

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th September 2019

PRESENT:	Councillor	I Bradbury – Town Mayor
	“	S Flunder
	“	Mrs P Goldsmith
	“	Mrs J Jeans
	“	Ms J Jordan
	“	M Ladd
	“	M Rowan -Robinson
	“	Mrs M C Tucker
	“	J A Windell

Also present; 7 members of the public, and the Town Clerk, and High Steward.

1. **Apologies:** *To receive apologies for absence.*
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Beavan and Cllr Miss A Betts
2. **Declarations of interest:**
 - a) *To receive any declarations of Personal Interest regarding the agenda.*
Nil.
 - b) *To receive any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests regarding the agenda.*
Nil.
 - c) *To note the decision of the Town Clerk regarding requests for dispensations relating to this agenda.*
Nil.
 - d) *Councillors to be reminded of the requirement for them to individually update their Register of Interests as appropriate.*
The Town Mayor reminded members of their legal requirements to complete a Register of Interest online.
3. **Minutes:** (i) To approve and sign the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 13th August 2019.
On the proposal of Cllr Windell, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of 13th August 2019.
4. **Public Forum**
 - a) *To receive a report from East Suffolk Councillor D Beavan.*
Cllr Beavan will then take questions from councillors and electors (maximum 5 minutes).
Cllr Beavan had provided apologies for the meeting.

Questions from members to ESC Cllr Beavan: There were no questions for Cllr Beavan.

Questions from members of the public to ESC Cllr Beavan: There were no questions for Cllr Beavan.

- b) *To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Ladd. Cllr Ladd will then take questions from councillors and electors (maximum 5 minutes).*

SCC Cllr Ladd advised the following;

the County have an overspend of £5m on adult social care.

SCC Boundary report is consulting on a reduction in the number of councillors from 75 to 70. Consultation closes 2nd December 2019.

The Rural coffee caravan will be at Wrentham Village Hall on 27th November.

A1095 road safety audit has been carried out.

Questions from Members to SCC Cllr Ladd:

Cllr Jeans asked about the traffic flow data that SCC Highways carried out to monitor the number of cars coming into Southwold. Cllr Ladd advised that the data reveals that during the research (end Aug/ beg Sept), on average 5500 cars entered the town each day of which 1200 passed the data monitor on Pier Avenue.

Questions from Members of the public to SCC Cllr Ladd:

Question was asked as to how many parking spaces there are in Southwold. The meeting was advised that there are approx. 4500 parking spaces.

- c) *To receive comments from Southwold electors on matters on the agenda (each elector will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes. 10 minutes will be allocated overall for this section).*

There were no comments from members of the public.

Public participation closed.

5. To receive reports from Committees:

- a) To receive the written report of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee meetings held on 6th and 20th August 2019 and 3rd September 2019. (see yellow papers attached). *No recommendations*

Minutes noted and agreed by all.

- b) To receive a verbal update from Planning and Development Committee on any further planning/development matters to be brought to the attention of the Council. *No recommendations*

The cttee advised that despite the poor quality of many applications, 2 good applications were considered at the meeting on 17th September 2019.

The cttee advised that due to the policies within the ESC Local Plan, ESC was refusing some applications. A meeting has been arranged for members of the STC planning cttee to meet with ESC planning officers.

East Anglia Two and East Anglia One North Wind Farm Projects.

The council to consider and if approved to; register as a relevant representative party, after 25th October 2019, in order to participate in the Inspectorate Enquiry for the Development Consent Order for East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North Wind Farm Planning Process.

This recommendation was proposed by Cllr Flunder and seconded by Cllr Tucker.

Cllr Flunder presented the report. Cllr Flunder advised that the area would benefit from offshore energy but that the proposed windfarms off the coast of Southwold would be significant in height. The consultation has now closed – but both Minsmere and Aldeburgh Town Council have expressed concerns. The next stage of the process is to register as a relevant representative party to take part in the Inspectorate Enquiry.

SCC Cllr Ladd advised that SCC has also raised concerns due to the impact on the seascape.

Cllr Bradbury advised that SCC has offered for a visual impact display to be shown to councillors at Gun Hill, and it is hoped that this could be made available to the public.

It was suggested that the Town Council should be in favour of renewable energy – and that hosting an exhibition about renewables should be considered.

