

**Minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee**  
**held on Thursday 22 June 2023 at 6.15pm**

**Present:** Cllr Campbell, Cllr Irven, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Westcott, and Cllr Whetlor (Chair)

**In attendance:** Jo Grellier, Deputy Town Clerk

23/01B To receive apologies for absence: (LGA 1972, section 85 (1))  
Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'apologies given by Cllrs Moss and Richards are accepted'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

23/02B To receive any Declaration of Interests under Watchet Town Council's Code of Conduct (Adopted on 9 July 2012) issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 Si No: 1464

Name	Minute no	Description of Interest	Personal & Prejudicial	Action
Cllr Murphy	All Tree applications	Stoates Mill resident	Personal	Cllr remained in the room but did not participate in the discussion and abstained from voting
Cllr Murphy	3/37/23/015	Objector employed by WCCT of whom Cllr is a Director	Personal	Cllr remained in the room but did not participate in the discussion and abstained from voting
Cllr Irven	3/37/23/015	Objector employed by WCCT of whom Cllr is a Director	Personal	Cllr remained in the room but did not participate in the discussion and abstained from voting
Cllr Whetlor	3/37/23/015	Personal friend	Personal	Cllr remained in the room but did not participate in the discussion and abstained from voting

23/03B To receive and sign the minutes of the previous Environment and Planning meeting - (18 May 2023) and adopt the Resolutions and Recommendations contained therein. (LGA 1972, SCH12 Para 41 (1) - (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 1*)  
Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 18 May 2023 are approved as a true and correct record'**. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried with 1 abstention.

23/04B **Allotment/West Beach subsidence:**  
(i) Update - if required  
Cllr Irven gave a short verbal report to inform members that the slump is gradually sliding on to the beach below and confirmed that the ground staff started work today on the car park realignment.

23/05B **Watchet Task Force:**  
(i) Increasing parking spaces in the town – update from Deputy Clerk  
The Deputy Clerk informed the committee that Somerset Council's Parking & Enforcement Specialist has responded to inform us that she is happy to attend a site visit along with Somerset Councils Street parking provision manager to look at options available from an off street parking perspective. Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August

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has been suggested for a site visit, all E&P Councillors will be made aware when the time and date are confirmed should they wish to attend. Members noted.

23/06B

**Cleeve Hill road closure update meeting:**

(i) To appoint members of the committee to attend a follow-up meeting from 1st February 2023 with Somerset Council and other attendees - verbal recommendation from Deputy Clerk  
The Deputy Clerk informed members that a response from Somerset Council had been received and they are in favour of a follow-up meeting to discuss any progress on a solution to the Cleeve Hill closure. Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 10am is the confirmed date of the meeting which will be hosted by WTC at the Watchet Community Centre. Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'herself as the Chair of the Committee and Cllr Irven attend the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and a recommendation is made to the Watchet Task Force to appoint Cllr Murphy, as a WTC representative to attend also'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

23/07B

**Liddymore Farm Development:**

(i) Members to note response from the Somerset Council Planning Enforcement Officer - (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 2*)

Members noted the update. Cllr Murphy proposed that **'liaise with the committee clerk if breaches are reported so that they can be reported on the link provided in the response email from the Enforcement Officer'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried with 1 abstention.

23/08B

To address items received from the planning authority requiring attention prior to the next Somerset Council planning meetings:

A. Wansborough Papermill new development company introduction site visit invitation from Somerset Planning Officer, appointment of attendees required – verbal update from Deputy Clerk  
The Deputy Clerk updated members that correspondence had been received from S. Fox inviting WTC to meet with the new development owners of the Paper Mill. A previous meeting was held with members of the E&P committee early 2023 and it is suggested that the same members attend along with the Chair. Cllr Irven proposed that **'the committee recommend to S.Fox that an extended invitation is sent to WPC as the development also effects the adjoining Parish. Cllr Whetlor, as Chair of the committee, and Cllrs Murphy and Irven are appointed to attend from this committee'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

B. Appeal 3/37/22/017 application for 40 Woodland Road, TA23 0HH – to approve comments in response to appeal – paperwork tabled at the meeting.  
The Deputy Clerk informed members that an appeal notification has been received from Somerset Council regarding application 3/37/22/017 with direct response to previous comments made by WTC. Cllr Murphy proposed that **'the committee support the Officers report and conclusion and stand by their original objection comments'**. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

