

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

**Held on Tuesday, 24 January 2023**

**At 6.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney**

**Present:**

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	A Prosser T Ashby	V Gwatkin P Hiles
Officers:	Adam Clapton Derek Mackenzie  Claire Green	Deputy Town Clerk Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities
Others:	2 members of the public.	

**P45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Duncan and J Aitman.

**P46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor P Hiles declared a non-pecuniary interest in application 22/03354/FUL by virtue of knowing the applicant.

**P47 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*The Committee adjourned for this item.*

The committee received representations from Hannah Bourne-Taylor a resident of Enstone and petitioner for the installation of Swift Bricks in properties to help red listed birds. Agenda Item 12.

Further representation was made by a resident of Church Green, Witney concerning planning application 22/03354/FUL to be discussed at part of Agenda Item 5.

The members asked each participants questions after which both members of the public left the meeting.

*The Committee reconvened.*

P48 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee meetings held on 15 November, 6 December 2022, and 3 January 2023 were received.

**Resolved:**

That, the minutes of the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee meetings held on 15 November, 6 December 2022, and 3 January 2023 be approved as a correct record of the meeting and be signed by the Chair.

P49 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

**Resolved:**

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

P50 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Committee received and considered a schedule of planning decisions received from West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC)

**Resolved:**

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

P51 **PLANNING APPEAL DECISION NOTIFICATION - 13 WILLOWBANK, WITNEY**

The Committee received notice of planning appeal APP/D3125/W/22/3299642 – 13 Willowbank, Witney.

**Resolved:**

That, the planning appeal decision be noted.

P52 **PLANNING APPEAL DECISION NOTIFICATION - LAND AT WITNEY ROAD, DUCKLINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE**

The Committee received notice of planning appeal APP/D3125/W/3297487 – Land at Witney Road, Ducklington.

**Resolved:**

That, the planning appeal decision be noted.

P53 **WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL VALIDATION FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee received the correspondence of the West Oxfordshire Council Planning Team regarding new planning application validation checklists.

Members were pleased in particular to see improvements to Biodiversity and Climate Sustainability, including flood risk. Officers hoped to have a copy of the new checklist at the next Climate, Biodiversity and Planning meeting due on 14 February 2023.

**Resolved:**

That, the correspondence be noted.

P54 **NOTICE OF DEFINITIVE MAP NOTICE OF LANDOWNER DEPOSIT**

The Committee received and considered the correspondence deferred from the meeting of Full Council on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 concerning land adjacent to Cogges Priory at Langel Common.

Members discussed that there were several paths that were walked regularly by the public on this area of land which have gone unchallenged for a number of years. Access to the land was not restricted, in part, due to the poor maintenance of the fencing around the land but cost permitting, an application to retain these paths should be made.

Members agreed to delegate to the Deputy Town Clerk to contact West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) to scope out if an application for Village Green status would be beneficial.

**Resolved:**

1. That, the correspondence be noted and,
2. That, a Definitive Map Modification Order be considered for the paths and,
3. That, the Deputy Town Clerk writes to WODC to enquire about village green status.

P55 **LICENSING APPLICATION CONSULTATION - W/22/01158/PAVLIC - THE CORN EXCHANGE, MARKET SQUARE**

The Committee received the application by The Corn Exchange, Market Square for a renewal of their pavement licence.

**Resolved:**

That, the Council makes no comment on this application.

P56 **A PETITION TO GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE SWIFT POPULATION**

The Committee heard from a member of the public during public participation and received a handout with information explaining the benefits of Swift Bricks and a petition she had created.

Members discussed the issue and one member noted there was a population of swifts in Corn Street some years ago and it would be good to see them return.

The Committee heard the issue had been discussed at the District Council earlier in the month and agreed that if they created a planning condition it would make it easier to include in future planning responses the Committee make. Members decided that the Council should write to District Council supporting the case for Swift Bricks so an informed decision on how to proceed could be made.

The Chair advised that this delay did not stop members individually supporting and sharing details of the petition.

Members asked that officers review the Town Council's buildings for the viability of installing Swift bricks or boxes.

**Resolved:**

1. That, officers write to WODC and request an update on inclusion of Swift Bricks and,
2. That, any decision is deferred until response from WODC received and,
3. That, the Council asks WODC that consideration of Swift Bricks is added to the biodiversity checklist and,
4. That, members are welcome to support and share the petition individually and,
5. That, the Operations Manager and Ranger assess council properties for the viability of installation of Swift Box/Bricks.

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The meeting closed at: 7.55 pm

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Chair