



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE
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MINUTES

WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Date: **Tuesday, 14th December 2021**

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

Present: Councillors

A.	Kilmartin	(Town Mayor)
J.	Bayford	(Deputy Town Mayor)
S.	Ager	
K.	Atwill	
P.	Barlow	
J.	Goodman	
S.	Hicks	
C.	Jay	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
C.	Livermore	
T.	Pleasance	
M.	Weeks	
J.	Williams	

Essex County Councillor

R.	Playle	(Witham Northern)
J.	Sheehy	(Town Clerk)
N.	Smith	(Deputy Town Clerk)
H.	Andrews	(Assistant Town Clerk)

There was one member of the public present.

155. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rajeev who was unwell and Councillor Williams who had a work engagement.

156. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Town Council held 15th November 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

157. INTERESTS

Councillor Goodman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 166 as Branch Secretary for the Witham Royal British Legion. Councillors Ager, Hicks, Weeks and Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 163 having previously signed a petition to save the tree from felling. Councillor Hicks declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 164 having written a letter of objection regarding the proposed cycleway.

158. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or statements from the member of the public present.

159. ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE

There were no representatives from the Witham branch of the St John Ambulance in attendance so this item was not received.

160. ESSEX COUNTY AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE

A verbal report was received from Essex County Councillor Playle regarding the consultation on the crossing at Cressing Road. Councillor Playle also stated that there was a possibility of a new crossing at the junction of Forest and Conrad Road. Councillor Playle informed members that a hardship grant was available for qualifying members of the public over the Christmas period if members were aware of anyone in need. He also informed members that the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 was now published online.

The Town Mayor thanked Councillor Playle for his report and comments.

161. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

Details of the Town Mayor's engagements for the period 16th November to 14th December 2021 were received.

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted.

162. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report on matters arising was received. Members agreed with the recommendation to close the River Walk's unofficial walkway by Helen Court, due to health and safety concerns.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

163. ELM TREE AT LYNFIELD

Councillors Ager, Hicks, Weeks and J Williams had declared interests.

A response was received from Councillor Derrick Louis regarding the proposed felling of the Elm Tree at Lynfield.

Members discussed their fears that the tree would still be felled and that it was not appropriate to try and re-locate the elm tree elsewhere.

RESOLVED That the Town Clerk write to Essex Highways stating that the Town Council oppose the felling of the Elm Tree and that a copy be sent to Braintree District Council.

164. COLLINGWOOD ROAD – PROPOSED CYCLEWAY

Councillor Hicks had declared an interest.

(a) Notes

Members received the notes from the Zoom meeting held with Bellway Developers in regards to the proposed cycleway.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

(b) Verbal Report

A statement was read regarding a meeting that occurred between members, the office and Steve Field from Bellway Homes.

Members were made aware that a feasibility study had been requested to look at connecting the River Walk cycleways with the railway station. Members discussed the possibility of forming a new 'Cycleways Strategy Group' which would report to the Planning and Transport Committee.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

165. GRANT AID REQUEST: WITHAM CHESS CLUB

An amended grant aid request was received from Witham Chess Club.

RESOLVED That the grant application be approved and Witham Chess Club be awarded £742 to help with the cost of hiring premises to play chess.

166. REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

Councillor Goodman had declared an interest.

A letter of thanks was received from Colonel (Retd) Thomas, Chairman of the Witham Branch of the Royal British Legion.

RESOLVED That the letter be received and noted.

167. GIMSONS REVIEW GROUP

Members received the resignation of Councillor Atwill from the Gimsons Review Group.

RESOLVED that Councillor Atwill's resignation be received.

RESOLVED that Councillor Kilmartin be voted in as a member of the Gimsons Review Group.

168. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) **Planning and Transport Committee Meetings held 15th October and 29th November 2021**

Minutes 150 – 174 (inclusive)

Councillor Goodman, Chairman of the Planning and Transport Committee, gave a report of the Meetings en bloc.

RESOLVED That the Report be received.

(b) **Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held 29th November 2021**

Minutes 35 – 50 (inclusive)

Councillor Lager, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, gave a report of the Meeting.

RESOLVED That the report be received.

Councillor Livermore excused himself from the meeting.

169. 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 (S5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

170. COMMITTEE REPORT – CONTINUED

Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held 29th November 2021 (Cont'd)

Minutes 32 to 34 inclusive.

Councillor Lager continued his report.

Councillor Livermore returned to the meeting.

RESOLVED That the report be received.

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Councillor A. Kilmartin
Town Mayor

NS 15/12/2021