

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th January 2023.

PRESENT:	Councillor	J Windell – Town Mayor
	“	D Beavan
	“	Miss A Betts
	“	I Bradbury
	“	S Flunder
	“	Mrs P Goldsmith
	“	Mrs J Jeans
	“	Mrs J Jordan
	“	M Ladd
	“	M Rowan-Robinson
	“	R Temple

Also present, The Town Clerk and 2 members of the public

1. Apologies:

To note/approve apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sutton which were noted. Apologies were also received from the High Steward. *To retrospectively approve the absence of Cllr Temple at the meeting of 25th October 2022.* Agreed by all to approve the absence.

2. Declarations of interest:

- a) *To receive any declarations of Personal Interest regarding the agenda.* Cllr Temple declared a Personal Interest as Trustee of The Fox Trust.
- b) *To receive any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests regarding the agenda.* Cllr Windell declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest re the Red Cross site.
- c) *To note the decision of the Town Clerk regarding requests for dispensations relating to this agenda.* Not applicable.
- d) *Councillors to be reminded of the requirement for them to individually update their Register of Interests as appropriate.* Noted.

3. Minutes: (i) To approve and sign the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday 1st December 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Bradbury it was RESOLVED by all to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday 1st December 2022. All agreed.

4. Public Participation

- a) *To receive a report from East Suffolk Ward Councillor D Beavan.*
ESC Cllr Beavan will then take questions from Councillors and electors.
ESC Ward Cllr Beavan – Re energy insulating homes - Warwick University have very innovative plans. ESC has rejected this at present but Cllr Beavan will go back on this at the next meeting.

Re Potters Bridge – deeper breach than last year. Trying to get agreement on digging outfall but this is at stalemate still. Concerns about the reeds above the bridge now as no bitterns were there last year.

ESC Cllr Beavan advised that he will be asking the ESC Deputy Leader to transfer the camping field. Also bringing a motion re the inter connectors for the energy projects and trying to get this as a cross party cause.

Coastal Resilience exhibition went well on 2nd/3rd December 2022. Stakeholders Groups will be set up.

Questions to ESC Cllr Beavan

Nil.

b) *To receive report from Suffolk County Councillor M Ladd.*

SCC Cllr Ladd will then take questions from Councillors and electors.

SCC Cllr Ladd advised that he had chaired the SCC scrutiny meeting on carbon budget. SCC is progressing well on its target for 2030 i.e. CO₂ reduced by 4000 tons already. SCC is looking to propose a balanced budget for 2023-24 with a £685m budget. SCC is due to propose a Council tax increase of 1.99% and a separate social care increase of 2%. These yet to be approved.

c) *Public - To receive comments on matters on the agenda (each member of public will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes). (10 minutes will be allocated overall for this section- subject to Town Mayor discretion).*

There were no comments from members of the public.

5. To receive reports from Committees.

a) *Planning and Development Committee - To receive the written report of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on 3rd January 2023. No recommendations.*

Cllr Jeans as Chair of the Planning cttee advised that professional voluntary help is being given to the committee by Ruth Summers and Paul Bradley. Cllr Jeans asked for the following recommendations to be considered by Council:

(i) DC/22/4444/FUL – Conversion of two apartments to a single home. Works include; side and rear extensions, alteration of internal layout, loft conversion with new rear dormer, alteration of front garden boundary including reinstatement of railings. Replacement garage with external store to rear of site, 15 North Parade No objection. All agreed.

(ii) DC/22/4526/FUL – Removal of front porch, replacement of all windows and doors, part single and part two storey rear extension and renewal of all existing guttering, down pipes, SVPS, barge boards, fascias and soffits, Merton Cottage, Fieldstile Road. Recommend Refuse as per details attached. All agreed.

(iii) DC/22/4542/FUL – Roof conversion and dormer, side deck over car port, new windows, internal alterations, Blackshore Cottage, 1 Blackshore. Recommend Refuse as per details attached. All agreed.

(iv) DC/22/4650/FUL – New first floor bay window to rear, internal alterations creating new shower room, 26 East Street. Recommend Refuse as per details attached. All agreed.

b) *Leisure and Environment Cttee –No meeting held - No recommendations.*

c) Landlords Cttee –No meeting held - *No recommendations.*

6. **National Energy Projects – Sizewell/Anglia One/Eurolink/Sealink** – *To receive updates from joint parishes meetings held December 2022 and January 2023. To note response sent to Eurolink Non-Statutory Consultation, and response from Kevin Hollinrake MP - Cllr Flunder/Cllr Bradbury.*

Cllr Flunder advised that Sizewell C is in the public domain and the DCO is approved. Questions still remain re the technology and noted that Hinckley is still delayed. Windfarm development – STC has communicated well with all local councils re questioning the process taking place. Also see response from Dept. of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

7. **To receive 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.

a) *Southwold and Walberswick Flood Board – Feedback from recent meetings and public consultation held on 2/3rd December 2022 - Cllr Beavan/Cllr Windell – Cllr Beavan covered above.*

b) *Resilient Coasts Project Board – Cllr Beavan – as above.*

c) *HMC Meeting/SAG meeting updates– Cllr Flunder/Cllr Bradbury – HMC meeting is on Thursday. SAG is working well. Thanks were extended to Cllr Beavan for his work on the above.*

8. **To receive reports from working groups:**

Sustainable Travel Group – Update regarding EVC for Gardner Road car park.

