

FULL COUNCIL

Date: Monday, 19 February 2024
Title: Appointments to Outside Organisations
Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

Background

The Town Council appoints representatives to Outside Bodies, and it is usually recommended that those appointed should serve until the Annual Council Meeting following the next ordinary election of Councillors in 2027.

Due to the constitutions and arrangements of certain bodies, requests periodically arise throughout the year for the Council to consider.

Current Situation

NOMINEES – SERVING AS TRUSTEES

Witney Educational Foundation (WEF) – 4-year term of office

WEF provides financial support for the schools of Witney and surrounding communities to enable all students to enjoy full range of activities offered by each school. It also provides grants for families in need, to assist with the cost of extra-curricular activities, educational visits, school clothing and other essential items

Mr R Barton is a Town Council nominated Governor of WEF and has been for about 15 years. His term is coming to an end on 30 April 2024 and the Council has been advised he would like to continue.

NOMINEES

North Witney Action Group

The Leader, Cllr R Smith recently attended a meeting convened by Hailey PC about a coordinated approach to the North Witney development and associated works to Witney - West End Link Road and flood mitigation being the main two areas of focus, as well as ensuring excellent amenities within the development (presentation document of group is provided as Appendix A)

Representatives of Hailey and Crawley Parish Councils have asked the other parish council present if they would be willing to form a collaborative working group to put forward constructive ideas and opinions about the development.

If agreeable, the Council could agree for two nominees to represent it at the working group.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 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.

- Involvement in collaborative grassroots, positive discussions on a strategic planning site should be welcomed. Representatives would not be permitted to commit the Council to a course of action and should be mindful of a conflict of interests with Planning Policy and the Planning Authority.

Social Value

- Representatives on Outside Body groups provide the town council with means to be involved in their work which may affect and improve the lives of residents sustainably, socially, economically, and environmentally.

Financial implication

- There are no cost implications pertaining to this report.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and;

1. Consider whether Mr R Barton continues as a town council nominated governor on the Witney Educational Foundation and,
2. Consider whether the Town Council offers two nominated Councillors to represent it on the North Witney Action Group.