

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

Held on Tuesday, 15 December 2020

At 6.15 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	J Aitman	M Jones
	L Ashbourne	A McMahon
	V Gwatkin	A Prosser
Officers:	Nicky Cayley	Democratic Services Officer
	Sharon Groth	Town Clerk
	Angus Whitburn	Compliance and Environment Officer
Others:	0 members of the public.	

P454 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for her absence was received from Cllr Bolger.

P455 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

P456 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

P457 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee received and considered the 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.

P458 LICENSING APPLICATION CONSULTATION W/20/00854/PRMA - UNIT R1 MARRIOTTS WALK

The Committee received and considered a licensing application. The Committee was pleased to support a new business and was pleased to support the application.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council supports this application.

P459 **LAKE AND COUNTRY PARK UPDATE**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Compliance and Environment Officer, along with three quotations.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted and: -

1. that the quote supplied by Frank Lucas for the commission of an enhanced phase 1 survey be accepted;
2. that the Committee agrees that officer attention be focused on the creation of a management statement for the south section of the country park.

P460 **WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL CARBON FOOTPRINT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Compliance and Environment Officer.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted and: -

1. that future Christmas Lighting contract to include timers on all lights that run reduced hours from dusk to midnight to cut emission;
2. that the solar pv panels for The Leys and officers developing the project be approved in principle and that any required quotes are brought back to committee for approval.

P461 **FINANCIAL REPORT - REVISED BUDGET 2020/21 AND ESTIMATES 2021/22**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk/RFO. There followed a lengthy discussion on what members would like to see included in the budget on terms of items connected with the climate emergency.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted and: -

1. that the budget for the Burwell Hall heating be increased from £15,000 already set aside to £30, 000 but using the £10, 000 budgeted for the patio and that an additional supplementary £5, 000 be included;
2. that this is be delegated to officers to look into the best option for the Burwell heating – including air/ground source heat pumps;
3. that it is continued to set aside £5, 000 year on year towards upgrading the Council's fleet of work vehicles to electric;
4. that the Council increases its budget to £15, 000 towards unspecified climate emergency projects;
5. that the Council continues to budget £10, 000 towards the Lake and Country park/Biodiversity;
6. that the £1, 000 budgeted for the Eco/Green pop up event in 2021 be split between this event -£400 - and £600 for a thermal imaging camera.

P462 **CONSULTATION - DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Committee received and considered a consultation from West Oxfordshire District Council concerning developer contributions. Members discussed the fact that the document would not be accessible in terms of language and terminology used to a lot of the general public. The Committee also wished to have more autonomy and influence on where and how developer contributions were spent in the town.

RESOLVED: - that the following response be submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council: -

This consultation does not communicate clearly to the public the intentions of how funding from developers will be sought. It is 83 pages long and it does not summarise clearly at the front what will happen. The consultation appears impenetrable and unwieldy and the Town Council is concerned that the public may not understand and be able to engage with this.

The Town Council believe that the whole town is impacted by strategic development and wishes to be able to exercise discretion in where the developer contributions are spent, which is the whole point of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The Town Council would appreciate much better collaboration between the three tiers of Council in terms of Section 106 contributions, to seek out and find solutions for the spending of Section 106 funds and a more transparent tracking system that allows the Town Council to know what has been allocated to Witney.

The Town Council would also appreciate an “easy read” version that everyone is able to understand.

P463 **A40 BUS LANE AND EYNHAM PARK & RIDE UPDATE**

The Committee received and considered an update from Oxfordshire County Council on the A40 Bus lane and the Park and Ride at Eynsham.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

The meeting closed at: 8.11 pm

Chair