On the recommendation of Cllr Flunder, seconded by Cllr Tucker is was RESOLVED by all to register the Town Council as a relevant representative party, after 25th October 2019, in order to participate in the Inspectorate Enquiry for the Development Consent Order for East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North Wind Farm Planning Process.

It was agreed that Cllr Flunder would be the lead for this matter on behalf of the Town Council, to include ward councillors SCC Cllr Ladd and ESC Cllr Beavan. It was suggested that Suffolk Preservation Society should also be approached.

- c) To receive the written report of the Leisure and Environment Committee meeting held on 16th September 2019 – REP L and E 4/2019 (*see green papers attached*).

Cllr Rowan Robinson presented the report highlighting the open spaces consultation, the marshes work. It was confirmed that the marshes boards are now ready for installation.

A query was raised as to the progress of the cannons – the cttee will ascertain an installation date.

Comment was made regarding the dog mess on Ferry Road footpath - further consideration to be given to the solutions for this area.

Councillor Bradbury highlighted the demand for maps of the town and suggested that there was an urgent need for further printing of these to be considered.

- d) To receive the written report of the Landlords Committee meeting. *No meeting held*

- e) To receive the written report of the Highways and Footpaths cttee meeting of the 22nd August 2019. REP 1/2019 *No recommendations*. (see grey papers attached).

Report was received and noted.

- f) Southwold Harbour Lands Joint cttee – *verbal update re consultation*

Cllr Windell advised the consultation has now started and that all papers are available online on the STC and ESC websites. The consultation consists of a series of questions which are available for response via hard copy or via survey monkey.

2 drop in sessions have also been arranged and Walberswick Parish Council has been notified of the consultation.

6. **Town Council draft Strategy 2019 -2023** (*see peach papers attached*)

a) **To agree in principle the draft strategies as proposed**

b) **To note that each cttee will need to meet before 21st October to consider the tactics assigned to them, and to prepare outline actions for each. The outline actions will need to consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as detailed in the SWOT analysis.**

Discussion re the strategies, and the tactics required to achieve these. Comment was made that the document will need to be more concise. Comment was also made that climate emergency should be included within the document in view of council policy on this matter.

Cllr Ladd advised that he has been elected as Chair of the SCC Climate Emergency Policy Development Team and it would be useful for him to meet with the town council climate emergency group to discuss the strategy on this, and that it would also be useful to meet with ESC regarding their strategy on the issue.

Mention was made that there are 42 tactics within the draft strategy to be delivered within 12 months – a query was raised as to whether this is achievable. As 10/12 of the tactics were ‘to consider’ it was suggested that these could be removed.

After discussion it was agreed that individual committees would consider the tactics for the various strategies/ priorities and return these so that they could be incorporated within the document,

On the proposal of Cllr Tucker, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was suggested that the priorities/ strategies should be agreed as presented in the draft document with the addition of climate emergency in strategy d). Discussion then took place re the strategies/ priorities and the need for the strategies to be actual strategies and not tactics. Debate took place as to whether there should be any reduction in the strategies and whether the wording in any should be amended.

Various amendments to the wording were put forward, and after debate it was proposed by Cllr Tucker, seconded by Cllr Jordan that the Strategies/ Priorities read as follows;

- a) **Differentiate the tourism offer**
- b) **Diversify and enhance the local economy**
- c) **Encourage full-time residency within the Town**
- d) **Preserve and enhance the natural and built environment and respond appropriately to the climate change emergency**
- e) **Effectively manage STC income streams in order to secure a firm financial base**
- f) **Improve access, parking and transport within the Town**
- g) **Implement an improved communication strategy.**

It was RESOLVED on a majority of 8 in favour and 1 against that these should be adopted as the Town Council Strategies/Priorities for 2019 – 2023.

7. **Task and Finish Groups**

a) To receive the written report of the Parking Management Task and Finish group meetings held 15th August/ 9th September 2019. *No recommendations – see lilac papers attached.*

Cllr Bradbury presented the report.

Mention was made that ‘short term tactics’ should also include ‘working with the Common Trust to manage potential displacement.’

Cllr Ladd advised that the East Suffolk Partnership Board have mentioned the possibility of Southwold High Street being considered for a 20mph area. In view of the complexities of considering all options for the stakeholders who use/park/deliver in the High Street, discussions re the options within the High Street will be considered as a separate project (Highways and Footpaths, SCC and ESC).

b) To receive the written report of the Neighbourhood Plan Task and Finish group – *no meeting held*.

c) To receive the written report of the Climate Emergency Task and Finish Group meetings held August/ September 2019. (*see green papers attached*).

