

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 6.30pm on Tuesday 25th March 2025.

PRESENT:	Councillor	S Flunder – Town Mayor
	“	D Beavan (arrived 7.10pm)
	“	P Davy
	“	V Gladwell
	“	P Goldsmith
	“	C Hurr
	“	Mrs J Miller
	“	Mrs V Redington
	“	R Temple
	“	M Wells

Also present: The Town Clerk.

1. a) **Apologies:**
To note/approve apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Jarvis and Palmer which were noted. Apologies were also received from the High Steward and SCC Cllr Ladd.
2. **Declarations of interest:**
 - a) *To receive any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests regarding the agenda.* Cllrs Gladwell and Redington declared an interest re 1 Strickland Place.
 - b) *To receive Declarations of Other Registerable Interests / Non registrable interest regarding the agenda.* Cllr Beavan re Community Connector.
 - c) *To note the decision of the Town Clerk regarding requests for dispensations relating to this 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 28th January 2025.
Proposed by Cllr Goldsmith, seconded by Cllr Temple. 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 Coastal Management work on prom north of Pier and moving of Beach Huts.*
ESC Cllr Beavan will then take questions from Councillors and public.
Cllr Flunder advised that ESC Cllr Beavan had sent an email update. Cllr Flunder advised about the prom north of the pier. First stage of works is virtually complete. Next stage should be completed before Easter. Then on 22nd April stage 2 will start. Beach huts 1 – 33 will go to the Fire Station. The rest will go back on the prom. The prom will be then closed for 12 weeks to finish the work. Work will provide 25-year

safety plan. Environment Agency work needs doing north of the pier, but funding will be required.

Devolution – SCC and ESC have put in their requests for their preferred unitary status.

- b) *To receive a report from SCC Ward Councillor M Ladd including update on proposals for a Norfolk/Suffolk Unitary Authority and Suffolk Energy projects. SCC Cllr Ladd will then take questions from Councillors and public. SCC Report already circulated.*

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

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

To receive the report of the meeting of;

- a) *Planning and Development Committee*

- *To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2025*
Cllr Temple advised that 17 Market Place was back for discussion.

- b) *Landlords Cttee – to receive minutes of meeting held on 6th March 2025 including recommendations regarding properties **

Cllr Gladwell – recommendation in relation to approving fire underpass costs of £3k. Proposed by Cllr Gladwell, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith. All agreed.

- c) *Leisure and Environment Cttee – to receive minutes of meeting held on 6th March 2025.*

Cllr Goldsmith provided an update re Stocks Fair. Instead of admin fee of £750 they would like to pay £500/£600 this year, with a view to increasing next year. **It is recommended that STC to charge an admin fee of £600 – proposed by Cllr Goldsmith, seconded by Cllr Temple. All agreed.**

To receive update re V E Day anniversary events

VE Day – Order of events programme is being produced – draft circulated to all. Cllr Flunder asked if anyone knows of people who have recollections of VE Day celebrations in Southwold.

- d) *Roads Cttee – no meeting held.*

- *To receive feedback regarding resurfacing of Mill Lane.*

SCC Highways attended this week. Complaint has been sent to SCC Highways about the works. The SCC Highways officer has a list of TROs to take forward for consideration.

- *To re- establish a Public Rights of Way working group - to work alongside members from Reydon and Walberswick parish councils/ SCC Rights of Way team/Southwold Common Trust/ Walberswick Common Lands Charity – See previous Terms of Reference*

Terms of reference – see attached. **It was agreed by all to advise Reydon PC that STC would like to support the initiative but need to understand what is involved. Proposed by Cllr Flunder, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith. All agreed.**

e) *NSIPS working group – to receive update on;*

- *Sealink – DCO process and timescales.* Cllr Davy advised that the Sealink DCO has yet to start. All members were encouraged to register a personal interest as well as STC registering an interest. It was suggested that SEAS take the lead.
- *Sizewell C – Community Forum 27th March at High Lodge.* Cllr Flunder is attending 27th March 2025 at High Lodge.
- *Anglia One/Eurolink and North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Project.* Nil.
- *Lionlink – feedback from Walberswick drop in 15th March/ and see correspondence re proposed seismic survey.* Walberswick has been chosen as the preferred site. WALL meeting was held on 15th March 2025 in Walberswick which was very well supported.
- *AEPA - E. Suffolk Town & Parish Councils meeting on Thursday 10th April from 6.30 - 8.30 pm at Snape Maltings.* 10th April 2025 Snape Maltings taking place with town and parish councils. Terms of Reference have been watered down so that there are no large upfront staff costs. **It was Recommended that STC signs off on the Terms of Reference so that STC can be seen as supporting. Proposed by Cllr Davy, seconded by Cllr Gladwell. All agreed.** Cllr Davy will attend – other councillors are also attending.
- *Potential annual parish meeting with SEAS as guest speaker.* It was agreed that the meeting would not go ahead as over 70 people attended the Reydon meeting, and since that the Lionlink decision has been received. Fiona Gilmore has advised that she will be willing to come along and talk to councillors when DCO starts. Members were reminded that Lionlink have not confirmed that they will definitely not be coming to Southwold in the future.

f) *Southwold Harbour*

Harbour Revision Order working group – *No meeting held.* Response to consultation received.

Cllr Gladwell advised that from SAG point of view, it was a good meeting. Caravan site proposal has been put forward – caravans being taken off in October to redevelop the site. Present owners do not know yet when they can return. Only 2 of 18 businesses in the harbour have leases.

