



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

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 18th July 2022**

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

Present: Councillors

J.	Goodman	(Chairman)
A.	Kilmartin	(Vice Chairman)
K.	Atwill	
P.	Barlow	
S.	Hicks	(arrived 6.56 p.m.)
M.	Lager	
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)

And one member of the public.

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Lager who was unwell and Pleasance who had a previous meeting. Councillor Jay was absent.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and accepted.

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 4th July 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

51. INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

52. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Green from Maltings Lane wished to speak about the applications relating to the land to the rear of the Jack and Jenny and the request for a speed survey in Maltings Lane. He considered it a tragedy that the 100 year old hedge would be removed. He said that the vegetation would absorb the carbon monoxide emitted by vehicles and stressed that all trees and hedges should be protected from development. He considered that the District Council ignores the Town Council's views and that whilst in the past members of the press would report Council Meetings members of the public are now unaware of decisions. He supported the request for a speed survey in Maltings Lane at the end by Maldon Road which does not benefit from traffic calming measures.

The Chairman thanked Mr Green for his comments and agreed the importance of protecting hedges and trees. He said that the Town Council cannot insist on what the press report but gave the assurance that Members do fight for the best for Witham's residents.

53. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer explained that following the Town Council's comments regarding the proposed changes to the layout of the bus stop in Newland Street, Essex County Council had explained that the disabled parking bay could not be marked as two bays as each bay would need to be 6.6m in length and the bay outside the Town Hall is just 8m.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

54. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

22/01806/HH

1 Gimson Close, Witham
Single storey side extension

NO OBJECTION

55. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

22/01664/HH

6 The Avenue, Witham
Two storey side extension and alterations

NO OBJECTION subject to the Listed Building's Advisor being satisfied with proposed materials.

22/01676/HH

13 Albert Road, Witham
Erection of balustrade, privacy screen, external stair and enlargement of existing first floor external roof terrace

NO OBJECTION subject to no representations being received from the neighbours.

22/01763/TPO

1 Wakelin Way, Witham
Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 5/75 – Sycamore (T1)

The Tree Warden had advised that as this was a large tree in a small garden the proposed work was reasonable.

NO OBJECTION subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

22/01771/FUL

59 Rowan Way, Witham

Demolition of existing single storey side extension and erection of a two storey 2 bedroom dwelling house

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds of –

- Insufficient parking provision in line with Essex Parking Standards,
- Loss of neighbouring amenity including a lamp column,
- Adverse impact on street scene,
- Inability to access parking area without driving over neighbour's land,
- Overdevelopment of site,
- The need to protect a nearby tree,

And that if the application is heard by the District Council's Planning Committee, representations would be made in person.

56. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans to consider.

57. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

58. TREES AT GIMSONS

A report was received concerning the Town Council's request that all the remaining trees at Gimsons should be subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

Members were disappointed with the District Council's Landscape Officer's comments not to grant TPOs on the remaining trees as he did not consider them to be under any immediate threat. It was decided after discussion that the best way forward would be to ask whether the management plan had been agreed.

RESOLVED That the report be received and in the first instance -

- Seek sight of the approved landscape and ecology management plan,
- If the plan had not yet been agreed seek input
- Seek a site visit in conjunction with the Gimsons Review Group.

59. 22/00875/FUL – LAND TO THE REAR OF THE JACK AND JENNY

A report was received regarding the District Council's decision to grant the above planning consent and the subsequent loss of hedge.

Councillor Hicks arrived at the Meeting.

Members discussed why it was necessary to remove the hedge to allow a footpath to be installed and agreed that enquiries would be made of the District Council's Planning Officer.

RESOLVED That the report be received and contact be made with the District Council's Planning Officer to ascertain why it had been required for the hedge to be removed to allow a footpath to be installed.

60. 21/00458/FUL – LAND TO THE REAR OF JACK AND JENNY

A Notice of Appeal against the District Council's decision to refuse the above planning application for the erection of 2 no3 bedroom detached dwellings and creation of a new access was received.

Members agreed to send a letter in support of the District Council's decision to refuse this application.

RESOLVED That a letter be sent to the Planning Inspector in support of the District Council's decision to refuse the planning permission.

61. 22/00542/HH – THE VICTORIA PUBLIC HOUSE

A report was received confirming that land to the front of the property was not highways land.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

62. COMMUTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS – HOMEFIELD ROAD

A report was received about commuter parking restrictions in Homefield Road.

Members noted the apparent disparity and unfairness between the South and North Essex Parking Partnership's exemptions to allow residents to park on yellow lines when commuter parking restrictions apply. After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should write to the County Councillors to seek clarification and resolution.

RESOLVED That the Chairman writes to Witham's County Councillors seeking a resolution.

63. 20's PLENTY – FREE WEBINAR

Details of a free webinar on the 20's Plenty Campaign was received.

Members were informed that if they wished to attend a webinar on 27th or 28th July 2022 they should inform the Town Hall Office.

RESOLVED That the details be received and any Member wishing to attend inform the Town Hall Office.

64. SPEED SURVEY REQUEST FOR MALTINGS LANE

Members were asked to consider a speed survey request for the Maldon Road end of Maltings Lane.

Members agreed that a speed survey should be requested.

RESOLVED That a speed survey be requested for the Maldon Road end of Maltings Lane.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.23 p.m.

Councillor J. Goodman
Chairman

GK/19.7.2022