



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

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Tuesday, 30th August 2022**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall, 61 Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2FE**

Present: Councillors

J.	Goodman	(Chairman)
A.	Kilmartin	(Vice Chairman)
P.	Barlow	
P.	Heath	
S.	Hicks	
C.	Jay	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
T.	Pleasance	
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
S.	Smith	(P.A to the Council)
C.	Strachan	(Assistant RFO)

Also in attendance: Cllr S. Ager

And two members of the public.

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K. Atwill who was abroad.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and accepted.

85. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 15th August 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

86. INTERESTS

There were no interests declared

87. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Green of Maltings Lane commented that in regards to Minute 92 – Decisions, application 16/01209/FUL – Land to the south side Maltings Lane, that residents had expected a pharmacy to be created as well as shops within the development, but that this now seemed unlikely despite previous discussions with the NHS trust. He was therefore hoping that Witham Town Council could ensure that they are keeping an eye on this project.

Members thanked Mr Green for his comments and that whilst they shared his concerns the creation of a pharmacy now seemed unlikely, but that they would keep this under observation nonetheless.

88. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer informed Members that contact had been made with Essex County Council to see whether the coping stones on Chipping Hill Bridge with WW1 graffiti could be removed and preserved however ECC had no requirement to remove the stones, so to do this would incur the extra costs of specialists and replacement stones.

RESOLVED That further information regarding the costs to remove, preserve and replace the coping stones be sought and explore the possibility of getting professional photos taken of the stones in case of damage.

Members were also informed that Prezzo had requested to extend its licence for its three outdoor tables. Members had no objection to the licence renewal as long as the licencing authority were in agreement.

RESOLVED That the Town Council had no objections to the proposed licence for outside Prezzo.

The Planning Officer also mentioned that a delegated decision agreeing that a street licence for tables outside Wetherspoons had been made.

89. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

22/02056/HH

27 Ager Road, Witham, Essex

Single-storey rear extension.

NO OBJECTION

22/02095/HH

21A Chalks Road, Witham, Essex

Single-storey rear extension.

NO OBJECTION

22/02088/HH

43 St Nicholas Road, Witham, Essex

Single-storey rear extension, and replacement of detached garage.

NO OBJECTION

90. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

22/02072/TPOCON

21 The Paddocks, Witham, Essex, CM8 2DR

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a conservation area.

NO OBJECTION in line with the Planning Officer's advice as the tree was dead and self-seeded.

91. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans.

92. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

Members commented on the approved application 22/01354/TPOCON regarding 6 Chipping Hill, Witham, as only a week before this application was approved by the Planning Authority, Witham Town Council recommended refusal and that was the last correspondence available on the Braintree District Council website.

Members were concerned that there was no apparent evidence that the different species of tree had been recorded or that the advice of Braintree District Council's Landscape Officer had been sought. They were concerned that the proper procedure had not been followed.

Members agreed that the Planning Officer should contact Braintree District Council to establish whether the correct advice was sought by their Officers.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted, and that the Planning Officer contact Braintree District Council.

93. CYCLING DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Members received the Minutes of the Meeting held 18th August 2022; they commented that although no action plan or decisions had been agreed so far, the group was still in its early stages, and progress would be made as meetings continue.

Members agreed with the recommendation that the group's membership should be increased to allow Councillor Heath, as a keen cyclist, to join to decrease the risk of being inquorate.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Cycling Development Group held 18th August 2022 be received and that the recommendation to increase the group's membership be taken to Full Town Council.

94. LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL REQUESTS

- (a) Members received a request regarding the lack of markings at the bus stop in Braintree Road.

They were unsure as to whether the bus stop in question was legally a bus layby and therefore whether parking restrictions were enforceable.

RESOLVED That the Planning Officer should investigate the status of the layby before further action was considered.

- (b) A request had been received for dropped kerbs at Blunts Hall Bridge.

Members were unsure as to whether there was enough evidence to justify the spending. It was agreed that the resident should be contacted for further information before this matter was considered further.

RESOLVED That the resident be contacted to ascertain the number of people affected by the lack of dropped kerbs in this location.

95. A12 WIDENING

Members were informed that the Teams Meeting to discuss the A12 widening had been pushed back a week to the 15th September 2022, and that any interested Members could be sent the details.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Councillor J. Goodman
Chairman

GK/SS
01.09.2022