

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

**Held on Tuesday, 27 September 2022**

**At 6.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney**

**Present:**

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	A Prosser T Ashby J Aitman	L Duncan V Gwatkin P Hiles
Officers:	Adam Clapton Claire Green  Derek Mackenzie	Deputy Town Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk
Others:	None.	

**P481 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

**P482 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from members or officers

**P483 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**P484 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee received and considered a 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.

P485 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Committee received and considered a schedule of planning decisions received from West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC)

The Committee noted that the application for 45 Market Square was refused by planning officers on conservation grounds.

**Resolved:**

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

P486 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the committee held on 12 July, 2 August and 23 August were received.

P432 – The Deputy Town Clerk updated the committee that the implementation of the 20mph scheme by Oxfordshire County Council would commence 10 October 2022.

**Resolved:**

That, the minutes of the Climate, Biodiversity and Planning committee held 12 July, 2 August and 23 August be approved as a correct record of the meeting and be signed by the Chair.

*Councillor A Prosser joined the meeting at 18:42pm*

P487 **FINANCE REPORT**

Members received and considered the report of the Town Clerk/RFO and a verbal update from the Deputy Town Clerk.

Members considered items for inclusion in the 2023/24 budget setting process and agreed that funds for climate initiatives encompassed several committees. Areas for consideration should include an extension to wildflower planting areas, signage at the entrances to Witney Lake & Country Park, feasibility studies on the Council's facilities to enable carbon neutrality by 2028, and public engagement on biodiversity.

There was further discussion on a joint project, led by the Lower Windrush Valley Project on an area near Farm Mill and agreement that a project plan from the Park Ranger should inform the budget-setting process.

**Recommended:**

1. That, the report and update be noted, and
2. That, an increase of budget to cover wider wildflower coverage be included and,
3. That, £2,000 be budgeted towards welcome signage to Witney Lake & Country Park and,
4. That, funds be budgeted towards environmental and carbon reduction feasibility studies at each of the Council's facilities and,

5. That, funds to enable the delivery of Lake & Country Park management plans by the Ranger be considered and,
6. That, £500-1,000 be budgeted towards climate and biodiversity engagement.

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The meeting closed at: 7.04 pm

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Chair