

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm on Tuesday 27th August 2024.

PRESENT:	Councillor	S Flunder – Town Mayor
	“	D Beavan
	“	P Davy
	“	Mrs V Gladwell
	“	Mrs P Goldsmith
	“	R Jarvis
	“	Mrs J Miller
	“	Mrs V Redington
	“	R Temple
	“	M Wells
		1 vacancy

Also present: The High Steward, SCC Cllr M Ladd, the Town Clerk and 5 members of the public.

1. a) **Apologies:**
To note/approve apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Palmer. Members extended their best wishes to him. Absence approved.
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 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:** To approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 30th July 2024.
On the proposal of Cllr Wells, seconded by Cllr Davy it was RESOLVED by all to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 30th July 2024. All agreed.
4. **Public Forum** (15 minutes will be allocated overall for this section- subject to Town Mayor discretion).
 - a) *To receive a report from East Suffolk Ward Councillor D Beavan including update on Duncans Yard Right to Buy.*
 - ESC Ward Cllr Beavan advised that there was no prohibition on the deeds or the planning in relation to the Right to Buy for Duncans Yard properties. However, there is a restriction that they cannot be used as holiday lets.
 - Building has started at St Felix. Clarion Housing Association will be involved with these.

- Fire Station and Police Station site – The Ward Cllr advised that there was no movement as Police are still saying they need their site for Sizewell related work.
- Refuse has been highlighted as an issue in town. ESC “East Suffolk’s Amazing” is a volunteer initiative to help keep the district tidy and ESC welcome initiatives for members of the public to be involved.
- Town Clerk to note re Tibbys Green bins need emptying more – STC to note. ESC Cllr Beavan is trying to ensure that when ESC gets extra money it puts some to refuse/more bins.
- Area at St Edmund’s Green has had excessive grass growth. The Ward Cllr advised that this is ESC land and that there will be 2 conservation cuts, and the seed bed will be redone. It was acknowledged that ESC is getting complaints about the area, but ESC believes that people do want to see pretty flowers.
- Lionlink is going ahead with surveys on sites. Investigations will then decide on whether Southwold or Walberswick will be landfall.

ESC Cllr Beavan will then take questions from Councillors and public.

Nil

b) *To receive a report from SCC Ward Councillor M Ladd.*

The Ward Cllr provided licence clarification that bunting is £85/per street (not per piece of bunting)

East Street will be going ahead with TRO by year end – paid for by SCC Cllr Ladd Locality Budget.

Pier Avenue is to be re-surfaced end of October 2024.

Fire at Scrap Yard in Ipswich was caused by a discarded battery being in a bin.

Batteries need to be handed in at supermarkets and not put in bins.

Devolution deal – SCC still do not know what is going to happen now that the potential deal was declined by central gov.

Blue Badges – SCC do spot checks and are fining people for misuse.

SCC Cllr Ladd located £1k from his Locality monies for replacement of the stocks on Bartholomew Green.

SCC Cllr Ladd will then take questions from councillors and public.

Nil

c) *To receive comments from the public on matters on the agenda.*

Public – mentioned graffiti on the picnic area at the Millennium car park. Noted.

A Beach Hut owner spoke about vandalism on the beach huts and would like STC to support beach hut users’ campaign - they have consulted with the police and with ESC. Would like help with getting CCTV in the north side of the pier.

Cllr Hurr suggested that people are breaking in mostly to find alcohol – might help to have signs on the beach huts saying, “no alcohol held”.

A query was raised about the beach huts which are not around the car park. It was stated that incidents seem to start at the Pier car park end.

Cllr Wells mentioned that the pier owners and tenants of the Boating Lake are considering CCTV themselves.

ESC Ward Cllr Beavan said he did ask about CCTV - but that ESC only manage Lowestoft at present but that they would work with other stakeholders.

5. **To receive reports from Committees and Working Groups:**

To receive the report of the meeting of;

- a) Planning and Development Committee to receive minutes of meeting held.

6th August 2024. *No recommendations.*

To receive update from meeting held 27th August. Cllr Temple provided update.

Article 4 Consultation - to receive Town Council response. Draft had been circulated.

Proposed Reforms to the National Planning System – consultation to 24th Sept. Noted.

- b) Landlords Cttee – *No meeting held.*

To receive verbal update re Gable End/ toilets project – Hurren Terrace.

Cllr Gladwell advised that a site meeting has taken place. Prices are being investigated and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

- c) *Leisure and Environment Cttee –to receive minutes of meeting of 31st July 2024.*

Recommendation in relation to weed control.

Cllr Goldsmith extended thanks to Cllr Ladd for helping with the refurb of the stocks.

Cllr Goldsmith spoke regarding the weed control proposal. The Cttee are proposing that ESC introduce weed control again in Southwold to bring it into line with other towns and parishes in order to assist the work of the volunteers in trying to keep the town looking tidy.

See Recommendation with regards to ESC to use weed spray in Southwold.

Discussion

Cllr Miller asked who by/how weeds would be pulled out. ESC Cllr Beavan advised that ESC would do their areas. Cllr Beavan advised that he would support “Round Up” when other systems do not work but would not want it used on as a matter of course i.e. on the Common. Would suggest that ESC be asked to use “Round Up” when necessary, i.e. roads/pavements/prom etc.

SCC Cllr Ladd advised that SCC did not use “Round Up” for 2 years but are now going to use something similar to “Round Up” on roads/pavements as other methods have not been effective.

Proposal by Cllr Goldsmith- The L and E Cttee recommend that, in line with other towns, and in accordance with the council desire to keep the town looking tidy for residents and visitors, STC permit ESC to use weed spray again in Southwold.

