

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

**Held on Tuesday, 20 July 2021**

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

**Present:**

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	A Prosser O Collins L Duncan	V Gwatkin M Jones
Officers:	Adam Clapton Claire Green  Simon Wright	Deputy Town Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities Democratic & Legal Services Officer
Others:	2 members of the public.	

As there was no legislation in place for the Town Council to hold virtual meetings, and because of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee formed virtually as an Advisory Committee. Any recommendations outside of the current work's programme, budget or policy would require ratification at the Full Council meeting held on 2 August 2021.

**P382 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joy Aitman and Andy McMahon.

**P383 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Collins declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in respect of Application No. WTC/120/21 – 2 French Close, Witney by virtue of knowing the applicant.

Councillors Gwatkin, Prosser and Collins declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 7 - Licensing Application W/21/00507/PRMA - Church Green, Witney by virtue of knowing one of the organisers.

**P384 TO ADOPT AND SIGN AS CORRECT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 & 29 JUNE 2021**

Councillor Owen Collins advised that he had declared an interest in applications WTC 80 & 81/21 – 35 – 37 Woodgreen considered at the 8 June meeting by virtue of knowing the applicants.

**Resolved:**

That, the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 8 & 29 June 2021 be approved as a correct record subject to the addition above.

P385 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 8 & 29 JUNE 2021.**

There were no matters arising.

P386 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Committee adjourned for this item.

Mr D Edwards-Hughes and Councillor Thomas Ashby addressed the Committee in respect of Application No. WTC/135/21 - Land (E) 432925 (N)209696 Downs Road

*The Committee reconvened following public participation.*

P387 **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.

P388 **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.

P389 **LICENSING APPLICATION W/21/00507/PRMA - CHURCH GREEN, WITNEY**

The Committee received and considered a premises licence application for the Witney Music Festival at Church Green Witney.

It was clarified that permission to hold the event on Church Green was not yet known but the Town Council had supported the event through its Stronger Communities Committee. It was noted that the organisers were looking at a town centre location to encourage people to visit other businesses in the town centre.

The Committee, whilst not objecting to the application, expressed the view that live music could be disruptive to residents near to Church Green and highlighted that any noise levels needed to be appropriate for the location.

**Resolved:**

That, Witney Town Council support this licensing application for the Witney Music Festival but ask that noise concerns from local residents are considered. Witney Music Festival is proposed at a smaller open space than in previous years, with more residential properties nearby. Volume levels should be actively monitored during the event and any approved noise levels adjusted according to the setting.

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The meeting closed at: 7.50 pm

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Chair