The council to consider and if approved to; a) ask Task and Finish Group to arrange a meeting with Chairman of ESC and SCC Climate Emergency groups to discuss the initiatives being proposed, b) to ask the individual committees to consider the respective suggestions in their October/ November meetings.

On the proposal of Cllr Windell, seconded by Cllr Flunder it was RESOLVED by all to amend the recommendation to read;

a) Task and Finish Group to arrange meetings with ESC and SCC to discuss their proposed initiatives,

b) to ask the individual committees to consider the respective suggestions in their October/ November meetings.

It was RESOLVED by all to approve the recommendation as amended.

d) To receive a verbal report from the Southwold and Reydon Community Emergency Group meeting held 17th September 2019.

Cllr Goldsmith advised that the group are looking at updating the plan as it was last updated in 2017.

The group also suggest that the community emergency boxes will need to be found and updated and will be requesting a donation of £500 each from both Southwold Town Council and Reydon Parish council to enable this. An annual budget of £25 will also be requested.

e) To receive a verbal report from the Southwold and Reydon Community Shuttle group meeting held on 18th September 2019 and accompanying paper from Cllr Beavan (*white paper*).

The report from Cllr Beavan was noted.

The group consider that the service, as presently supplied, should continue for as long as possible, albeit with some timetable reductions, as it is of important social value.

Cllr Ladd advised that there is funding available through East Suffolk Partnership for promotion of drivers, and to put drivers through the necessary training.

8. **Financial Matters (See Cream Papers)**

- a) To receive the Accounts for Payment for end August to September 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr Windell, seconded by Cllr Jordan, it was RESOLVED by all to approve the payments as presented

- b) To receive the minutes of the Finance and Governance cttee meeting held 10th September 2019 Rep 7.2019. *See supporting papers. No recommendations.*

Report noted.

- c) Council to receive the completed external audit report for 2018/19- Council to consider the action plan required – No actions required.

Council noted that the audit had been returned without comment.

Council noted that no actions were required/ highlighted within the audit.

9. **Correspondence: (See White papers)**

- a) PCSO report – September 2019 and notes from SLA meeting with Sgt Beresford.

Cllr Jeans presented the report. Cllr Jeans advised that subsequent to the meeting with Sgt Beresford a meeting had been held with the PCSO. From these discussions it was apparent that the use of a cycle is not practical, and this will not be taken forward. The PCSO advised that an updated phone may be beneficial in order to be able to receive photographs from councillors of traffic/ parking issues when they occur. Cllr Ladd asked that police cover for Boxing Day, New Years Eve and New Years Day be requested.

- b) AONB report August 2019. Noted.

Specific mention was made of item 4 in the report which explains that the inclusion of the site at Wangford in the Suffolk Minerals and Waste plan is not considered to be justified.

10. **To receive update from Town Mayor of events attended/ matters to report including;**

Events attended.

Southwold Art Circle Summer Exhibition – 18th August 2019

RAFA Battle of Britain Service – 15th September 2019

URC Harvest Festival – 15th September 2019

Beccles Civic Service – 22nd September 2019

Forthcoming Events

Home start AGM – 26th September 2019

Volunteers event – 28th September 2019

Suffolk Coast Forum – 11th October 2019

11. **Town Mayor organisations – 2019/20.**

To receive updates regarding events to be held in support of the Town Mayor's organisations for 2019/20.

The Town Mayor asked members for permission to use the chamber for a chees and wine soiree – there were no objections.

12. **To receive written reports from the Town Council representatives on other bodies/organisations, of meetings attended:**

Reports to be provided in written format and circulated to members prior to the meeting unless time allows for a verbal report to be given, subject to the Chairs discretion.

Report from Blyth Estuary Group to be circulated to members.

13. **Town Council vacancy for councillor** – Notification of vacancy has resulted in a request for a formal election. Candidate nomination papers to ESC by 20th September 2019.

Election will take place on 17th October 2019. There are 2 candidates.

14. **Urgent Business:** to act upon any matter of a non-financial urgency, within the meaning of the Standing Orders, which may be brought to the attention of the Town Council with the consent of the Town Mayor previously obtained.

Nil

15. **Date of next Town Council Meeting:**

Tuesday 29th October 2019.

Signed

Dated.....