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CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday, 8 June 2021

At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	A Prosser J Aitman O Collins	L Duncan V Gwatkin M Jones
Officers:	Adam Clapton Claire Green Simon Wright	Deputy Town Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities Democratic & Legal Services Officer
Others:	1 member of the public.	

As there was no legislation in place for the Town Council to hold virtual meetings, and because of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, the Parks & Recreation Committee formed virtually as an Advisory Committee. Any recommendations outside of the current work's programme, budget or policy would require ratification at the Full Council meeting held on 28th June 2021.

P280 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

P281 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr M Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest for agenda item 5.13 as the applicant was known to her.

Cllrs J Aitman, V Gwatkin and R Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5.11 & 5.12 as the applicant was known to them.

P282 TO ADOPT AND SIGN AS CORRECT THE MINUTES OF 30 MARCH, 20 APRIL & 18 MAY 2021

Resolved:

That, the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 30 March, 20 April & 18 May 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

P283 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 30 MARCH, 20 APRIL & 18 MAY 2021.

Min No. P261 Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan Examination

An update was requested as to whether a further written submission had been made. The Chair undertook to look into the issue and advise accordingly.

P284 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Committee adjourned for this item.

Mr M McCappin addressed the Committee on Agenda Item 11, Burford Experimental Traffic 7.5T Regulation Order.

The Committee reconvened following public participation.

P285 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee received and considered a schedule of planning applications received from West Oxfordshire District Council.

Resolved:

That the comments, as per the attached schedule, be forwarded to West Oxfordshire District Council.

P285a **20/03281/FUL - 87 CORN STREET - AMENDED PLANS**

The Committee received a report seeking comments on amended plans for an application at 87 Corn Street, Witney.

Resolved:

That, Witney Town Council welcome the improvements to cycle storage provision and electric vehicle charging points reflected in the revised plans. While Witney Town Council does not object to this application, it notes neighbour concern with regard to overlooking and ask that Officers consider any mitigation measures that might be implemented to protect residential amenity for neighbouring properties.

P286 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Committee received and considered a schedule of planning decisions received from West Oxfordshire District Council.

Resolved:

That the list circulated advising of District Council planning decisions be noted.

P287 **LICENSING APPLICATION W/21/00319/PRMA - FREEBRIGHTS LTD T/A HUFFKINS, UNIT 2, PARKSIDE, AVENUE TWO, WITNEY, OX28 4YX**

The Committee received and considered an application for a Premises Licence at Unit 2, Parkside, Avenue Two, Witney.

It was noted that the application sought to allow the applicant to add alcohol drinks to hampers they provided online.

Resolved:

That, no objection be raised in respect of Licensing Application W/21/00319/PRMA

P288 **LICENSING APPLICATION W/21/00322/PRMA - PART AND PARCEL (DODO PUBS LTD), 2 - 4 MARKET SQUARE, WITNEY, OX28 6AN**

The Committee received and considered an application for a premises licence at 2-4 Market Square, Witney.

The Committee considered the hours to accord with those expected for a licensed premises.

Resolved:

That, no objection be raised in respect of Licensing Application W/21/00322/PRMA

P289 **PLANNING APPEAL - APP/D3125/W/21/3274682 - 2 SPRINGFIELD PARK, WITNEY**

The Committee received details of a planning appeal submitted in respect of 2 Springfield Road, Witney.

Resolved:

That the planning appeal notification for 2 Springfield Park, Witney be noted.

P290 **WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES - CONSULTATION**

The Committee received details of a consultation regarding the closure of Community Recycling Centres in Witney and other parts of the district.

Members expressed their disappointment at the closures and considered the consultation process to have been inadequate with both statutory organisations and the public and that the response deadline was very short. The Committee questioned whether the areas where the facilities were withdrawn could be replaced with cycle parking or amenity land.

A member highlighted discussions at the District Council Scrutiny Committee and suggested the consultation did not reflect the requests made at that meeting.

Members were advised that there was no budgetary provision available for the Town Council to take on the operation of the service.

The Committee concluded, whilst acknowledging the issues with flytipping and the service not being statutory, that an objection should be lodged with the District Council.

Resolved:

1. That, Witney Town Council considers the consultation process on this matter to be inadequate;

2. That, the District Council be requested to ensure an environmental impact assessment is carried out and that the proposals are publicly communicated with a full consultation process amongst local residents. before any further decisions are made.

P291 **BURFORD EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC 7.5 TONNE REGULATION ORDER**

The Committee received an interim monitoring report showing traffic data collected as part of the monitoring of the scheme.

Members noted the apparent impact on Witney of increased HGV movements with three of the four largest increases being in the town. It was suggested that, whilst understanding the concerns in Burford, there needed to be a countywide approach in accordance with the Local Transport Plan to ensure that HGV movements were equitably distributed.

Concern was raised regarding the cumulative impact on the existing Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Witney. It was noted that the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee had considered the matter earlier in the day and had supported the immediate removal of the ETRO. Members agreed that this would be beneficial.

It was noted that whilst the lorry size was smaller the number of HGV's going through Burford had not actually reduced significantly. Discussion ensued regarding the exemptions for hauliers close to Burford and the advantage it gave them over other operators.

After further discussion it was:

Resolved:

1. That, Council be recommended to give the support of Witney Town Council to WIVTAG;
2. That, Oxfordshire County Council be recommended to remove the ETRO at the earliest opportunity and be encouraged to adhere to the Local Transport Plan to ensure the management of HGV movements on a county basis; and
3. That, concerns be raised about the impact of additional HGV movements on the Air Quality Management Area and road safety in Bridge Street, Witney.

P292 **EXPERIMENTAL TRO - VARIOUS ROADS (WITNEY) - EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOL STREETS SCHEMES (PHASE 1B)**

The Committee received details of the recently introduced School Street Scheme in Witney.

Resolved:

That, the implementation of the Experimental School Streets Scheme be noted.

The meeting closed at: 8.45 pm

Chair