



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

## MINUTES

Meeting of: **Town Council**

Date: **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Present: Councillors

Mrs	S.C.	Lager	(Town Mayor)
Mrs	S.	Ager	
	P.R.	Barlow	
	J.C.	Bayford	
	J.C.	Goodman	
	S.E.	Hicks	
Miss	C.	Jay	
Mrs	A.	Kilmartin	
	M.C.M.	Lager	
	C.S.	Livermore	
	T.A.	Pleasance	
Miss	M.L.	Weeks	
	J.	Sheehy	(Town Clerk)
Mrs	H.	Andrews	(Asst. Proper Officer)
Miss	N.	Smith	(Asst. RF0)

### 89. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R.P. Ramage who had a previous engagement and Councillor R. Williams who was working.

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

### 90. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 20<sup>th</sup> 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. ESSEX COUNTY AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE**

No Essex County Councillor was in attendance. No updates were received from District Councillors present.

**94. INVITATION FROM CITIZENS ADVICE**

Members discussed the invitation from Citizens Advice for the Town Council to become a Corporate Member of the Board as a formality previously overlooked.

**RESOLVED** That the application be made to become a Member of the Board.

**95. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

Details of the Mayor's engagements were received. The Town Mayor noted that the most recent Bollywood Night event was particularly enjoyable and thanked Sindhu and Rajeev for arranging the evening.

The Town Mayor reminded members of her Civic Service to be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm at the United Reformed Church. This is to be a special celebratory event for the town and it is hoped that all members and their partners would attend with a parade from the Town Hall to United Reformed Church.

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

**96. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

It was noted that the minutes received under Committee Reports were actually 'draft' minutes and any anomalies would be addressed at the relevant Committee.

**(a) Community Committee Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Minutes 80 – 95 (inclusive)

Councillor J.C. Bayford, Vice-Chairman of the Community Committee, although not present at the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020, gave his Report en bloc.

**Minute 84 – Essex Police**

Members discussed the increasing drug misuse problem in Witham and what the Council could do in liaison with Essex Police to address the problem.

**RESOLVED** That an item be included on the next Community Committee meeting agenda to discuss the drug misuse problem in Witham.

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

**(b) Environment Committee Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Minutes 71 – 84 (inclusive)

Councillor T. A. Pleasance, Chairman of the Environment Committee, gave his Report en bloc.

**Minute 75**

Members discussed the recent traffic signalling improvements at Newland Street and Maldon Road junctions and noted that the traffic was better when the road was closed.

**RESOLVED** That a letter is sent to Essex Highways regarding the traffic signalling improvements.

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

**(c) Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Minutes 72 – 75 (inclusive), 78 – 79 (inclusive) and part of Minute 92.

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

**Minute 84**

Members discussed whether further Tuesdays could be included on the meeting schedule for the Civic Year 2020/2021 to incorporate more members being able to attend meetings. It was noted that the draft schedule needs to be publicised but amendments could be made to it at a later date if necessary.

**RESOLVED** That the Policy and Resources Committee reconsider the meeting schedule for the Civic Year 2020/21 but the current draft meeting schedule be adopted.

**Minute 89**

Members discussed that the work required on the lift should be progressed urgently as it is currently out of action.

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

**(d) Planning Applications and Transport Committee Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Minutes 190 – 220 (inclusive)

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

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

**EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** That under the Public Bodies (Admission 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 (Section 3 and 5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**97. COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)**

**(a) Community Committee Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Minutes 96 – 99 (inclusive)

Councillor J. C. Bayford, Vice-Chairman of the Community Committee, continued his Report.

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

**(b) Environment Committee Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Minutes 85 and 86

Councillor T. A. Pleasance, Chairman of the Environment Committee, continued his Report

**RESOLVED** That the Environment Committee Report be received.

**(c) Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held 27<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Minutes 76, 77, 90 – 95 (inclusive)

Councillor M.C.M. Lager, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, continued his Report.

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

**98. FREEDOM OF WITHAM**

It was discussed that a policy be considered for suitable candidates to receive the Freedom of Witham putting in place criteria and processes for obtaining the honour.

**RESOLVED** That the Policy and Resources Committee consider a policy for the Freedom of Witham

**99. PUBLIC DOMAIN**

It was agreed that Minute 98, discussed in Private Session, should be moved into the Public Domain.

**RESOLVED** That Minute 98 – Freedom of Witham, be moved into the Public Domain

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 8.45 p.m.

Councillor Mrs S.C. Lager  
Town Mayor

JS/HA/10.03.2020

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