



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

MINUTES

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

Date: **9th October 2019**

Present:

Councillors	J.C.	Goodman	(Chairman)
Miss	C.	Jay	
	S.E.	Hicks	
Mrs	S.C.	Lager	
	R.P	Ramage	
	S	Brailey	(Witham Tree Group)
	J	Casement	(Witham Wombles)
	A	Chick	(Witham Rotary Club)
	B	Fleet	(Tree Warden)
	J	Palombi	(CPRE)
	P	Shuttleworth	(Local Wildlife interests)
	D	Smith	(Local Wildlife interests)
	J.P	Sheehy	(Town Clerk)
	S	Dyer	(Operations Manager)

24. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations received.

26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 19TH JUNE 2019

Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and subsequently signed by the chairman.

27. QUESTIONS & STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public present.

28. CONSIDERATIONS OF WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS

No written representations had been received.

29. OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

A verbal report was given by the Operations Manager. He advised that following the addition of a 4th member of staff in the Operations Team, greater capacity was slowly being realised as a programme of cross training is implemented.

30. CLERK'S REPORT

Members received the clerk's report, noting that a first draft of the new River Walk Management Plan had been discussed and reviewed by the selected panel of Members and will return to a future meeting of the committee for in-depth analysis. Additional details concerning river clearance work being conducted by the Environment Agency were also received and a final update concerning an installation of knee railing at Saxon Drive.

31. FUTURE PLANS FOR HELEN COURT/MALDON ROAD AREA OF THE RIVER WALK

Members considered immediate future plans for this section of the River Walk. After debate, it was considered that a robust future plan for this area should be set out within the new River Walk Management Plan with consideration to be given to improving signage in the area and consideration of options open to the Council to improve and encourage a wildflower meadow in this area.

It was **AGREED** that the Operations Team would perform a single cut to this area in recognition that as part of the original management proposals of the wildflower meadow, an annual cut to stimulate and encourage growth should take place. The site would then be left alone until further consideration for a more robust management arrangement as part of the new management plans.

32. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A query was raised concerning the grant of consent for the Lidl site adjacent to the River Walk to ensure that development was not encroaching on the River Walk in any way¹

33. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The time and date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Wednesday 4th December 2019 at 3.00pm.**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 4.01pm

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Councillor J Goodman
Chairman

JS/25.11.2019

¹ Development proposals have been examined against the Town Council's title deeds of the River Walk, confirming development is within the correct boundaries and does not encroach on the River Walk.