



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

WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Date: **Monday, 1st August 2022**

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

Present: Councillors

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

Also in attendance: ECC Cllr

R.	Playle	(Witham Northern)
N.	Smith	(Town Clerk)
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
G.	Kennedy	(Committee Clerk)

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barlow who was travelling abroad. Essex County Councillor Louis had also sent his apologies.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and accepted.

56. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Mayor welcomed Councillor Paul Heath to the Town Council as the new Member for South Ward. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received.

Members congratulated Councillor Heath on his election and welcomed him back on the Council.

RESOLVED That the Declaration of Acceptance of Office be received.

57. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Town Council held 4th July 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

58. INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

59. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no member of the press or public present.

60. COMMUNITY SPECIAL CONSTABLE JAKE MABEY

The Town Mayor explained that Special Constable Jake Mabey was unwell and would be attending a later Meeting.

61. ESSEX COUNTY AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE

The Essex County Councillor present explained that there was now a new officer responsible for the Local Highways Panel and a meeting would be scheduled. The National Highways still planned to start the Direct Consent Order for the A12 on 8th August 2022.

Members were informed that the District Council's Local Plan had now been finalised and that a new Chief Executive had been appointed, Mr Dan Gascoyne.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

62. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

Details of the Town Mayor's engagements attended for period 5th July to 1st August 2022 and two previously unreported engagements along with an engagement attended by the Deputy Town Mayor were received. It was noted that the engagement for the 6th August had been incorrectly included so was removed from the report.

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted.

63. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

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

It was verbally reported there had been a fire at Whetmead, which required the attendance of the fire brigade.

Officers were congratulated on obtaining the Investors in People Award.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

64. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

It was noted that there were vacancies on the Community, Environment and Planning & Transport Committees.

RESOLVED That Councillor Heath be appointed to serve on the Community, Environment and Planning & Transport Committees for 2022 – 2023.

65. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Members were asked to consider the appointment of an extra Member to the Climate Change Working Group.

It was agreed that an additional Member could be appointed to the Climate Change Working Group.

RESOLVED That an additional Member be appointed to the Climate Change Working group bringing the number to five.

RESOLVED That Councillor R. Williams be appointed to the Climate Change Working Group for 2022 – 2023.

66. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2022/2023

The Witham Town Council Corporate Strategy for 2022/2023 was received.

RESOLVED That the Corporate Strategy for 2022/2023 be received and approved.

67. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) **Planning and Transport Committee held 4th and 18th July 2022**

Minutes 38 to 64 (inclusive)

Councillor Goodman, as Chairman of the Planning and Transport Committee, gave his report en bloc.

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

(b) **Environment Committee held 18th July 2022**

Minutes 1 – 13 (inclusive)

Councillor Atwill, as Chairman of the Environment Committee, gave his report en bloc.

Minute 9 – Climate Change Working Group

It was reiterated that the Climate Change Working Group should be asked to produce a report detailing specific actions that could be taken forward including funding. It was confirmed that a detailed report was being prepared by members at the next meeting to be held 8th August 2022.

RESOLVED That the Report of the Environment Committee be received.

68. 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.

69. LAND AT MOORFIELD COURT

A report was received.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

70. LAND TRANSFERS

A report was received.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

71. FUNDING

A report was received.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 8.40 p.m.

Councillor J. Bayford
Town Mayor

NS/GK/4.8.2022