

**MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 4 August 2014**

**At 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall**

**Present:**

Councillor Mrs J C Baker (Chairman)

Councillors: A K Beames                      A D Harvey  
                  N Buckle                         C Holliday  
                  R F N Curry                            J S King  
                  H B Eaglestone                       T J Morris  
                  D S Enright                            D A Snow  
  C K Woodward

Officers:            Town Clerk                            Democratic Services Officer

Also present:    Mr Andrew Cannon, Mr Peter Claridge of Witney Mills Cricket Club  
  and a Member of the Press.

362    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Mrs B J Churchill, Ms M J C Curry, P J Dorward, and B J Woodruff.

363    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

364    **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**    that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

365    **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2014**

A member asked if officers were keeping a vandalism log (minute 281). The Town Clerk confirmed this was happening and it would be reported to the police in 3 months' time.

366    **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Andrew Cannon and Mr Peter Claridge were the Chairman and Secretary of Witney Mills Cricket Club and wished to address the Council on the matter of the potential sale of their ground in Newland. They had been contacted by several members, one of whom was looking into the possibility of town green status and the application process.

They were very interested in what town green status might mean for the future. The Club wanted to keep the land for the town and obtaining town green status might be a way of doing so. The club was about to sign a new 5 year lease with the landowners (All Souls

College), which gave some security of tenure, and they were grateful for grants given to them from the District Council and the Town Council.

A member agreed this was a very important issue and pointed out that it would be difficult to replace a recreation ground like this. The Town Clerk explained that the Recreation Committee had considered this issue and potential to apply for Town Green status and had made the following recommendation which was before this Council for ratification later on the agenda:

*“that the Officers seek further advice from OPFA and the Open Spaces Society on how the Council can support an application to register Witney Mills as a Town Green in order to protect it from future development”*

367 **WITNEY COMMUNITY POLICING ISSUES**

Unfortunately the police were unable to attend. A member asked if a report could be provided if this was the case in future. The Democratic Services Officer reported that she had been promised a report but it had not been received. She had advised the police of the date of the next Council meeting in the hope that someone would be able to attend.

368 **CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A report of the Mayor’s activities for June and July had been circulated with the agenda.

369 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

a) Planning and Development Committee of 7 June, 1 July and 22 July 2014

The Chairman of the Committee reported he had received correspondence from a neighbour of the applicant listed in minute 303.4 and this had been put on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting on 12 August.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee as detailed be received and any recommendations therein approved.

b) Amenities Committee of 30 June 2014

A member suggested that as a mark or respect the Council should observe one minutes’ silence at the end of the meeting in recollection of the moment that Britain entered the First World War.

*Cllr Enright entered at 7.17pm*

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Amenities Committee of 30 June 2014 as detailed be received and any recommendations therein be approved.

c) Recreation Committee of 7 July 2014

A member thanked the members of Witney Mills Cricket Club for attending and asked that any archived material held by the Town Council relating to the ground be made available to the Club.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Recreation Committee of 7 July as detailed be received and any recommendations therein approved.

d) Public Halls Committee of 14 July 2014

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Public Halls Committee of 14 July as detailed be received and any recommendation therein approved.

e) Minutes of Policy and Finance Committee of 21 July 2014 and Special Policy & Finance Committee on 4 August 2014

The Chairman explained that a verbal report from the Communications and Media Working Party held earlier that evening had been received and the following recommendation had been made:

*The Chairman of the Communications and Working Party reported that the working party welcomed the new legislation and had recommended that the Policy and Finance Committee request delegated powers to oversee the implementation of a protocol for recording meetings once further guidance had been received.*

**RESOLVED:**

1. that the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee of 21 July 2014 as detailed be received and any recommendation therein approved.
2. that the verbal report from the Special Policy and Finance Committee of 4 August 2014 be received and the recommendation approved.

370 **COTSWOLD BROADBAND SUPPORT**

The Council had been circulated with information on Cotswold Broadband, a commercial enterprise that aimed to improve the amount of homes in rural areas able to receive high speed broadband. The company was seeking the Town Council's support in order to access part of public funding for the project.

Members discussed this and several members commented that the District Council was working with Cotswold Broadband already.

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk writes to Cotswold Broadband expressing the Council's support for broadband being available to residents of Witney and the surrounding area.

371 **EMERGING WEST OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN – CONSULTATION**

The Town Clerk requested that the Council considered how it wished to respond to the imminent consultation on the Local Plan, and gave several options on the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk arranges a briefing from a Planning Officer at West Oxfordshire District Council on the emerging Local Plan.

372 **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

There were no documents to be sealed.

*A period of one minute's silence was held in memory of the moment that Britain had joined the First World War*

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The meeting closed at 7.47

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Chairman