

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

Held on Tuesday, 30 March 2021

At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	A Prosser	M Jones
	J Aitman	A McMahon
	V Gwatkin	L Duncan (In place of L Ashbourne)
Officers:	Adam Clapton	Deputy Town Clerk
Others:	None.	

P163 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L Ashbourne and R Bolger. Cllr Aitman advised she would need to leave the meeting early.

P164 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Prosser declared an interest in planning application WTC/039/21 as the address was in close proximity to his own.

P165 TO ADOPT AND SIGN AS CORRECT THE MINUTES OF 26 JANUARY, 16 FEBRUARY & 9 MARCH 2021

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee meetings held on 26 January, 16 February and 9 March 2021 were a true and accurate record and should be signed by the Chair.

P166 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 26 JANUARY, 16 FEBRUARY AND 9 MARCH 2021.

P95 – The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Oxfordshire County Council were no longer proceeding with Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to facilitate the introduction of a School Street for St Mary’s Infant School in Witney. Other options for Henry Box and Tower Hill schools were being investigated.

P125 – In response to a member, the Deputy Town Clerk advised a response had been formulated by the Town Clerk to the County Council’s Local Transport and Connectivity Plan Vision Consultation based on comments at the last meeting, which had been submitted before the deadline.

P167 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

P168 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

RESOLVED:

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

Minute note: Due to comments made by a member of the public questioning the need for applicant names to be listed with planning applications on the Town Council's agenda, it was agreed outside of the meeting that applicant names should no longer be published for safeguarding purposes.

There is no legal requirement to advertise names as applications are considered on material planning concerns only. Officers would provide a separate list to members who should still declare non-pecuniary interests if the applicants were known to them.

P169 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

RESOLVED:

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

Cllr J Aitman left the meeting at 6.30pm.

P170 **PAVEMENT LICENSE APPLICATION - 35 HIGH STREET, WITNEY**

The Committee received and considered a pavement licence application for 35 High Street, Witney.

Members were concerned that the attached drawings did not accurately depict the street scene and encroachment of the seating area onto the paved area could work against social distancing. There was, however, agreement that the applicant had successfully operated an outdoor area in this vicinity during the last summer which seemed to have worked well. There was a further concern regarding the positioning of advertising boards, which were questionable as advertising barriers were already being erected.

RESOLVED:

1. That Witney Town Council notes the Pavement Licence application; and,

2. Has no objections to the application providing it is for the same set-up previously used by the applicant. If not, it would like to ask that;
3. The seating area does not encroach on to the paved area. The drawing attached does not accurately depict the areas as the pavement narrows towards one end. The result of this encroachment would be a more constricted pedestrian area where social distancing will be much more difficult; and,
4. The Town Council would like to ensure that the advertising boards are not located to the front of the barriers and have confirmation that the double doors in the attached picture, effectively blocked off by the seating are not emergency doors.

P171 STREET NAMING - 66 HIGH STREET, WITNEY

The Committee received and considered a street naming suggestion for a development of flats and cottages at 66 High Street, Witney.

Members had no strong objections to the development being called Flats 1 – 5, Charlbury House, 66 High Street, Witney and the cottages being named 66A and 66B.

RESOLVED:

That Witney Town Council has no objections to the suggested naming of the development at 66 High Street, Witney.

P172 CONSULTATION: WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Committee received notice of a public consultation on the revised draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) by West Oxfordshire District Council.

Members agreed that due to the technicalities on the subject matter, they were not able to comment on the plans and would trust its implementation to the Planning Authority.

RESOLVED:

That the public consultation on the revised draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) by West Oxfordshire District Council be noted.

P173 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING APPEAL - ASH CLOSE GLOUCESTER PLACE, WITNEY

The Committee received notification of a planning appeal at Ash Close, Gloucester Place, Witney.

RESOLVED:

That the planning appeal notification for Ash Close, Gloucester Place be noted.

The meeting closed at: 6.52 pm

Chair