

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

**Held on Tuesday, 22 September 2020**

**At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom**

**Present:**

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	O Collins V Gwatkin	A McMahon A Prosser
Officers:	Nicky Cayley Adam Clapton	Democratic Services Officer Office Manager
Others:	no members of the public.	

**P302 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Ashbourne, Bolger and Jones.

**P303 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Aitman declared an interest in the planning application for 1 Birch Grove as she knew the residents.

**P304 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present for this item.

**P305 MINUTES**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meetings held on 21 July, 11 August and 1 September 2020.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meetings held on 21 July, 11 August, and 1 September 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**P306 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee received and considered a list of Planning Applications from West Oxfordshire District Council.

**RESOLVED:** that the comments, as per the attached schedule, be forwarded to West Oxfordshire District Council.

P307 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Committee received and considered a schedule of Planning decisions from West Oxfordshire District Council.

**RESOLVED:** that the schedule as circulated be noted with an amendment being made to WTC/061/20 as this had not been approved.

P308 **SALT CROSS GARDEN VILLAGE DRAFT AREA ACTION PLAN (AAP) CONSULTATION**

The Committee received and considered the consultation on the Salt Cross Village Draft Area Action Plan.

**RESOLVED:** that the Council sends the following response to West Oxfordshire District Council:

Witney Town Council believes that the Area Action Plan is not sound in terms of the transport measures. The plans for the A40 are unsound as it does not take into account the additional housing going into Witney and Carterton. It is not taking into account that the plans for dualling the A40 will lead to another pinch point and the AAP does not take into consideration traffic going into Witney, particularly at the Shores Green junction and the Ducklington roundabout. The Town Council does not believe that the Park and Ride site will be able to service all of the increased traffic movement created by Salt Cross.

Witney Town Council would like to see the Shores Green junction in place to ensure smooth running of the A40 before Salt Cross is started.

P309 **MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT - CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PLANNING SYSTEM**

The Committee received and considered the consultation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Changes to the Current Planning System.

**RESOLVED:** that the following response is made to question 8 iii) of the consultation:

Witney Town Council opposes this as these plans seem to take away control of the affordable housing mix from the local authority unless it can be ensured that their local plan ratios are expected and so rather than negotiation the presumption of permission should apply to plans which have taken the public housing mix from the local plan into full account.

For Question 9:

As few exemptions as possible should be written into housing law because affordable housing benefits a wide range of members of the public and there are more of those than the companies that the exemptions would benefit.

P310 **MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT - CONSULTATION ON PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

The Committee received and considered the consultation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Consultation on Planning for the Future.

**RESOLVED:** that the consultation be noted and that it be delegated to officers, the Chair and Vice Chair to bring a response to the next meeting.

P311 **MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT - TRANSPARENCY AND COMPETITION: A CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON DATA ON LAND CONTROL**

The Committee received and considered a consultation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Transparency and Competition: A call for evidence on data on land control.

Members decided that they did not have the sufficient knowledge to comment on this.

**RESOLVED:** that the consultation be noted.

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The meeting closed at: 7.00 pm

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Chair