

Full Council

Meeting of Witney Town Council



Monday, 11th December, 2023 at 7.00 pm

To members of the Full Council - O Collins, G Meadows, J Aitman, T Ashby, D Enright, R Smith, D Temple, A Bailey, L Cherry, R Crouch, G Doughty, J Doughty, D Edwards-Hughes, D Newcombe, J Robertshaw, S Simpson and J Treloar (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 Committee Clerk derek.mackenzie@witney-tc.gov.uk in advance.

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 Committee Clerk derek.mackenzie@witney-tc.gov.uk **prior to the meeting**, stating the reason for absence.

Standing Order 30(d)(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 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. **Motion - Corn Exchange Draft Business Plan**

To consider the following motion in accordance with standing order 13.

Proposed by Cllr D Edwards-Hughes

Seconded by Cllr T Ashby

This council acknowledges the work which has taken place at the Corn Exchange, bringing new events and a different audience into the building so far. However, this council is concerned with the rising cost:income ratio. In the first draft of the councils 2024/25 Budget The Corn Exchange (including Cafe 1863) shows a subsidy required of £199,453 this year (Although it is acknowledged that this is not the final budget) equivalent to 10.7% of the town's precept. This council requires the current draft business plan to be revised to reduce the subsidy to 5% of the precept, hence improving value to the tax payer.

5. **Motion - West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT) Funding Surplus**

To consider the following motion in accordance with standing order 13.

Proposed by Cllr D Edwards-Hughes

Seconded by Cllr T Ashby

Given that in each of the previous 3 years West Oxfordshire Community Transport has recorded a surplus in their annual accounts totalling £101,660, this council asks that the Leader of the Council writes to the directors of WOCT with a view to establishing if grant funding from Witney Town Council remains critical to them delivering these services, or if a reduction in the grant would be appropriate to maintain the same service levels.

6. **Motion - West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT) Passenger Numbers**

To consider the following motion in accordance with standing order 13.

Proposed by Cllr D Edwards-Hughes

Seconded by Cllr T Ashby

In order that Witney Town Council can be assured that its grant to West Oxfordshire Community Transport is providing value for money for taxpayers, this council asks that officers of the council request the following information from the organisation ahead of the next meeting:

- Daily passenger numbers for each route serving Witney (213 / 214 / 215)
- An estimation of the number of unique users of each service

7. **Council Budget: Revised Budget 2023/24 and Estimates 2024/25, including Revenue Growth Items and Capital Projects/Special Revenue Programme for 2024/25**

To receive a presentation from the RFO on the Council's Revenue Budget and the options relating to how it can be funded; the desirable level of Precept/Council Tax Band D equivalent so that the final budget can be calculated for adoption at the Extra Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 8 January 2024.

Please note that this will be the last opportunity for any further input by Councillors.

(Presentation to Follow)

8. **Exclusion of Public & Press**

To consider and if appropriate, to pass the following resolution:

That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

9. **Major Strategic Projects**

To receive a confidential verbal update from Officers, if appropriate.



Town Clerk