To consider and if agreed approve the quote from UKPN for electric installation at Gardner Road car park – see attached and see Finance cttee recommendation as below.

On the proposal of Cllr Bradbury seconded by Cllr Ladd it was agreed by all to approve the quote from UKPN.

9. **Finances including Revenue Budget and Precept 2023.24**

a) *To consider, and if agreed, approve the Town Council Revenue Budget 2023.2024 – see papers attached*

The Town Clerk and Cllr Ladd presented on behalf of the Finance Cttee, and explained that the ability of the budget is to enable council to carry out non property related projects as per council strategy. Members were reminded that the budget being presented was the Revenue Budget, as this is required to enable council to decide the annual precept. Budgeted expenditure for 2023.2024 totals £212,681, and if a precept with a 0% increase was being considered, then with the other revenue income this would create a net deficit of £74,108 for 2023-2024 – which would need to be covered.

Discussion about the budget deficit and how this could be covered. It was noted that the revenue claim against the CCT grant would cover the budget deficit.

It was also noted that the budget is a working document.

Members were advised that the budget contains a comms/training budget which will have a positive impact, and that the transport budget provision is positive too.

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith it was recommended that council accept the revenue budget as presented. Agreed by a majority to approve the Revenue Budget for 2023.2024.

b) *Precept 2023.24 – To consider, and, approve a precept for 2023.24 – see ESC papers attached and Budget above.* Cllr Ladd suggested that taking into account the economic background it would be appropriate for a 0% change to the precept for 2023 2024. **Precept of £120,573 would provide a 0% change for parishioners. Members felt that a precept at £120,573, providing a 0% change, would be appropriate for 2023.2024. On the proposal of Cllr Ladd, seconded by Cllr Flunder it was agreed by a majority to approve a precept of £120,573 for 2023.2024.**

c) *To receive report and recommendations of Finance and Governance Meeting held on 16th December 2022. Fin Rep 11.2022. See recommendations in relation to electricity to Gardner Rd car park, council insurance premium, and policies *Some aspects might need to be discussed in agenda item 11 if the need arises.*

(i) **recommended that, whilst awaiting the UKPN quote, a budget of £5k be allocated for the provision of the supply of electricity by UKPN and ECO, to Gardner Road car park. To be covered from CIL monies. N/A see above.**

(ii) **recommended that the insurance cover be renewed on a 3-year deal at an initial cost of £26149.89 per annum. That this be paid for 14 months in order for renewal to be 25th Feb 2024 rather than 25th December 2023. Consideration to increase public liability to £15m to be made as/when required – not to be taken at the moment. Proposed Cllr Betts, seconded Cllr Ladd. All agreed.**

(iii) **recommended that the Civility and Respect Model councillor/officer policy, Social Media Civility and Respect Guide and Policy Supplement, be adopted with immediate effect.**

Discussion took place regarding the social media guide and policy supplement. Specific reference was made to the mention of ‘corporate responsibility’ and whether this applies. Discussion also took place regarding use of social media – and the difference in criticising ‘policy’ matters, rather than individuals.

On the proposal of Cllr Ladd, seconded Cllr Betts, it was agreed on a majority to adopt the Civility and Respect Model councillor/officer policy, and Social Media Civility and Respect Guide and Policy Supplement.

10. **Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Project Update Briefing Invitation** - 2nd February 2023. Noted

11. **Date of next Town Council Meeting: Tuesday 31st January 2023 at 7.30pm.**

12. **Exclusion of Public and Press if required during discussions:** *Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, for the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following.*

Quotes/ tenders for property works – See Conf Fin Rep 11/2022

25 Market Place – It was agreed by all that Cooper & Denny be awarded the tender.
Proposed by Cllr Ladd, seconded by Cllr Bradbury.

1 Hurren Terrace – Proposed by Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Jordan. Agreed by all that
Cooper & Denny carry out the work at a cost of £2364 plus vat

6 Strickland Place – See Confid rep of January 2023 - It was agreed by all to assess the
value of the property.

Cllr Windell and Cllr Temple left the meeting.

Red Cross site – see Confid rep of January 2023. It was agreed by all to move forward
with the processes required as detailed in the amended report.