



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE  
 01376 520627  
 witham.gov.uk

## MINUTES

### WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Date: **Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> 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	
P.	Barlow	
P.	Heath	
S.	Hicks	
C.	Jay	
A.	Kilmartin	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
T.	Pleasance	
M.	Weeks	

Also in attendance: ECC Cllr. R. Playle (Witham Northern)  
 BDC Cllr. W. Korsinah (South Ward)

Essex Police: S/Sgt S. Jesse (Community Special)  
 Essex Police S/Const. J. Mabey (Community Special)

Macmillan Cancer Care R. Parson  
 WAOS T. Drury

N.	Smith	(Town Clerk)
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
G.	Kennedy	(Committee Clerk)
C.	Strachan	(Assistant RFO)

#### **72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atwill, Rajeev, J. Williams and R. Williams who were all travelling abroad.

**RESOLVED** That the apologies be received and accepted.

**73. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of Town Council held 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

**74. INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**75. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No member of the press or public were present.

**76. COMMUNITY SPECIAL CONSTABLE JAKE MABEY**

The Town Mayor welcomed Special Constable Jake Mabey to the Meeting and thanked him for the time he had spent as a Special Constable and wished him every success in his new career as a regular officer. He was presented with a card and voucher.

**77. PRESENTATION OF CHEQUES**

Former Town Mayor, Councillor Angela Kilmartin, explained that following the pandemic fund raising for her charities had proved difficult but was pleased to present cheques to WAOS and Macmillan Cancer Care.

Mr Drury from WAOS thanked Angela for her support in their centenary year and despite the impact of the pandemic they still had managed to thrive and prosper with this year's show being award winning. In October there will be a specially written show based on Witham's James Cooke, alleged arsonist who was subsequently hung yet the fires continued. Mr Parson encouraged everyone to attend to support WAOS.

Mr Parson from Macmillan Cancer Care thanked Angela for the unexpected donation. He explained that the past three years had proved difficult to fund raise.

**78. ESSEX COUNTY AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE**

Essex County Councillor Playle said that there had been a recent Local Highways Panel (LHP) meeting. The new Templars crossing in Cressing Road would be installed in the October half term holidays and a 20s Plenty scheme would be investigated for Conrad Road along with parking solutions. There would be another LHP meeting in a month's time to hasten the validation process. He spoke about the pothole scheme and that additional potholes in Glebe Road would be repaired. The repairs to Chipping Hill bridge were still waiting approval and the planned work was expected to start on 26<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Assistance would be requested from Councillor Playle regarding the preservation of those coping stones on Chipping Hill bridge which had WW1 graffiti and in answer to a question regarding the apparent anomaly between parking exemptions between North and South Parking Partnership, Councillor Playle said that he had still to receive a response.

Braintree District Councillor Korsinah explained that he had funding available for community projects and asked that the Town Council put organisations and charities in touch should they need financial support.

The Town Mayor thanked Councillors Playle and Korsinah for their reports.

**RESOLVED** That the reports be received and noted.

**79. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

Details of the Town Mayor's engagements attended for period 2<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022 were received.

**RESOLVED** That the details be received and noted.

**80. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

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

The Town Clerk explained that there was a vacancy for an Open Spaces Operative and there had been a good response to the recruitment exercise. The new position of Open Spaces Administrative Assistant would be advertised in a week's time.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and noted.

**81. OPTION TO OPT OUT OF THE SAAA CENTRAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Details from SAAA regarding the option to opt out of the Central Auditor Appointment Arrangements were received.

The Town Clerk advised that the existing arrangements should be retained as there would be little difference in thoroughness and opting out would involve the need to tender for a new auditor.

**RESOLVED** That the details be received and the existing arrangements retained.

**82. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Planning and Transport Committee held 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

Minutes 62 - 83 (inclusive).

Councillor Goodman, 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) **Community Committee held 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

Minutes 17 – 34 (inclusive).

Councillor Ager, Chairman of the Community Committee, gave her report en bloc.

**Minute 31 – Winter Warming**

It was reported that work had progressed in this matter and the United Reformed Church, Library, The Well and The Hub were being very supportive in the Town Council's quest to ensure that there were places for the elderly and vulnerable to keep warm this winter.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received.

**83. 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.

**84. COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONT'D)**  
**Community Committee held 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022**  
Minute 35.

Councillor Ager, Chairman of the Community Committee, continued her report.

**RESOLVED** That the Report of the Community Committee be received.

**85. LAND TRANSFER**

A report was received.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and noted.

**86. 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 8.22 p.m.

Councillor J. Bayford  
Town Mayor

NS/GK/2.9.2022