



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

MINUTES

Meeting of: **Town Council**

Date: **Monday, 20th January 2020**

Present: Councillors

Mrs	S.C.	Lager	(Town Mayor)
	R.P.	Ramage	(Deputy Town Mayor)
Mrs	S.	Ager	
	K.L.	Atwill	
	P.R.	Barlow	
	J.C.	Goodman	
	S.E.	Hicks	
Miss	C.	Jay	
Mrs	A.	Kilmartin	
	M.C.M.	Lager	
	T.A.	Pleasance	
Miss	M.L.	Weeks	
	J.	Sheehy	(Town Clerk)
Mrs	G.	Kennedy	(Committee Clerk)
Miss	N.	Smith	(Assistant RFO)

89. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.C. Bayford and P.M. Ryland who had previous engagements, and Councillor R. Williams who was working.

90. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 13th January 2020 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

91. INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

92. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no member of the press or public present.

93. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk advised Members that there would be a 'Pop-Up' stall on Saturday 25th January 2020 at the Newland Centre from 10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. to give information on Social Isolation and Community Safety. Members were asked to contact the Assistant RFO direct if they could assist.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

94. ESTIMATES SUB-COMMITTEE

The draft Minutes of the Estimates Sub-Committee Meeting held 6th January 2020 were received and Members asked to agree a precept for 2020/2021.

The Leader of the Council drew Members' attention to significant figures in the budget and that money would be available to complete the tree maintenance and repair the worst footpaths and cycleways on the River Walk. This coming year renovations would be undertaken to the Information Centre and to create proper accommodation for the Open Spaces team and their equipment. He said CCTV and the introduction of dedicated Special Constables for Witham made the town both feel and be a safer place. He explained that the Town Council would explore the possibility of having a Neighbourhood Plan to address planning problems. He added that when the District Council sold Bramstons Sports Centre, £3.8m was earmarked towards a new health centre in the town and now it looked as though this would be provided as part of redevelopment of the Newlands Centre. He stressed the importance of ensuring that this money is spent in Witham.

Members asked questions and made statements about the budget but were in overall agreement to the proposals.

In answer to a question regarding the tax base and how much additional money would be raised by new homes, the Town Clerk explained that an additional 241 dwellings at Band D had been identified and an additional £16,300 would be raised without an increase in tax.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Estimates Sub-Committee Meeting held 6th January 2020 be received and the Recommendations be agreed by the Town Council.

RESOLVED That a Precept of £624,473.00, a Band D equivalent of £73.70 be agreed.

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 7.53 p.m.

Councillor Mrs S.C. Lager
Town Mayor

JS/GK/23.1.2020