



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

## MINUTES

Meeting of: **Community Committee**

Date: **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2FE**

Present: Councillors

S.	Ager	(Chairman)
J.	Williams	(Vice Chairman)
J.	Bayford	
P.	Heath	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
R.	Williams	

Also in attendance

Cllrs	P.	Barlow	
	S.	Hicks	
	H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
	V.	Goldspink	(Events Co-ordinator)
	G.	Kennedy	(Committee Clerk)
	S.	Smith	(PA to the Council)
	C.	Strachan	(Assistant RFO)

Action for Family Carers

R.	Loader	(Chair of Trustees)
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### **17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jay who was unwell, Rajeev who was travelling abroad and Weeks who would be working late.

### **18. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Committee held 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **19. INTERESTS**

Councillor Barlow declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 28(b) - Grant Aid Request, Witham BB, as his grandchildren are members of that organisation. Councillor Bayford declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 28(a) – Grant Aid Request, Witham Cricket Club, as the club will be a beneficiary from the Mayor's Charity and his stepson played cricket at the club.

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

There was no member of the press or public present.

**21. GUEST SPEAKER**

The Chairman welcomed Rebecca Loader, the Chair of Trustees of Action for Family Carers, to the Meeting.

Rebecca explained her connections to Witham and that she had been a volunteer on the Trustees Board for seven years and the Chair for the past four years. She gave a slide presentation as well as film clips which detailed the plight of unpaid carers looking after partners and children some as young as five looking after a parent. Of the 180,000 unpaid carers in Essex, 3,000 are over 85 and 10,000 between the ages of 5 and 18. Carers are more inclined to suffer ill health and mental illness themselves as well as financial hardship. She then detailed the work of Action for Family Carers which included support, help with problems and having fun. She said that a Day Care service was not viable in Witham but clients from Witham go to the centre in Maldon which is a life-line to many. She said that they are not supported by Essex County Council who use another provider and their funding comes from donations, grants and legacies.

Members were very impressed with the work of Action for Family Carers and Rebecca said that information leaflets would be left along with the presentation would also be available.

The Chairman thanked Rebecca for attending the Meeting and her informative presentation.

**22. COMMUNITY SPECIAL CONSTABLE JAKE MABEY**

The Chairman explained that the SPC Mabey had been held up and hopefully the presentation could be held later in the Meeting.

**23. ESSEX POLICE**

No police officer had arrived to give a report.

**24. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's Report on matters arising was received.

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

**25. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND BUDGET REPORT**

The Community Committee Income and Expenditure report for the period up to 30th June 2022 was received.

It was noted that an over-spend in the budget was projected.

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

**26. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

A verbal report was received regarding Community Speedwatch.

It was noted that training could not begin for two to three months and that ideally at least ten volunteers would be needed for the scheme to proceed. There had been little interest by the public but this would be pushed at the next Pop-Up stalls.

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

## **27. POP UP STALLS**

Members noted the dates of the Pop Up Stalls being held in Witham as -

Saturday 3rd September in the Grove Centre  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at Spa Road  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November to be advised.

The Chairman gave feed-back from the recent stall on the River Walk but considered the location had been wrong. It was recognised that children take the most interest in climate change and this would be one of the topics at the Witham Festival in September.

The next stall in the Grove Centre would focus on crime, fraud and security.

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

## **28. GRANT AID REQUESTS**

### (a) Witham Cricket Club

Councillor Bayford had declared an interest.

A grant aid request was received from the Cricket Club for £900 towards the cost of a new boundary rope and winder to mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club.

Members were supportive of this request and Councillor Hicks, as a District Council, suggested that as he had funds available from his Community Grant he would like to make a 50% contribution to the costs.

**RESOLVED** That a grant of £450 be made to the Witham Cricket Club for the boundary rope and winder and cover any shortfall in funding if it occurs with regard to the District Council Community Grant.

### (b) Witham BB

Councillor Barlow had declared an interest.

An explanatory note along with the application form considered in February 2022 were received from Witham BB requesting a further £3,242 for adventurous and skills based programme, expeditions and advertising.

Members considered that further information should be sought from the Witham BB before a decision was taken.

**RESOLVED** That a decision be deferred until the next Community Committee Meeting so that further information may be sought to ensure value would be provided for the children of Witham.

**29. QUEEN’S JUBILEE WORKING GROUP**

- (a) The Minutes from the final Meeting of the Queen’s Jubilee Working Group held 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 were received.

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

- (b) Members agreed with the recommendation to dissolve the Queen’s Jubilee Working Group.

**RESOLVED** That the Queen’s Jubilee Working Group be dissolved.

**30. EVENTS REPORT**

- (a) A report was received from the Events Co-ordinator on upcoming events.

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

- (b) Members were asked to consider whether to hold a dog show or a music festival event in 2023.

Members were very much divided and the consensus of opinion that an event to include the dog show followed by a music festival with an element of Community Day should be considered.

It was explained that a music festival would be costly and a day-long event would not be practical to staff.

**RESOLVED** That the feasibility of having both events be explored and the item further discussed at Town Council.

**31. WINTER WARMING**

A report about the fuel crisis looming this winter was received.

Members agreed that an up-to-date list of places to attend to keep warm this winter would be beneficial but were unsure whether there would be sufficient volunteers to be able to host a weekly coffee morning or afternoon at the Town Hall. After further discussion it was agreed to take this forward by an informal group.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and further investigations undertaken.

Councillor Hicks left the Meeting at this point.

**32. ALLOTMENTS**

Members were asked to consider the allotment management report.

It was agreed that if an allotment holder with a half-size plot wished to obtain a full size plot they would need to go on the waiting list.

Members suggested that Braintree District Council should be approached to explore the possibility of acquiring adjacent land to Cut Throat Lane to extend the allotment site.

**RESOLVED** That if an allotment holder with a half-size plot wished to obtain a full size plot they would need to go on the waiting list.

**RESOLVED** That the Allotment Policy be agreed.

**RESOLVED** That Braintree District Council be approached to explore the possibility of acquiring adjacent land to extend the Cut Throat Lane allotment site.

### **33. SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

A report was received.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received.

### **34. 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 (S3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **35. INFORMATION CENTRE**

A report was received from the Information Centre Manager.

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

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.19 p.m.

Councillor S Ager  
Chairman

CS/GK/17.8.2022