

Full Council Committee Meeting of Witney Town Council



Monday, 7th December, 2020 at 7.00 pm

To members of the Full Council Committee - J Aitman, L Duncan, L Ashbourne, T Ashby, R Bolger, D Butterfield, O Collins, H Eaglestone, D Enright, V Gwatkin, A D Harvey, M Jones, J King, A McMahon, A Prosser, R Smith and D Temple (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 Democratic Services Officer (nicky.cayley@witney-tc.gov.uk) prior to the meeting, stating the reason for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes (Pages 7 - 12)

To approve and adopt the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 October 2020 in accordance with Standing Order 18 including questions on the minutes as to the progress of any item.

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. **An Update from Witney Oxfordshire County Councillors and West Oxfordshire District Councillors**

To receive a short verbal update from Witney Oxfordshire County Councillors and West Oxfordshire District Councillors.

6. **Report Back from the Councillors on the Work with External Bodies where they serve as the Town Council's Nominated Representative**

To receive a short verbal update from councillors who sit on external bodies where they serve as the Town Council's nominated representative.

7. **Minutes of Committees and Sub Committees**

To receive and NOTE the RESOLUTIONS in the minutes of the meetings held between 13 October 2020 and 24 November 2020, and agree the RECOMMENDATIONS contained therein:

a) **Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Minutes - 13 October, 3 November and 24 November 2020.** (Pages 13 - 32)

**Please note that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2020 are incomplete whilst officers formulate the response to 20/02654/OUT.*

b) **Sport & Play Committee - 2 November 2020.** (Pages 33 - 38)

c) **Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee - 9 November 2020.** (Pages 39 - 44)

d) **Stronger Communities Committee - 16 November 2020.** (Pages 45 - 52)

e) **Policy, Governance and Finance Committee - 23 November 2020.** (Pages 53 - 58)

8. **Civic Announcements**

To receive the report of the Mayor.

9. **Motions to Council**

To receive and consider the following motions:-

1. County Lines and Child Exploitation

Witney Town Council notes that:

- *We are only too aware of the issues in Oxfordshire of the County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation, through our partnerships with WODC, TVP and other key organisations.*
- *We are equally aware of the damage that this criminal behaviour can wreak in communities like ours, and the potentially lifelong consequences it can have for vulnerable young people.*
- *We also note that County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation is the subject of a current Early Day Motion in the House of Commons, which has been supported by MPs from across the political spectrum.*

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57477/county-lines-and-child-criminal-exploitation>

Therefore this council resolves to:

- *Write to Robert Courts MP, asking him to add his signature to the motion, and to encourage*

as many of his Parliamentary colleagues to do the same.

Proposed by Cllr Ashbourne, seconded by Cllr Collins.

2. Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Witney Town Council declared a Climate Emergency at the Council meeting on 26th June 2019 and followed up with a Public Meeting in July 2019 enabling everyone to share ideas and visions for change. These included engagement with Central Government, West Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, relevant stake holders and other organisations to initiate local action on climate change.

On September 20th 2020, an Early Day Motion entitled the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill was tabled in the House of Commons. The Government's recent Ten Point Plan goes a long way towards tackling the UK's carbon emissions, but this Bill recognises that our carbon footprint extends beyond the UK's borders. The Bill calls for:

- the UK to make and enact a serious plan to combat climate change. This means dealing with our real fair share of emissions so that we don't go over critical global rises in temperature*
- our entire carbon footprint be taken into account (in the UK and overseas)*
- the protection and conservation of nature here and overseas along supply chains, recognising the damage we cause through the goods we consume*
- those in power not to depend on technology to save the day, which is used as an excuse to carry on polluting as usual*
- people to have a real say on the way forward in a citizens' assembly with bite*

This Council agrees with the principles of this Bill and supports Oxfordshire residents in their efforts to see it come into law. We ask the Leader of this Council to write to our MP, asking them to support their constituents by voting for this Bill when it comes to the House of Commons.

Proposed by Cllr Prosser, seconded by Cllr Smith.

10. **Community Support Initiative - Online Pantomime Grant Request**

In addition to the minutes, members are asked to consider granting the sum of £368.60 from the general grants fund (4100/402) towards 23 tickets for the online pantomime of Sleeping Beauty being promoted by the Council. The donation, if agreed under the General Power of Competence, along with that provided by County Councillor Laura Price from her Councillor Priority Fund would allow disadvantaged children, as designated by local schools to be able to see a pantomime over this festive period.

11. **Conclusion of Audit for Year Ending 31 March 2020** (Pages 59 - 60)

To note that the Council's External Auditor – Moore Stephens – have completed the review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2020, and in their opinion the information is in accordance with Proper Practices (External Audit Report and Certificate 2019/20 enclosed).

12. **Vandalism** (Pages 61 - 62)

To receive an update on vandalism in the town from the Operations & Estates Officer.

13. **Health and Safety**

To receive and note the Officer's verbal update on Health & Safety and COVID-19 matters if appropriate

14. **Communication from the Leader**

To receive such communications as the Leader of the Council may wish to bring before the Council and to consider the recommendation of the Leader on how such communications should be dealt with.

15. **Correspondence** (Pages 63 - 66)

To receive the following correspondence:-

a) a response from Robert Courts MP in relation to minute number 339 from the Council meeting held on 12th October 2020;

b) letter to the Mayor from Witney Oxford Transport.

16. **Questions to the Leader of the Council**

Questions to the Leader of the Council concerning the business of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 15.

17. **Sealing of Documents**

To authorise the sealing of documents arising from Council resolutions and to note the sealing of:

19 November 2020 Seal no. 83 Lease for Langdale Hall Car Park between Witney Town Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.



Town Clerk