



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE
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AGENDA
Via Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 898 5869 8366
Password: 334 189

Meeting of: **Town Council**

Date: **Monday, 8th February 2021** Time: **7.00 p.m.**

To be present:	Councillors	Mrs	S.C.	Lager	(Town Mayor)
		Mrs	S.	Ager	
			K.L.	Atwill	
			P.R.	Barlow	
			J.C.	Bayford	
			J.C.	Goodman	
			S.E.	Hicks	
		Miss	C.	Jay	
		Mrs	A.	Kilmartin	
			M.C.M.	Lager	
			C.S.	Livermore	
			T.A.	Pleasance	
			P.M.	Ryland	
		Miss	M.L.	Weeks	
			R.	Williams	

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 18th January 2021 (previously circulated).

3. INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of interests that Members may wish to give notice of on matters pertaining to any item on this Agenda.

4. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

An opportunity to enable members of the press and public present to comment upon any item on the Agenda.

5. ESSEX COUNTY AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE

To receive reports from Essex County and Braintree District Councillors on matters relating to Witham.

6. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

To receive the Town Clerk's Report on matters arising ([attached](#) at page 3).

7. DELEGATED DECISIONS

To receive the Delegated Decisions from 11th to 25th January 2021 ([attached](#) at page 4).

8. CLIMATE CHANGE

To receive a report from the Climate Change conference ([attached](#) at page 5).

9. USE OF TITLE WHEN ADDRESSING MEMBERS

To consider the appropriateness of the use of titles-

- a) On council documentation
- b) During meetings

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

TO RESOLVE 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.

11. LEGAL MATTERS

To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk.



James Sheehy
Town Clerk

JS/GK/3.2.2021



ITEM NO: 6

Officer Report: Clerk's Report

Issue:

The following is to note –

Code of Conduct

NALC's Management Board met on 26 January. Councillors considered the Local Government Association (LGA) model code of conduct and agreed, subject to feedback from county officers, to recommend to National Assembly on 9 March that it be adopted by local councils and replace the NALC code. They stressed that this needed to be part of a wider project on civility aimed at improving standards and behaviours, and agreed on the need to dedicate resources and work closely with the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Advice:

To receive and note

[Back to Agenda](#)

Agenda Item 7

ESTIMATES SUB-COMMITTEE	11.1.2021	It was agreed to make a recommendation to Full Town Council to increase the precept for 2021/2022 by £5.00, an increase to £78.70 for Band D equivalent and an amount of £679,744.00 be approved.
PLANNING COMMITTEE	18.1.2021	20-02158HH - 27 St Nicholas Road, Witham, Essex - no objection
PLANNING COMMITTEE	18.1.2021	20-02208HH - 8 Saxon Drive, Witham, Essex - no objection
PLANNING COMMITTEE	18.1.2021	20-02139HH - 10 Collar Way, Witham, Essex - no objection
PLANNING COMMITTEE	18.1.2021	20-02250HH - 31 Brain Road, Witham, Essex - no objection
PLANNING COMMITTEE	18.1.2021	20-02185HH - 46 Market Lane, Witham, Essex - no objection
PLANNING COMMITTEE	18.1.2021	20-00448TPOCON - 22 Collingwood Road, Witham, Essex - considered that potential damage to foundations by tree roots or bird droppings, particularly when the trees are over a shrubbed area, are not sufficient grounds to allow the work to proceed, however recommend modest cutting back of branches by 3 to 4 metres, subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer
PLANNING COMMITTEE	18.1.2021	20-02129HH - Rivendell, Chalks Road, Witham - considers it would be inappropriate to comment as the application has been made by an acting Member of the Town Council
PLANNING COMMITTEE	18.1.2021	20-02166FUL - Brook House, Maldon Road, Witham - no objection
PLANNING COMMITTEE		20-01828HH - 65 Ashby Road, Witham, Essex - maintains decision to recommend refusal on the grounds of over massing of site and insufficient amenity land but would look more favourably if the front extension was removed from the proposals
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	25.1.2021	It was agreed that the Action Plan should be submitted to Braintree District Council with the question as to whether there were any issues with the proposals.

[Back to Agenda](#)

Agenda Item 8

Climate Change Report

Witham Town Council would declare a Climate Change Emergency and, in doing, so, commits to working towards a reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.

To do this we need to:

Develop and deliver a Town Climate Strategy, working with various other organisations and other councils. A working group should be formed to report within a designated timescale on immediate and longer term actions to be taken. Part of this plan would be to engage with a wide cross section of the community.

Plan to include:

a) Deliver a report on what we are already doing towards reducing the impact of the climate crisis. In fact we have made a very good start but it has never been collated and talked about as climate change methods because we already have succeeded in:

1. Changing our street lamps to LED
2. Work with the Tree Group on planting trees
3. Planted James Cook Wood many years ago. (?)
4. Provide and manage Allotments (from May 2021)
5. We are also looking at cycle way provision throughout the town.
6. Provision of Whetmead Nature Reserve.

b) Research and produce a data base of information of products and grants available for climate emergency projects.

c) Deliver a climate crisis public engagement programme,

d) Urge all public sector organisations (taxi) in Witham to commit to at least 30% of their fleet using non-fossil fuel by 2030

d) Commit the Council to reduce their carbon footprint by 2030.

The first step would be to arrange for a consultation on the Town Hall to find how carbon efficient it is and how that can be reduced.

e) Train town leaders, councillors and council staff in a climate crisis programme to enable them to respond to the climate emergency in everything they do.

[Back to Agenda](#)