

RESOURCES & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, 16th MAY 2022 AT 7:00PM
TOWCESTER TOWN HALL

Present: Cllr M. Johns (Chair), Cllr P. Allen, Cllr D. Carmichael, Cllr J. Godwin, Cllr I. Macaulay, Cllr L. Samiotis, Cllr D. Tarbun, Cllr C. Wright

Also present: Miss E. Cox (Town Clerk), Mrs E. Bucklow-Holt (Assistant)

1. a) **Election of Chair of the Resources & Planning Committee for 2022/23**

Proposal

Cllr Samiotis proposed that Cllr D. Tarbun be elected as Chair of the Resources & Planning Committee for 2022/23; seconded by Cllr Carmichael; all in favour

Cllr Tarbun took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

b) **Election of Vice-Chair of the Resources & Planning Committee for 2022/23**

Proposal

Cllr Johns proposed that Cllr J. Lynch be elected as Vice-Chair of the Resources & Planning Committee for 2022/23; seconded by Cllr Godwin; all in favour

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C. Askew, Cllr K. Bond, Cllr M. Clubley, Cllr P. Conquest, Cllr R. Dando L'Olive, Cllr J. Lynch, Cllr D. Reynolds and Cllr M. Wixon.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

None

4. **Open to the Public (maximum 15-minute session)**

No members of the public were present.

5. **Minutes of Meetings**

To approve the Minutes of the Resources & Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday, 25th April for signing by the Chair.

Proposal


Cllr Johns proposed that the Minutes of the Resources & Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday, 25th April 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a true record; seconded by Cllr Wright; all in favour.

6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

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A5 signage – The Clerk will further chase a reply from National Highways with regards to the TC request for relocation of the northbound entrance sign to Towcester and installation of additional repeater signs to emphasise the speed limit for this stretch of the A5.

Banking hub – The Clerk confirmed she has re-issued the letter to Towcester Post Office concerning its opening hours as she has been advised that the original was not addressed to the correct person. The office of the Rt Hon. Dame Andrea Leadsom MP has confirmed that John Glen MP is the Minister of State for Economics and the correct person to write to regarding concerning the loss of banking services in Towcester. Andrea has offered to write on the TC behalf, although she stressed that the Government has no power to make banks keep branches open which do not have sufficient footfall to make them viable, and the reason she made arrangements for personal banking to be carried out in Post Offices when in this role. In addition to the issues caused by Towcester Post Office closing at lunchtimes, Cllr Macaulay said it has started to close earlier than the stated time of 5:30pm in order to process customers already queuing before this time. Cllr Samiotis confirmed that WNC has reached an agreement with Barclays Bank to offer banking services on certain days from Towcester Library. Further information will follow.


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Proposal

Cllr Johns proposed that the TC accepts the offer made by the Rt Hon. Dame Andrea Leadsom MP to write on its behalf to the Minister of State for Economics to express its concerns over the loss of banking facilities for residents and visitors to Towcester; seconded by Cllr Macaulay; 7 votes in favour; 1 objection; proposal carried.

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The Clerk reported that there has been no response from National Highways to concerns raised by the TC over the timing of its planned public consultation on improvements to the A5 through Towcester. Workshops with representatives from Town/Parish Councils and other organisations will take place over the next fortnight and she asked TC members attending to further raise this issue. Cllr Johns confirmed he had forwarded the most recent air quality report to the consultants working on behalf of National Highways as they had not seen this.

7. PLANNINGa) WNC Planning Decisions received to 9th May 2022 were noted as follows:-

Approval for Development in respect of:-

WNS/2022/0260/LBC	Towcester Town Council, Suite 1, The Town Hall, 86 Watling Street East, Towcester Listed Building Consent for the creation of a new access platform to the rear to allow routine maintenance to gutters and roof slopes. The repair of flat roof over the WCs.
WNS/2021/2027/FUL	36 Greenview Drive, Towcester Single storey side extension, 2no. dormer windows to existing roof and relocation of front door within porch.
WNS/2021/2167/FUL	18 Juniper Close, Towcester Single storey rear/side extension.
WNS/2022/0304/FUL	73 Hazel Crescent, Towcester Proposed single storey rear extension, new double glazed doors to side elevation together with internal alterations

b) Planning Applications received to 9th May 2022

WNS/2022/0821/MAF	Towcester Racecourse, London Road, Towcester Variation of Conditions 1 and 3 (plans) of S/20165/1800/MAF to narrow the track by 1mts (retrospective) to alter fencing. No objections
WNS/2022/0829/MAF	Towcester Racecourse, London Road, Towcester Change of use of stables to mixed use stables and kennels. No objections
WNS/2022/0831/FUL	Uplands Farm, Tiffield Road, Caldecote, Towcester Extension to existing agricultural buildings and remodelling and extension works. No objections

8. West Northamptonshire Councila) Housing Strategy Consultation for Town/Parish Councils: 14th April to 24th May 2022 (RE-LISTED)

The committee discussed this item at length. It re-iterated the points raised and minuted at the last meeting. Cllr Johns considered the strategy demonstrates a sensible approach and provides an aspirational list of objectives to address the many housing needs across West Northamptonshire but no targets or timescales are given to measure progress in achieving these objectives. He added that the majority of affordable housing needs to be supplied in locations with employment and good transport links and noted the growing need for social housing to provide homes with 3+ bedrooms to give families longer term security. WNC needs to work collaboratively with house builders to maximise the inclusion of energy efficiencies to reduce household costs and meet the Government's targets on climate change. It was agreed for the Clerk to submit the TC response based on the points raised at this and the previous meeting.

D. Johns
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- b) Street Naming: Off Redcar Road, Towcester (H12 & H14) (RE-LISTED)
9no. street/road names required for the Towcester Grange Development

The committee were in agreement to approve the proposed prefixes put forward by Cllr Askew as follows:-
Dorchester; Winchester; Dunstable; Lincoln; Carlisle; Wroxeter; Rochester; Colchester and Cirencester. The Clerk will submit the street names, with appropriate suffixes, to WNC Building Control.

- c) Street Trading Pre-Application Consultation
A43, Towcester: Food Trailer serving hot/cold food and beverages

Details of the Street Trading Pre-Application Consultation had been forwarded to all committee members prior to the meeting for consideration.

Proposal

Cllr Godwin proposed that the application be objected as there is insufficient space in the layby for the trader to safely operate and this would put its customers and passing vehicles at risk; seconded by Cllr Carmichael; all in favour.

The meeting concluded at 7:30pm

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