

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 7pm on Wednesday 13th September 2023.

PRESENT:	Councillor	S Flunder – Town Mayor
	“	P Davy
	“	Mrs V Gladwell
	“	R Jarvis
	“	Mrs C Kerr
	“	M Palmer
	“	Mrs V Redington
	“	R Temple
	“	M Wells

Also present: The High Steward and the Town Clerk.

1. **Apologies:**

To note/approve apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Beavan, Goldsmith and Sutton whose apologies were noted.

2. **Declarations of interest:**

a) *To receive any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests regarding the agenda.* Nil.

b) *To receive Declarations of Other Registerable Interests regarding the agenda.* Nil.

c) *To receive Declarations of Non-Registerable Interests regarding the agenda.* Nil.

d) *To note the decision of the Town Clerk regarding requests for dispensations relating to this agenda.* Nil.

e) *To note that the Register of Interests of all Members is to be completed within 28 days of the election and updated thereafter with changes as they occur.* Noted.

3. **Minutes:** (i) *To approve and sign the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 25th July 2023.*

Amendment - Cllr Gladwell represents STC at Harbour Users not Harbour Management Committee.

With this one amendment, it was RESOLVED by all to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th July 2023. All agreed.

4. **Public Participation**

a) 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 members of the public present.

5. **Property Matters ****

Gable end works – Hurren Terrace

Provision of updated toilet facilities – Hurren Terrace

Cllr Flunder advised that the project is four months from completion. Site meeting held today with new Mixbrow site manager present as well. Board meeting held last week

where spoke for some time re EPO role and the discharge of contamination issues. To prevent any void in information, the EPO visited site today and lengthy discussion took place, and all appears in order.

Cllr Redington arrived at 7.10pm

ESC was anxious not to suffer the same situation as Duncans Yard. Mixbrow is reviewing the programme to make sure all is on track. Await an update next week. Completion is still due January 2024.

Toilet facilities at the shop - aim was not to take up as much floor space, so plan was to place disabled toilet in 3 of the Town Council's own areas at the rear of Hurren Terrace. Costs were obtained for improving these 3 areas - but as the gas monitors are in the back of 7 Hurren Terrace, and it would mean a disruption to the project to have these removed, a new suggestion is that the shop uses the disabled toilet in the Block 1 area.

Cllr Wells asked about the costs of these new toilets/shower.

It was explained that these are outside of the project costs.

Discussion took place about the necessity of having toilet facilities in the shop – and what the rules were for this. Clerk to get this clarified.

Discussion regarding repair of Gable end works – cost = £57k for works on STC own property. Town Clerk explained the situation with regards to the repairs needed on the gable end of the STC properties on Hurren Terrace.

It was proposed to go ahead with the gable end reinforcement works at Hurren Terrace.

Proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Palmer. All agreed. Unanimous.

Re operator – weekly calls are being scheduled to ensure that the lease can be signed by the end of September.

Re parking – the Town Council need to resolve with Millenium Trust. Cllr Davy and the Town Clerk to take forward.

6. **Financial Matters**

Update on income received.

Recommendation – to consider and if agreed approve that the existing signatories can invest further monies into the CCLA public deposit fund. Amount to be agreed.

Cllr Jarvis explained that there are limited products for investing of local authority monies and that Cllr Davy has led on reviewing these for the Finance cttee.

Cllr Davy explained that as per the STC Investment Policy, STC can only invest in AAA funds. This limits the ability of the Town Council to invest in products but is a safe and cautious approach to investment.

To establish exact spare funds a full cashflow would need to be drawn up.

CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund was mentioned as an ideal fund, and STC already has monies in this product. Cllr Davy asked whether STC members wished to spread the risk further or increase the balance of these CCLA funds. Members advised that in view of the Investment Policy they would be satisfied with keeping with the CCLA.

Cllr Jarvis advised the meeting that for any alternatives STC would need to take into account fees of having a broker/management company as advisers.

Cllr Jarvis suggested that; the Finance cttee members be provided delegated authority to invest further monies into the CCLA public deposit fund. Amount to

be agreed by the Finance Cttee. Existing signatories to be given authority to enact the investment, and that Cllr R Jarvis and Cllr P Davy be authorised by existing signatories Cllr Flunder and the Town Clerk to be additional signatories on the CCLA funds for additions and withdrawals.

Proposed by Cllr Temple, seconded by Cllr Gladwell. All agreed.

7. **Banking in Southwold**

To consider the potential impact on the town of the loss of the last bank/ building society, and action required by the Town Council.

Barclays is closing in Southwold in November which is the last bank in Southwold. The Town Council were keen to ensure that they retained a presence and have spoken to Barclays about this. Barclays advise that they like to offer a personal service of 3 days a week to customers to offer advice but no banking facilities. A private room and waiting facilities will be required. Discussion about possible sites – and Barclays and Stella Peskett Hall are now liasing on this matter.

Discussion too about possible sites for a 24hr outside ATM. Possible site = Millennium Hall, Station Yard, or/ and alley between Swan and Town Hall. Discussion about whether the ATM would be able to provide no fee cash to users or whether a transaction fee would be payable. The Town Clerk to ask Link and bring back to future meeting. Mention was made that Beccles is also losing Barclays and the Mayor has spoken to the Mayor of Beccles.

8. **Highways/ Parking drop in event – 22nd/ 23rd September 2023** – SCC present re potential for one way system in High Street, and ESC present re options for parking review.

SCC one way proposal will be available for viewing at the Town Hall on 22nd/23rd September. ESC will also be present to listen to any views on parking in the town. Cllr Gladwell and Cllr Kerr will help to publicise the meeting to residents by delivering flyers.

9. **Energy Projects in East Suffolk** – latest consultations.

Lionlink consultation is on 22nd September at Reydon Village Hall 2pm – 8pm. Letter to Energy Minister to be added to a future STC meeting agenda.

10. **Volunteering** – latest events.

Community Action Suffolk is hosting a meeting at the Town Hall on 21st September 2023 10.30am – midday. Book via Community Action Suffolk.

Community Action Suffolk will also be having a stall on the market on 5th October 2023 highlighting volunteering opportunities.

11. **Date of next Town Council Meeting:** Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 7.30pm.

***Note: Discussions above may need to be considered as confidential as appropriate and dealt with in the agenda item below.**

The High Steward left the meeting.

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 will need to be 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.

To consider, and if agreed approve tenders for those items in agenda item no 5 above.
See above.

To consider opportunities for capital purchases.

Cllr Flunder gave the background to the previous Council strategy of supporting the High Street. Discussion with regards to investing in properties.

Other matters discussed were; Station Road completion dates, repayment of loans, refurbishment of existing properties, capital purchase opportunities presently available, market changes, vehicle other than STC which could be formed to protect and enhance property portfolio. No recommendation made.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed

Dated