also he has a pot of money for assisting planting.

6.Developer planting - Bellway have passed the issue on to their management team and going to competitive tender. Mark will advise them not to replant before autumn.

7. Website

a). Chatten Free School have asked for help. Allan suggested that we supply 2 trees for the sensory garden (betula and cherry). We will need to survey first and explain need for after care. Allan will seek a meeting with them;
b). Aegon had asked about working with us and Allan will refer to our usual contact there.

8.Report to WTC - Barry and Allan attending.

9.Finances - Ken 's report circulated; insurance premium due which Barry will deal with.

10.AOB

- a). Watering - we now need to water 2 trees in Luard Way as Terry Goody is moving; Richard has prepared a list of all the trees we have to water, 142, which is 3 bowser loads; we will start on 21st April; Eric will set up the bowser; it was noted that Jane can also tow the bowser;
- b. Maintenance - some broken ties to replace and posts to be replaced to keep the mower away at the Memorial Park, to be attended to this Thursday;
- c). Allan wrote to Cllr Kilmartin as Town Mayor re the newly planted tree in the park as no irrigation tube has been supplied. Who will look after it? Allan also raised the issue of the WW 1 alder as the posts have rotted. The mayor has acknowledged.

11. Next meeting is on the 24th May at the Witham Hub and will include the AGM. 7.30PM. A more social event for volunteers could be arranged for June.

Minutes of the Tree Group Meeting for the 24th May.

Present: Allan Waight, Eric Teverson, Richard Hawkes, Graham Wingrove, Stanley Brailey, Ken Davies, Barry Fleet

1. Apologies - Mark Austin

2. Minutes of the 12th April accepted.

3. Matters arising - Allan reported that the issues with the trees in the Park had been resolved, ie the alder has been repotted and an irrigation tube installed on the other; Ken advised that a robinia had been removed on the Humber Road Estate, apparently diseased.

4. Future planning

a) Templars estate - the residents' association have been given a £750 grant by the Town Council; we should hear about funding via the County Council in July; District councillor grants are also possible; we may need to think about altering the proposed planting scheme to reflect the actual funds available; the County Council would also pay us for watering with the details not yet known;

b). Chatten Free School - Allan and Barry reported on their visit to the school, meeting Lisa Harper. The site has significant potential. Initially, they need two trees for the sensory garden (Allan having suggested suitable species) and two birches in the central garden. However, it was noted that this was private land with no public access; it was agreed that Allan would look into this further; we can advise them and probably order trees for them and help plant but funding is the issue;

c). Spa Road - we hope to plant 30 trees next winter;

d) Alan Road - some planting next winter may be possible.

5. Report to the Town Council - Allan, Barry and Mark had attended the council meeting to talk about the issues raised in the report, particularly the problems with developer schemes. The council thanked us for our work.

6. Developer planting

a) Rivenhall Park - Mark had emailed a report that there were 210 trees of which 189 appeared okay, 6 were stressed and 15 were dead. He will be raising this with the developer;

b) Gimsons - the Town Council are concerned about the trees on the site and had suggested a meeting to consider whether a TPO is needed; it was noted that the tree protection plan includes a new TPO, so presumably that indicates that other trees did not merit such protection?

7. Website - details of our site can be advertised on the rolling display at the Hub, and it was agreed that this would be a good idea.

8.Finance - expenses paid to Allan (hire of room at the Hub) and Barry (Zurich insurance renewal) ; it was discussed whether we needed additional insurance for the contents of the garage and it was decided that a notional sinking fund instead of paying for additional cover would be sufficient.

9.Watering - it was agreed that because of the heavy rain, only a partial watering run would be needed this week; Allan and Stanley have done some spraying so that irrigation tubes can be located although trees with low growth are not sprayed.

10.Any other business

- a). We have been advised by Amanda at BDC of a volunteer event on the 9th June. It was agreed that we would not participate;
- b) Local resident Graham Want has 9 small trees in pots, which he will grow on for us to use next winter;
- c). Stanley suggested that some dead trees in Forest Road could be replaced;
- d) Tesco are removing trees in their car park - staff were told it was to ' control vermin', which seems ridiculous. The motive is more likely to be to increase the number of parking spaces;
- e) Stanley advised that all of the trees on the frontage of Shortridge Court have been removed, no reason known. They may not have been particularly good specimens but removing all of the shading to the flats is foolish.

11. Next meetings:

- a) Social meeting at the White Hart on the 21st June, 7.30pm, volunteers to be invited;
- b) Committee meeting at the Hub on the 19th July, 7.30 pm.

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