Cllr Beavan advised that there are lots of changes in the ESC Assets team. Caravan rents need to increase, and the owners are aware, but they do want more information.

Cllr Davy asked re the Harbour Revisions Order – what is happening?

Members were advised that SAG and STC have had a response. SAG has accepted their response as their main concern was about ring fencing of balances.

Regarding having an STC rep on HMC – this will need to be an independent person who applies in the normal way through the advert process.

Members were reminded that the STC MOU Working Group is meeting tomorrow. But it is understood that completion of the MOU is not a condition of the HMO.

It was suggested that the process re the harbour needs ongoing comms as there is a period of uncertainty.

- g) *Town Awards working group – To promote award nomination.*
members were advised that applications are now open, and the awards need to be promoted. Application form is included within every newsletter.
- h) *Devolution working group – no meeting held.*
Devolution - To consider providing delegated authority for the working group to issue a response on behalf of STC to; Unitary/Local Government Reform – Consultation to 13th April 2025.
The Devolution Working Group is meeting tomorrow to draft a response to the consultation. Delegated authority received for the working group to send in the response on behalf of STC.
- i) *Comms working group – no meeting held. To note that newsletter/ strategic plan is ready for delivery.* Noted.

8. **Financial Matters**

Audit and Governance

- a) *Accounts for Payment - To receive the management accounts, balance sheet and bank reconciliation to February 2025 and confirm the Accounts for Payment for March 2025 (circulated to members)*

On the proposal of Cllr Davy, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith it was agreed by all to approve the Accounts for Payment for March 2025. All agreed.

- b) *To receive verbal report of Finance and Governance Cttee Meeting held on 25th March 2025. To consider and if agreed approve recommendations.*

SCC Finance for Roads project - £54k is with SCC and STC has been advised that SCC will retain the monies to spend on the roads project as/ when STC instructs it to go ahead. **It was Recommended that before any project goes ahead, STC obtain a written agreement from SCC for these funds to be used to carry out the High Street works. Proposed by Cllr Davy, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith. All agreed.**

Balance sheet/profit & loss etc – noted and agreed.

Transfer requested of £43k from CCLA to Current Account. £1.2m remains in CCLA. Proposed by Cllr Davy, seconded by Cllr Temple. All agreed.

Donations

SEAS - £500 to help for their legal fund for the DCO for Sealink. Proposed by Cllr Davy, seconded by Cllr Gladwell. All agreed.

Risk Management

Includes anti-social behaviour. Police are concerned that incidents are not being reported. The police work to “dots on a map” – so need all reported. The police will spend a day in Southwold in April. Police advised re key safes being taken off walls. Police are using the Police Station. Items have been stolen from the harbour. Police will forward a piece for the next newsletter.

9. **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) HMC/ SAG – Caravan Site forward strategy. See above.

10. **Town Mayor updates including.**

Future Mayor events

Southwold Lions Charter Lunch – 27th April 2025

Southwold Town Mayors Charity Concert. 2nd May 2025

Sole Bay Bowls Club official opening of outdoor green – 4th May 2025

Mayor's Concert – It is hoped that the funding raised will help keep music in local schools.

Councillor events

ESC Town conference 27th Feb 2025 was very well attended, and breakout groups were held to gather views.

Commonwealth Day was good event. Thanks to all who came.

Regarding VE Day – STC will arrange 3 flags to fly Thursday – Sunday.

11. **Consultations - see above re Devolution.**

Help shape the Air Quality Strategy for East Suffolk -To complete the survey, please visit <https://eastssuffolk.co/air> The survey will close on Wednesday 2 April.

Cllr Beavan advised that the one at Melton is below UK standards. Concerns re the Sizewell effect.

12. **ESC – Report Cllr Beavan 7.50pm.**

Ward Cllr Beavan advised that ESC received £6m from the Government for decarbonisation towards council house EPC by 2030 plus £6m match funded by ESC. Therefore, have a fund of £12m in total for this project. Also ESC is facilitating people insulate their own properties and keep people warmer. NHS and ESC are sharing data which is good news. Cllr Beavan has used Locality Fund to see if the same process can be brought in for Southwold and Reydon.

Devolution – ESC would like more than one unitary. Ipswich want to be a unitary therefore ESC will request an East/West split.

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

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at 6.30pm preceded by Annual Parish Meeting at 6pm.

** 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 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.*

Staffing – Resources –STC has been approached to support the ESC Community Connector activity by providing admin resources. STC will receive finance from ESC to pay for the admin time. **After full discussion it was Proposed by Cllr Flunder, seconded by Cllr Gladwell. All agreed (Cllr Beavan didn't vote).**

Landlords Update - Tenders - Gable End H Terrace - 5 tenders have been received, and the project manager has highlighted the recommended tenderer. All members provided with copy of the tender analysis report. There are a few queries just to be resolved but it is not anticipated that this will alter the recommendation.

Meeting with project manager has been arranged for next week.

It was suggested that Delegated authority be provided jointly to the Mayor and Chair of Landlords Committee to approve the preferred tenderer following the meeting with the Project Manager. Proposed by Cllr Gladwell, seconded by Cllr Temple. All agreed.

Request has been received from Menta for additional privacy partition within Block 1 of the Hub – subject to them receiving funding. There were no objections in principle to the request – with further details to be requested around the sound proofing and visibility aspects of the design.

Cllrs Gladwell and Redington left the meeting at 8.15pm.

1 Strickland Place. Offer details received.

It was suggested that STC has an independent assessment of costs of essential repairs carried out. All agreed.

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

Signed

Dated