



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

MINUTES

WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Date: **Monday, 10th July 2023**

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

Present: Councillors

S.	Ager	(Town Mayor)
L.	Barlow	(Deputy Town Mayor)
E.	Adelaja	
P.	Barlow	
J.C.	Coleman	
J.M.	Coleman	
B.	Fleet	
L.	Headley	
T.	Hewitt	
J.	Martin	
R.	Playle	
A.	Sloma	
E.	Williams	
N.	Smith	(Town Clerk)
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
G.	Kennedy	(Committee Clerk)

Two members of the public.

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ramage; and Councillors Heath and Taylor who were attending a Braintree District Council Meeting.

Apologies were also given by Councillor L. Barlow as she would need to leave the Council Chamber as she had a clash of Meetings.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

49. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 12th June 2023 be confirmed as a true copy and signed by the Town Mayor.

50. INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

51. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comment was made by the member of the public.

52. CO-OPTION

The two co-option candidates were invited to give a short introduction and then Members were asked to vote on who to co-opt as a Councillor.

RESOLVED That Tom Hewitt be co-opted to serve as Town Councillor.

53. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Hewitt then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

RESOLVED That the Declaration of Acceptance of Office be accepted.

Councillor L. Barlow then left the Meeting.

54. ESSEX COUNTY AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor Playle, as an Essex County Councillor, gave a report. He said that there would be a Highways Liaison meeting on 12th July 2023 and that the speed survey budget was overstretched. Phase 1 of the pothole scheme had now closed. He reminded Members that urgent potholes could be reported in the normal way but non-urgent ones could be considered in phase 2 of the scheme. He reported that there would be a full repair of the footway on Glebe Crescent. He spoke of the consultations on the Norwich to Tilbury grid update with overhead wires and pylons; the incinerator at Rivenhall, and electric charging points.

Councillor Martin, as a Braintree District Councillor, spoke about the problems of parking on estate roads, particularly outside schools. She said that she was lobbying for some grass areas, which had been left unmown to improve ecology, to be cut to allow children to play. She added that she had been in constant touch with Essex County Councillor Louis for the verges to be cut along Hatfield Road without success.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

55. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

Details of the Town Mayor's engagements attended for the period 7th June to 4th July 2023 were received.

The Town Mayor said that in addition, she had attended Aßlar in Germany for Stadtfest which had been a wonderful occasion.

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted.

56. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report on matters arising was received.

She explained that the District Council's project for the regeneration of the Town Centre had been delayed due to contractor issues but painting and refurbishment work would begin shortly. Engineering work had been held up by Essex County Council as permissions are awaited.

The Town Clerk stated that volunteers are needed to help at Witham's Hangout on a Wednesday evening at the Rugby Club.

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that Conrad Energy, who had installed the new generator at Cut Throat Lane, had offered a new porta-cabin to the Allotment Association. Planning consent would need to be obtained from the District Council.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

57. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) **Planning and Transport Committee held 12th and 26th June 2023**

Minutes 11 to 36 (inclusive)

Councillor P. Barlow, Chairman of the Planning and Transport Committee, gave his report of the Meetings en bloc.

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

(b) **Policy and Resources Committee held 26th June 2023**

Minutes 1 to 10 (inclusive)

Councillor P. Barlow, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, gave his report of the Meeting en bloc.

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

58. APPOINTMENT OF CITIZENS ADVICE REPRESENTATIVE

The Town Clerk explained that this matter had been dealt with.

58. SILVER CINEMA

The Town Mayor explained that the previous volunteers who had run the Silver Cinema from its conception were now stepping back. Unless three Members were willing to volunteer to assist then the Town Council could no longer run the cinema. The Royal British Legion were willing to continue running the cinema on the understanding that the Town Council would fund if necessary the purchase of films. It was understood that there was currently £90 in the float.

RESOLVED That the Town Council write to the Royal British Legion and officially request they take over the running of the Silver Cinema with the support of Members volunteering when possible.

RESOLVED That the Town Council continue to financially support the Silver Cinema if necessary.

59. 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.

60. COMMITTEE REPORT – CONTINUED

Policy and Resources Committee held 26th June 2023

Minute 11

Councillor P. Barlow continued his report.

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

61. FUNDING REPORT

A funding report was received.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

62. LAND TRANSFER UPDATE

A land transfer report was received.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 8.22 p.m.

Councillor S. Ager
Town Mayor
NS/GK/12.07.2023