

**Minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee
held on Tuesday 1st August 2023 at 6.00pm**

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

In attendance: Jo Grellier, Deputy Town Clerk

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

23/24B 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
Cllrs Moss & Murphy	T/37/23/011	Residents of Stoates Mill	Personal	Cllrs remained in the meeting but did not take part in the discussion or voting.
Cllr Whetlor	3/37/23/019	Chair of RBL Branch	Personal	Cllr remained in the meeting but did not take part in the discussion or voting.

23/25B **To receive and sign the minutes of the previous Environment and Planning meeting - (20 July 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 Murphy proposed that **'the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 20 July 2023 are approved as a true and correct record'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried with 2 abstentions.

23/26B **Allotment/West Beach subsidence:**
(i) Update - *if required* – No further update

23/27B **Watchet Task Force: if required**
Cllr Murphy tabled two reports and gave the following update:
Car Park proposal report - WTF discussed car parking in Watchet following on from an update about the access to Swain Street cp from Swain Street. Fiona Payne who manages the VC was asked to formulate a proposal on car parking for WTF. This proposal is not endorsed as yet by WTF but is a valuable contribution to understanding the use of Watchet's car parks and provides useful insight before our meeting with SC car park officers on 9 August.

A discussion ensued. Cllr Murphy proposed that **'the Committee commission the Deputy Clerk to write to the Senior Traffic Engineer to inform her that Watchet Town Council are supportive of the realignment of the road as presented in her report'**. Seconded by Cllr Campbell. Carried.

Swain Street Memo report - WTF also had an update from Somerset Council over the plans to reconfigure the junction at the Cross which is addressed to the Town Council. It would be good to have E&P consider the report. WTF were informed about the content of the report but it had not been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

A discussion ensued. Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'The Committee endorse the comments in the report. At the Town Council site visit on 9th August with Parking Services, the comments in**

LAW

the report will be reiterated in addition to approved Committee comments to leave all Watchet car parks as they are in terms of short/long stay but request free parking 8am-10am'.
Seconded by Cllr Moss. Carried.

23/28B

To address items received from the planning authority requiring attention prior to the next Somerset Council planning meetings: *if required*
Nothing to report.

Plans received for discussion

3/37/23/019

The Royal British Legion, Mill Lane, Watchet, TA23 0AR
Change of use of allotments into an outside seating area
The Committee regrets the loss of the RBL Social Club allotments, this coupled with the Watchet Town Council West Street allotments, for which there was a waiting list, causes the loss of another allotment amenity in our town. The Committee cannot support this application.

3/37/23/022

Former Wansbrough Paper Mill, Brendon Road, Watchet, TA23 0AY
Temporary storage of soil in 4 No. areas
The Committee has no objection to the proposed utilisation of the former Wansborough Mill site for storage of soil (transported from the Developer's site in Minehead) subject to the following:

(a) that the mitigations proposed in the application to prevent leakage into the adjacent Washford River shall be completed **PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT** of works. The Committee support comments made in the Ecological Appraisal submitted by the applicant, that an Ecology Clerk of Works is appointed to oversee the works, and an ecological appraisal is submitted by the developer.

and

(b) that urgent and advance consultation is entered into between Somerset Council Highways, the Developer, and representatives of all the local councils impacted by the transmission of soil along the route of the A39 and B3191 regarding the inevitable congestion and road safety risks which will result in order to reduce the effect on those communities.

Watchet Town Council are further minded to take this opportunity to request the commencement of discussion with Somerset Council Highways and the Developer regarding the provision of a primary route through the Mill site as plans progress aimed at ensuring that the opportunity is retained (should circumstances arise at some point in the future) for a potential roadway being constructed to connect to Cleeve Hill.

T/37/23/011

20 Stoates Mill, Watchet, TA23 0FG
Notification to re-pollard 3 poplar trees 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 2 abstentions.

3/37/23/023

Land to the rear of 48B Brendon Road, Watchet
Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Application 3/37/21/027 for the appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale for the erection of 1 No. dwelling
The Committee recommends approval.

23/29B

Matters for the next meeting – verbal, no discussion

- Watchet Car parking
- Beverley Drive Emergency access concerns
- Liaise with Deputy Clerk

Meeting closed at 6.55pm

Signed..... *h. A. Wether*

Date..... *21st Sept 2023,*