

Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee Meeting of Witney Town Council



Tuesday, 2nd November, 2021 at 6.00 pm

To members of the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee - R Smith, A Prosser, J Aitman, O Collins, L Duncan, V Gwatkin, M Jones and A McMahon (and all other Town Councillors for information).

You are hereby summonsed to the above meeting to be held in the **Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney** 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.

Numbers of the public will be limited, with priority given to those who have registered to speak on an item on the agenda. Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Democratic and Legal Services Officer (democracy@witney-tc.gov.uk) in advance to reserve a seat.

We will continue to observe social distancing and hand sanitiser will be available.

For further information or clarification regarding the meeting contact the Democratic and Legal Services Officer at democracy@witney-tc.gov.uk Tel: 01993 226071

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 & Legal Services Officer (democracy@witney-tc.gov.uk) **prior to the meeting**, stating the reason for absence.

Standing Order 309a)(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 informed 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 of the items under consideration at this meeting in accordance with the Town Council's code of conduct.

3. 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.

4. **Planning Applications** (Pages 3 - 4)

To receive and consider a schedule of Planning Applications from West Oxfordshire District Council.

5. **Lake & Country Park Update** (Pages 5 - 6)

To consider the report of the Maintenance & Environmental Services Officer.



Town Clerk

4

4.1 **WTC/188/21** Plot Ref :- 21/03115/FUL Type :- FULL
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/10/21
Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-
Location :- WITNEY SERVICE Agent
STATION
WELCH WAY
Proposals :- Installation of three self-service car wash bays.
Observations :-

4.2 **WTC/189/21** Plot Ref :- 21/02640/ADV Type :- ADVERTISING
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/10/21
Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-
Location :- 42 CORN STREET Agent
CORN STREET
Proposals :- Installation of one fascia and one projecting sign, both internally
illuminated together with a non-illuminated banner style flag.
(Retrospective).
Observations :-

4.3 **WTC/190/21** Plot Ref :- 21/03261/FUL Type :- FULL
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 18/10/21
Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-
Location :- 15 MARKET SQUARE Agent
MARKET SQUARE
Proposals :- Alterations to replace front windows and install two windows in rear
elevation.
Observations :-

4.4 **WTC/191/21** Plot Ref :- 21/03262/LBC Type :- LISTED BUI
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 18/10/21
Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-
Location :- 15 MARKET SQAURE Agent
MARKET SQUARE
Proposals :- Internal and external alterations to replace front windows and install
two windows in rear elevation.
Observations :-

4 . 5 **WTC/192/21** Plot Ref :- 21/02618/FUL Type :- FULL
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 18/10/21
Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-
Location :- 141 QUEEN EMMAS Agent
DYKE
QUEEN EMMAS DYKE
Proposals :- Erection of a pair of semi detached dwellings together with
associated works and provision of vehicular access.
Observations :-

4 . 6 **WTC/193/21** Plot Ref :- 21/03399/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOL
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 21/10/21
Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-
Location :- 14 SAXON WAY Agent
SAXON WAY
Proposals :- Erection of a double storey rear extension, with flat roof to match
neighbouring property. External materials to match existing.
Observations :-

4 . 7 **WTC/194/21** Plot Ref :- 21/03406/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOL
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 21/10/21
Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-
Location :- 37 SAXON WAY Agent
SAXON WAY
Proposals :- Renovation and remodelling to including proposed extension.
Observations :-

4 . 8 **WTC/195/21** Plot Ref :- 21/03319/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOL
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 25/10/21
Parish :- NORTH Date Returned :-
Location :- 118C QUARRY ROAD Agent
QUARRY ROAD
Proposals :- Single storey extension.
Observations :-

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 2 November 2021

Title: Lake & Country Park Update

Contact Officer: Maintenance & Environmental Services Officer –
Angus Whitburn

Background

The lake and country park has been a large area of land with limited management. This has led to a decrease in its biodiversity and interested user groups.

Current Situation

Enhances phase 1 survey

The Phase 1 habitat survey has now been completed and officers are in possession of the report. The report has been completed to a good standard and will help to inform the best management of the lake. The report breaks down the country park into smaller areas of which describe their vegetation contents. Facilitating Nature believe that the site is important for biodiversity in the context of the Lower Windrush Valley and with the correct management, it could do much to enhance its biodiversity interest. Facilitating Nature has offered a site visit at no extra cost to walk through some of their finding's with officers.

To progress from this point officers have asked Facilitating Nature what other survey's they would suggest, including the creation of a full management plan. The phase 1 survey identifies areas to increase biodiversity but without a method. A natural next stage would be to obtain management plans to help a series of works to increase biodiversity.

Forest School

The Lake and Country Park does have considerable limitations when it comes to offering a Forest School. Parking is a major consideration. The parking around the country park is limited from the industrial estate. Potential organisers of a forest school in this area could be put off by this factor. The next is the lake available space that currently isn't popular for recreation purposes. From research and communication with current forest schools, it's recommended an area that is close by to area's children can explore and play. Although the lake is a large environment, areas of trees and safe woodland to explore are limited.

The set-up of a forest school is traditionally limited and is more factored by using the natural environment around a location. The set up of the forest school would include good grounds

preparation to ensure the area doesn't become overgrown, a sign with all information, posts to fix a tarpaulin and maybe some sawn of tree benches.

An area of land that is suitable has been identified. With some suitable posts installed it would create a good section to erect a tarpaulin and with some better maintenance, a perfect climbing tree is located close by. The area is situated near the bridge leading to the wet meadow. This also situates it close to the start of the nature reserve, another area of interest for education groups.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

The area identified for the forest school is near to an area that floods, no guarantees can be made that it wouldn't be flooded in the future. If the creation of an education area was to progress it would be recommended it was designed so flooding wouldn't affect it.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

Rotary has offered to help fund an education environment at the lake and country park. A simple installation of wooden posts and information signs wouldn't have a substantial cost but an idea of the level of finish still needs obtaining from the Rotary society.

There is still a budget available to help with the management of the country park wear further surveys or a management plan may need to be created. This fund is also available for bank maintenance work which is currently on the works team's schedule.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Progress with creating a design and plan for an education environment including input from the Rotary Club.