

WITNEY PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE WORKING PARTY MEETING OF THE
WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday, 14 January 2026

At 4.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney

Present:

Councillor J Treloar (Chair)

Councillors:	R Crouch	R Smith
	J Robertshaw	

Officers:	Adam Clapton	Deputy Town Clerk
	Polly Inness	Communications & Community
		Engagement Officer

Others:	Tom Hilton	
	Beverly Sherwood (Witney & District Museum)	

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Witney Town FC who were unable to send a representative.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the Witney: Past, Present & Future Working Party meeting held on 13 November 2025 were received.

Resolved:

That, the minutes of the Witney: Past, Present & Future Working Party meeting held on 13 November 2025 be approved as a correct record of the meeting and be signed by the Chair.

3 ST GEORGE'S DAY EVENTS 2026

The Working Party received a report from the Communications and Community Engagement Officer outlining initial proposals for how the Town Council could mark St George's Day 2026 following the last meeting.

Members were advised that the Corn Exchange had been booked by a third party for the period 23–26 April and therefore would not be unavailable for events; however, Burwell Hall was available. Additionally, Thursday 23 April would be a Market Day so activity on the Market Square would not be possible. It was agreed that the Corn Exchange should be booked in advance for 2027.

Members discussed the location, scope, and timing of potential events. It was agreed that activities should include a flag raising and official town cry at the Town Hall on St George's Day itself, with additional events taking place in Market Square on Sunday 26 April as they provided a central focus point. As noted at the previous meeting, the

programme should include a celebration of English institutions, such as the NHS and emergency front line services.

Further discussion considered which organisations and businesses could be involved, with several already having expressed interest. A representative from the Museum attended the meeting and confirmed that a colleague would be arranging a guided walk, potentially on 24 April. Witney Town FC also indicated enthusiasm to participate.

Members were presented with a range of potential activities, including themed items at the 1863 Café Bar, a dragon hunt, a community window display, a community football tournament over the weekend, involvement from twinned towns (including information about their patron saints), and possible re-enactments or Morris Dancers. There was agreement that resourcing the events would need to be considered, including both Councillors and volunteers.

The Working Party also discussed engagement with local schools, noting that St George's Day forms part of the curriculum. It was agreed that a creative approach should be taken and that this work could be delegated to the Chair, Cllr Crouch, and officers.

The Working Party was satisfied that plans were progressing well and that the proposals would deliver a meaningful programme to mark St George's Day for all sections of the community.

Recommended:

1. That, the report be noted and,
2. That, events on Thursday 23 April 2026 should consist of a St George flag-raising and official cry at the Town Hall and,
3. That, events on Sunday 26 April 2026 should be focused on Market Square during the afternoon and include entertainment from local groups and organisations and,
4. That, a football tournament, hosted by Witney Town FC still be supported and,
5. That, integration from schools should be delegated to Cllrs J Treloar, Crouch alongside officers.

The meeting closed at: 4.54 pm

Chair