Cllr Beavan asked that ‘when necessary’ be added to the end of the proposal. All Agreed.

New Proposal - The L and E Cttee recommend that, in line with other towns, and in accordance with the council desire to keep the town looking tidy for residents and visitors, STC permit ESC to use weed spray again in Southwold when necessary. Proposed by Cllr Goldsmith, seconded by Cllr Beavan and agreed by all.

Cllr Davy met some of the volunteers today and discussed a walk round to see where weed spraying would be required.

- d) Roads Cttee – *No meeting held.* Nil.

- e) *Comms Working Group – Next meeting to be arranged for September.* Media report re projects in Southwold being prepared. Newsletter being prepared.

TMS will do media coverage when Craftco opens.
Newsletter is being prepared. Would like this to be delivered to all residents in town and second home owners. Copies to be made available in Reydon too and the Town Hall, website and TIC.

- f) *NSIPS working group – to receive update on;
Lionlink – including response to their consultation.*

Cllr Davy advised that ground investigations/surveys are going on by the Pier and car park. Cannot stop these surveys. SEAS is very active pressure group. Event will be held on the beach in Aldeburgh on 1st September 2024. Cllr Davy will attend a zoom on 3rd September 2024 with EAPA, and all parishes affected.
STC Newsletter does have some information on Lionlink.

Sizewell/Anglia One/Eurolink/Sealink, and North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Project / Nautilus – No further update

- g) *Harbour/ Harbour Revision Order working group – To receive update.*

Cllr Davy advised that there has been no response received by STC to the comments made in relation to the HRO consultation.

- h) *Entrance to Town working Group – No update.*

Cllr Flunder advised that here is a Teams call next week which will provide an update re the fire station site.

6. **Business meeting/ website** – to note next meeting will be Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 5.30pm at Station Yard. Cllrs to attend if possible. Business website is doing quite well. Events are well supported, and resources will be required to maintain the site with an apprentice.

7. **Meeting with Cadent regarding works in Southwold/ Reydon.** *To receive update.*

Following the postponement of one Cadent meeting, Cllr Jarvis made contact with Cadent/Costain, and they came to a later meeting and made a strong presentation. STC now have a full schedule of work.

Cllr Jarvis advised that there is the potential for traffic chaos if/when work takes place on Rights Bridge. Cllr Wells advised that Cadent had ‘done’ his property and all had gone well.

8. **Tourist Information Venue** – *to receive update.* Await Craftco opening date.

9. **Financial Matters - Audit and Governance**

- a) *Accounts for Payment - To receive and confirm the Accounts for Payment for August 2024 (circulated to members).*

On the proposal of Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith it was agreed by all to approve the Accounts for Payment for August 2024. All agreed.

- b) *To receive report and recommendations of Finance and Governance Cttee - Meeting 22nd August 2024. Recommendations as per report.*

Finance Papers provided to all including budget, income and expenditure and balance sheet for period to July 2024.

Members were advised that if the gable end works for Hurren Terrace take place then the landlords work will see excess spend of income over expenditure of up to £200k. Reserves of £1m as per Reserve Policy.

It was proposed that members allow works to go ahead on the gable end / new toilets at Hurren Terrace and allow reserves to drop with view they will be replenished.

Proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Redington. All agreed.

Cllr Jarvis provided an update re the CCLA rate for deposit monies. Cllr Jarvis mentioned that the Council Standing Orders are being reviewed and that a grant of £4230 has been received for Ferry Road Garden steps.

10. **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) SAG – Cllr Gladwell advised that slow progress is being made.
- b) Summer Theatre – Cllr Redington advised that this is going well.
- c) Christmas Lights – Cllr Wells advised that fundraising raffle tickets are being sold.
- d) Emergency Group – not met in recent months. Training has been offered for October.

11. **New Councillor Co-option – to consider applications** – Carl Hurr provided a summary of his anticipated contribution to the Council and spoke about his work on the community skatepark group and noted that he lives in the community and would become involved if selected for the Council. In his profession Mr Hurr noted that he does work for second home owners and feels there are relationships which could be built. Mr Hurr advised that he is very interested in the caravan site and would be pleased to take part in committees/ working groups.

Recommendation to Co – opt Mr C Hurr to the Town Council. Proposed by Cllr Temple, seconded by Cllr Beavan. All agreed unanimous.

12. **Town Mayor updates including:**

Southwold RNLI Lifeboat Day – 3rd August 2024

Southwold Model Yacht Regattas – 13th August 2024

Town Mayor Charity – Concert date to be arranged. No update.

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

Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.30pm.

* *Some items from this agenda might need to be considered within a confidential session as below.*

14. **Exclusion of Public and Press if required during discussions:** *Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it might 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.*

Police and Fire Station update – There is a Teams meeting next week with Eddie Bacon from Hastoe Housing with regards to the fire station site.

Offer for purchase of 1 Strickland Place - Discussion re covenants and making sure evidence is held that these will be adhered to. If such evidence is forthcoming it was agreed by all to accept the offer.

HR Committee members are presently Cllr Flunder, Cllr Gladwell, Michael Ladd. It was suggested that as Mr Ladd is no longer on STC, that Cllr Redington be a member of the cttee. All agreed.

Awards Reception to be held in Stowmarket on 24th Sept. Cllr Goldsmith/Cllr Wells/Cllr Jarvis and the Town Clerk to attend.

Next STC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 7.30pm.

Apologies were taken from Cllr Beavan, Cllr Redington, Cllr Miller, Cllr Davy, Cllr Palmer.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed

Dated