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

Held on Tuesday, 7 November 2023

At 6.09 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor A Bailey (Chair)

Councillors:	R Smith J Aitman	J Robertshaw S Simpson
Officers:	Adam Clapton Derek Mackenzie Claire Green	Deputy Town Clerk Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities
Others:	no members of the public.	

P596 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Meadows and O Collins.

Due to connectivity issues for Councillor A Bailey and the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor/Chair, it was RESOLVED that Councillor R Smith would Chair the meeting until Councillor Bailey was able to join the meeting.

P597 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers.

P598 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

Councillor S Simpson joined the meeting at 6:13pm

Chair-ship of the meeting was passed from Councillor Smith to Councillor Bailey at 6.20pm following the discussion of the first planning application – 23/02635/S73.

P599 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

Members noted that the address of the first application 23/02635/S73 on the agenda showed as 33 Beech Road however, the application was for 38 Beech Road. Members agreed that the application should still be considered.

Members also noted the Council's agreed updated response to planning application 23/01203/RES - Reserved matters approval for local centre and associated infrastructure pursuant to outline permission 12/0084/P/OP. Land East of Isabelle Spencer Way Witney Oxfordshire. Comments had been collated and submitted ahead of this meeting due to a short time frame provided by the Planning Authority following the submission of updated plans.

Resolved:

1. That, the comments, as per the attached schedule be forwarded to West Oxfordshire District Council and,
2. That, the response for planning application 23/01203/RES be noted as submitted to WODC on 25 October 2023.

P600 **PESTICIDES POLICY**

Members received and considered the report of the Operations Manager in relation to a Council Pesticides Policy on land it managed.

Members expressed their awareness that the use of Pesticides was a contentious subject but broadly supported the policy. A member suggested making contact with the Pesticide Action Group who offered support and advice on this issue.

They were pleased to see that pesticides would be used in a controlled manner. and wanted this point to be clearly stated at the head of the policy along with a caveat to explain that this would lead some areas looking less well kempt than others.

The Committee welcomed the use of mapping to illustrate the no-spray zones so that it was clear for any reading the policy to see. There were queries on listed areas in the draft policy and mapping would also help provide guidance.

Members were pleased to hear that the current work practices in respect of reduced mowing around the base of trees and the control of Ivy growth was successful and therefore were in agreement that this continued.

Members asked for additional information to be provided on the alternative mechanical or non-chemical options that had been discounted.

Resolved:

1. That, the report be noted and,
2. That, a re-drafted policy be prepared for review at a future meeting of the Policy, Governance & Finance committee.

The meeting closed at: 6.55 pm

Chair

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- 599- 1 WTC/151/23 Plot Ref :-23/02635/S73 Type :- VARIATION
 Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 24/10/23
 Location :- 33 BEECH ROAD Date Returned :- 08/11/23
 BEECH ROAD
 Proposal : Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) to permission 23/02023/HHD to substitute flat roof section with pitched roof, addition of rooflight and alteration to door position.
 Observations : Whilst Witney Town Council do not object to this application, a site visit from a Committee Member suggests that the guttering is overhanging the site boundary and effectively overhangs the neighbouring property. Whilst it is acknowledged that any boundary dispute may not be a planning matter, the drawings do not reflect any development outside of the applicant site - Members ask that Officers check that the development as built, is in accordance with any plans or drawings that have been submitted.
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- 599- 2 WTC/152/23 Plot Ref :-23/02470/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE
 Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 24/10/23
 Location :- 59 BURFORD ROAD Date Returned :- 08/11/23
 BURFORD ROAD
 Proposal : Dropped Kerb for vehicular access.
 Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.
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- 599- 3 WTC/153/23 Plot Ref :-23/02634/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE
 Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 30/10/23
 Location :- 29 WOODPECKER WAY Date Returned :- 08/11/23
 WOODPECKER WAY
 Proposal : Erection of a garden shed and summerhouse.
 Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.
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- 599- 4 WTC/154/23 Plot Ref :-23/02711/S73 Type :- VARIATION
 Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 30/10/23
 Location :- 87 CORN STREET Date Returned :- 08/11/23
 CORN STREET
 Proposal : Variation of condition 4 of Planning Permission 20/03281/FUL to allow a mixture of natural stone and stone coloured render in place of artificial stone on external walls.
 Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.
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The Meeting closed at : 7:05pm

Signed : _____ Chairman Date: _____

On behalf of :- Witney Town Council