

EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 6 July 2015

At 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor J King (Chairman)

Councillors:	A K Beames	A D Harvey
	C Brown	C Holliday
	H W Chirgwin	T J Morris
	Mrs B J Churchill	L M Price
	J M Doughty	Mrs CE Reynolds
	H B Eaglestone	C K Woodward
	D S Enright	

Officers:	Town Clerk	Democratic Services Officer
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Also present: 1 Member of the public

301 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for their absence was received from Councillors Dr S E Bartington, P J Dorward, D Temple and apologies for the late arrival of Cllr L M Price.

302 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Churchill and Cllr Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Town Council representatives on the Corn Exchange Trust.

303 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Member of public present did not wish to speak.

304 **APPOINTMENT OF REMAINING SEATS ON COMMITTEES, SUB COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES FOLLOWING THE SOUTH WARD ELECTION, AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members considered the appointment of remaining seats of committees, sub committees and working parties as indicated in the Town Clerk's report, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: that the following members be appointed to Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Parties as follows:

Standing Committees

Planning & Development Committee	- Cllr L M Price
	- Cllr C E Reynolds

Amenities Committee	- Cllr A D Harvey
Community Services Committee	- Cllr J M Doughty
Policy & Resources Committee	- Cllr A D Harvey

Other Sub-Committees and Working Parties

Cemeteries & Closed Churchyard Sub-Committee	- Cllr D Temple
Town Planning and infrastructure Working Party	- Cllr A D Harvey
BMX/Skatepark Working Party*	- Cllr J M Doughty - Cllr L M Price
Witney in Bloom	- Cllr J M Doughty
Budget/Medium Term Financial Strategy	- Cllr A D Harvey

** With regard to the remit of the BMX/Skatepark WP the Council agreed that it also absorbed the responsibility of the Skate Park at the Leys Recreation Ground*

Representatives on Outside Bodies

Witney & District Twinning Association	- Cllr A Beames
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305 **PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING IN BRIDGE STREET – OCC CONSULTATION**

The Council received and considered the consultation documentation from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the location of the proposed Zebra Crossing in Bridge Street, as circulated with the agenda. This location would convert the existing uncontrolled crossing by the roundabout, to a controlled crossing, which would provide pedestrians with an improved crossing facility.

Members discussed other locations which had been previously consulted on. A member said that although she liked the idea of the crossing it would cause more traffic problems in this area. Another member did agree that it was heavily congested anyway and could cause more congestion but the island was the safest place to cross and he liked the idea of the crossing or a hump to slow the traffic down.

Subsequent to the agenda being circulated, the Town Clerk had received a further consultation from OCC on the proposed improvements to the zebra crossing at Newland. Cllr Enright declared a non-pecuniary interest as the location was relatively close to his property and commented that he would like to recommend this improvement. However he pointed out the downside that with humped crossings there was a noise issue. He suggested the traffic engineers find a way of reducing the noise, but the increased safety was paramount and obviously more important than the noise. Members discussed the merits of the crossing improvements and their past experiences regarding the noise from raised crossing

RESOLVED:

1. that the correspondence be noted
2. that the Council supports the location of the proposed zebra crossing at Bridge Street
3. that the Council supports the improvements to the zebra crossing at Newland

The member of the public left the meeting.

306 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

307 **LANGDALE HALL**

The Town Clerk verbally updated the Members on the situation with regard to the sale of Langdale Hall.

RESOLVED: that the Council agrees to the exchange of contracts subject to the terms as outlined in the Town Clerk's verbal report and further legal opinion.

308 **CORN EXCHANGE**

The Council received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk as circulated with the agenda.

The Town Clerk gave the background behind the £50,000 'start-up' fund, which had been set before the Council were aware of the delay in the Trust taking over the management. It had been based on previous known running costs and subject to seeing the Trust's business plan. Members reiterated that they would like to see the Charitable Trust working closely with the Town Council to run this central community facility for the people of Witney.

Cllr L Price arrived at 7.40 during the discussion of this agenda item.

RESOLVED:

1. that the Town Clerk's confidential report be noted.
2. that the Town Clerk writes a letter to the Charity Commission in support of the Corn Exchange Trust's application, stipulating the Council will fund the Trust up to £50,000 over the first year of the Trust operating, subject to sight of the business plan.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.