The Deputy Clerk informed members of additional correspondence received from Cllr Aldridge confirming that the Somerset Council planning committee had postponed the Solar farm application decision date, due to the increased amount of information that had been received at the planning office during the week leading up to the meeting, more time is required to collate all the information. A new date will be arranged, and it was thought that this may be held in Williton at the former Council Chamber. Cllr Irven proposed that **'If the meeting is rearranged for a date that Cllr Aldridge is available, request that he represent the WTC to reiterate comments made by this committee, as well as WPC. If he is unavailable, Cllr Whetlor will attend to represent the comments of WPC and reiterate the comments made by this committee'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

Plans received for discussion

3/37/23/015

**Vernley, 15A-A Whitehall, Watchet, TA23 0BD**

Erection of attached garage to side of dwelling and single storey rear extension

**The Committee would like clarification on the boundaries and exact measurements of the proposal to make full comment but feel over development of area.** Carried with 3 abstentions.

3/37/23/018

**Land between Beverley Drive & Goviers Lane, watchet, TA23 0DF**

Application for the approval of reserved matters following outline approval 3/37/21/006 for the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of the erection of 1 No. dwelling (resubmission of 3/37/22/015)

**The Committee were of the understanding that the application had been withdrawn.**

3/37/23/001

**Reserved Matters for 139 Dwellings, Land at Normandy Avenue, Watchet**

To accept drafted comments from Williton Parish Council

**The committee wish to endorse and support the comments made by Williton Parish Council and in addition endorse comments made by Place Making Specialist to see pedestrian/cycle path route to North out on to Doniford Road.** Carried by acclaim.



- T/37/23/005**      **12 Stoates Mill, Watchet, TA23 0FG**  
Notification to pollard 8 poplar trees (back to previous pollard points) within Watchet Conservation Area  
**The Committee would like to see uniformity to No.18 that has already been approved to allow for sympathetic landscaping. Carried with 1 abstention.**
- T/37/23/006**      **11 Stoates Mill, Watchet, TA23 0FG**  
Notification to coppice 7 alder stems within Watchet Conservation Area  
**The Committee note that there is not enough evidence or photographs on the new application so unclear of what they are intending to do. There is still no Tree expert advice. The committee would be unable to support the application as concerned that coppicing would reduce the tree too low, so in effect, it will become a bush, they would like to see as much of the tree preserved as possible. Carried with 1 abstention.**
- T/37/23/007**      **Kingfisher House, 13 Stoates Mill, Watchet, TA23 0FG**  
Notification to coppice one alder stem and to carry out management works to two alder stems within Watchet Conservation Area  
**The Committee note that there is not enough evidence or photographs on the new application so unclear of what they are intending to do. There is still no Tree expert advice. The committee would be unable to support the application as concerned that coppicing would reduce the tree too low, so in effect, it will become a bush, they would like to see as much of the tree preserved as possible. Carried with 1 abstention.**
- T/37/23/008**      **15 Stoates Mill, Watchet, TA23 0FG**  
Notification to coppice two alder stems and to carry out management works to the remaining stems closest to the house within Watchet Conservation Area  
**The Committee note that there is not enough evidence or photographs on the new application so unclear of what they are intending to do. There is still no Tree expert advice. The committee would be unable to support the application as concerned that coppicing would reduce the tree too low, so in effect, it will become a bush, they would like to see as much of the tree preserved as possible. Carried with 1 abstention.**
- T/37/23/009**      **14 Stoates Mill, Watchet, TA23 0FG**  
Notification to pollard 8 poplar trees (back to previous pollard points) within Watchet Conservation Area  
**The Committee would like to see uniformity to No.18 that has already been approved to allow for sympathetic landscaping. Carried with 1 abstention.**
- T/37/23/010**      **16 Stoates Mill, Watchet, TA23 0FG**  
Notification to pollard 12 poplar trees (back to previous pollard points) within Watchet Conservation Area  
**The Committee would like to see uniformity to No.18 that has already been approved to allow for sympathetic landscaping. Carried with 1 abstention.**
- 23/09B**            **Matters for the next meeting – verbal, no discussion**

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed..... L. A. Whetlor .....

Date..... 20/7/23 .....

