

Stronger Communities Committee Meeting of Witney Town Council



Monday, 15th March, 2021 at 6.00 pm

To members of the Stronger Communities Committee - O Collins, L Ashbourne, J Aitman, T Ashby, D Enright, D Butterfield, H Eaglestone, L Duncan and V Gwatkin (and all other Town Councillors for information).

You are hereby summonsed to the above meeting to be held in the **Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom** for the transaction of the business stated in the agenda below.

Admission to Meetings

All Council meetings are open to the public and press unless otherwise stated.

Admission to this meeting will be online by virtue of The Local Authorities & Police & Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority & Police & Crime Panels Meetings)(England & Wales) Regulations 2020.

Zoom login details of this meeting will be published on the Council's website prior to the meeting.

Recording of Meetings

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 the council's public meetings may be recorded, which includes filming, audio-recording as well as photography.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Town Clerk or Democratic Services Officer know before the start of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence

To consider apologies and reasons for absence.

Committee members who are unable to attend the meeting should notify the Deputy Town Clerk (adam.clapton@witney-tc.gov.uk) **prior to the meeting**, stating the reason for absence.

Standing Order 30(a)(v) permits the appointment of substitute Councillors to a Committee whose role is to replace ordinary Councillors at a meeting of a Committee if ordinary Councillors of the Committee have confirmed to the Proper Officer **before** the meeting that they are unable to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in any items under consideration at this meeting in accordance with the Town Council's Code of Conduct.

3. Minutes (Pages 5 - 10)

To receive and consider the minutes of the Stronger Communities Committee meeting held on 25 January 2021.

- a) To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021
- b) Matters arising from the Minutes not covered in the subsequent items.

4. **Public Participation**

The meeting will adjourn for this item.

Members of the public may speak for a maximum of **five minutes** each during the period of public participation, in line with Standing Order 42. Matters raised shall relate to the following items on the agenda.

5. **Rural/Market Town Group**

To consider if Witney Town Council should become an official subscribed member of the Rural/Market Town Group following a presentation from its representative.

6. **Operations Report** (Pages 11 - 12)

To receive and consider the report of the Operations and Estates Officer.

7. **Trees - Update** (Pages 13 - 18)

To receive and consider a report from the Operations & Estates Advisor providing an update on trees within the Council's estate.

8. **Street Furniture and Infrastructure**

To receive and consider the following items concerning street furniture:

a) **Litter & Dog Bin Requests** (Pages 19 - 38)

To receive and consider the report of the Project Officer concerning recent litter and dog waste bin requests.

9. **Communications and Engagement Report** (Pages 39 - 42)

To receive and consider the report of the Communications & Community Engagement Officer.

10. **Inclusivity & Diversity Panel**

To receive a verbal update from the Chair on this initiative along with the following recommendations:

- 1. Creation of a 'Belonging in Witney' page on our website - this will have a statement about the endeavour, and a webform for people to share their experiences and stories with the Town Council anonymously.
- 2. Creation of a group linked to the Town Council's Facebook page - to create a forum that people can join to talk and share information/posts/ideas.
- 3. Belonging at work Webinars - free training webinars for local businesses. The Town Council can use its networks to spread the word and ensure as many local organisations have the opportunity to take part.

11. **Witney Carnival** (Pages 43 - 56)

To receive a verbal update from the Chair on the meeting held on 4 March 2021 and consider a request to support Witney Carnival, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

It should be noted that the Council has set aside £1,000 in its 2021/22 budget to assist the Carnival Committee with the cost of portable toilets on the Leys Recreation Ground for this event. The Committee will be requested to make a recommendation to the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee if additional funding is to be considered for this event.

12. **Witney Pride**

To consider the following requests from the Witney Pride group:

1. That Witney Town Council supports the Witney Pride event (due to be held online this year) on 29th May by asking Cllrs to share video messages or photos that can be used as part of the event and also to help generate support and interest. They would also like help promoting the event (from their social media pages) on the Town Council's social media.
2. That Witney Town Council flies the Pride flag on the 29th May instead of 1st June to coincide with the event.
3. Separately, that the Corn Exchange to be lit up in LGBTQ colours to mark the international day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia 17th May: <https://may17.org/>

13. **National Autism Awareness Month**

To consider a request by Guideposts to support National Autism Awareness month in April by sharing a purpose made video on the Council's communication platforms.



Town Clerk