

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 6.30pm on Tuesday 24th February 2026

PRESENT:	Councillor
	“ D Beavan
	“ S Flunder
	“ V Gladwell
	“ P Goldsmith (Mayor)
	“ C Hurr
	“ R Jarvis
	“ J Miller
	“ V Redington
	“ M Wells
	Vacancy

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

1. **Apologies:**

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Davy and Cllr Temple. 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 / Non registrable interest 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 review their Register of Interest.* Nil.

3. **Minutes:** To approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2026.

Proposed by Cllr Hurr, seconded by Cllr Wells it was agreed by all to approve the minutes of Tuesday 27th January 2026.

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
To include update on Fire Station Site. ESC Cllr Beavan will then take questions from Councillors and electors.

ESC Ward Cllr Beaven – Advised that the County Council elections are on again.

Potters Bridge – new sensor is being fitted and will then be activated. Easton Bavents have put rubble on top of the cliff and this will be checked. The owners are appealing against a recent planning decision.

Community Bus – CIC is being set up and funding requested from SCC to start from July 2026 with a one year project.

Fire Station Site – There is still slow progress.

b) To receive a report from Suffolk CC Ward Councillor M Ladd.

To include update on Fire Station Site. Cllr Ladd will then take questions from Councillors and electors.

SCC Ward Cllr Ladd – advised that the elections are on again but that he will not be standing again.

SCC Lionlink press release has been circulated – SCC is still objecting to this application and has submitted a 23,000 word response – see press release.

SCC has confirmed its budget - £850m budget = 2.00% increase + 2.00% adult social care = £1.58/week increase on Band E property.

Gull Wing Bridge meeting held with Scrutiny Committee. SCC has maintenance contract there for £1.5m p.a. Gull Wing is the biggest infrastructure project that SCC has ever delivered.

SCC has saved £41m since climate change declaration 7 years ago including £6m saving on LED lighting.

c) To receive comments from Southwold electors on matters on the agenda.

Nil.

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

a) To receive the reports of the meetings of the Planning and Development Committee meeting – to receive report from meeting held 17th February 2026. No recommendations. No comments.

SCC Cllr Ladd left the meeting at 6.45pm.

b) Landlords Cttee – Next meeting – March 2026.

c) Leisure and Environment Cttee – To receive the report and recommendations of the Leisure and Environment Cttee meeting held on 12th February 2026. See report.

Cllr Flunder provided an update on Heritage Open Days –Bungay/Beccles/Halesworth took part last year and it was considered that it would be worthwhile for Southwold to take part this year.

Recommendation; Southwold Town Council to act as a co-ordinator/facilitator for encouraging organisations to work together on Heritage Open Day project.

Cllr Wells suggested that the council role is to encourage organisations to take part.

It was noted that individual properties can also open i.e. Water Tower might be able to open.

Southwold Town Council to act as a co-ordinator/facilitator for encouraging organisations to work together on Heritage Open Day project.

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

d) Roads Cttee –No meeting held.

e) NSIP Working Group

- To receive an update from ESC meeting held on 12th February 2026 re Lionlink – *Cllrs Wells and Flunder*
- To receive an update from ESCEP steering group meeting held Feb 2026.
- To note ESCEP meeting at Yoxford Village Hall on 26th Feb 2026.
- To receive any other update on National Energy Projects – Lionlink/Sizewell/Anglia One/Eurolink/ and North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Project - Sealink DCO

Cllr Wells attended the ESCEP Snape meeting re Sealink. And attended with Cllr Beavan the ESC meeting at Melton at which the ESC response was being discussed. Main comments were around the major lack of co-ordination between the projects and accessing sites by road.

Bridge A12 – Sternfield cannot take large trucks and this would need to be overcome with a haul road to the north of Saxmundham.

Re Sealink – many feel that organisations are not getting a fair say – objections not being heard. Many parishes/towns are affected.

To consider STC response to *Lionlink Statutory Consultation to 10th March 2026*.

Discussion re LionLink- Southwold response will be supporting Walberswick especially with such poor access/roads. It was noted that Planning policies/issues seem to be forgotten in this process.

Cllr Beavan advised that ESC want to know of local concerns to add to their response. Walberswick will have 24 hour drilling for 6 x 24 hr periods.

Yoxford meeting – Cllr Flunder and Cllr Wells to attend.

It is recommended that authority be delegated to Cllr Wells and Cllr Flunder to draft a reply on Lionlink from Southwold Town Council. Proposed by Cllr Gladwell, seconded by Cllr Miller. All agreed.

f) LGR working group – see Finance cttee meeting notes.

Cllr Jarvis advised that as stated above the SCC elections are taking place in May 2026 which means county councils will not be able to resource LGR at the same time – therefore LGR is likely to be delayed. The new SCC Councillors will decide the view of their council

Government are the decision makers now.

g) Emergency Plan working group – to receive update.

Cllr Wells/ Hurr met with Martin Nicholls and Reydon PC re old plan and updating. This has resulted in 3 new rest centres as possibilities for the new plan.

Joint meeting will be held with ESC, and training for rest centre volunteers will be arranged.

Town Clerk and admin assistant updating the contact database and will keep it updated online and on the website on a monthly basis. The balance in the old emergency plan bank account with Suffolk Building Society will be halved between Southwold Town

Council and Reydon Parish Council. STC and Reydon P C will need to allocate a budget for updating the emergency boxes.

6. **Meeting with MP – 29th Jan 2026** – to receive update from MP meeting – see notes provided. Next meeting in September 2026.

7. **Councillor Vacancy**

The Town Clerk provided an update on timescales No election has been called so the vacancy can now be advertised for co-option. This will be included in the newsletter.

Committees – now have vacancies. **Cllr Hurr would like to be on Leisure and Environment cttee. Agreed by all .**

It was suggested that the new Councillor be asked what they would like to join once the vacancy has been filled.

8. **Town Council representatives on other bodies/organisations – see list as attached**
To consider and if agreed approve the revised representatives protocol – Jan 2026. All agreed.

To consider an invitation for the Town Council to have a Town Council Rep on the SRS. Discussion took place about the role of SRS and what they do. Cllr Flunder explained that their main remit is matters concerning the environment. It was suggested that having a rep attend the meetings might be useful so that they can provide Southwold's view on matters.

Cllr Gladwell was proposed as the town council rep to SRS, to attend as per protocol above. Proposed by Cllr Wells, seconded by Cllr Hurr. All agreed.

9. **Town Hall Project**

To receive update from meeting with Professionals. See Finance.

To consider and if agreed approve Terms of Reference and individuals for the Project Group. Proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Miller. All agreed.

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

a) *Accounts for Payment* - To receive and confirm the Accounts for Payment for February 2026. (*circulated to members*).

On the proposal of Cllr Gladwell, seconded by Cllr Flunder, it was agreed by all to approve the payments. All agreed.

b) *To receive and consider* management accounts/ budget/ and balance sheet for month end January 2026. Noted by all - no queries raised.

c) *To receive report and recommendations of Finance and Governance Cttee* meeting held on 18th February 2026 – including quotes for works - *Cllr Jarvis*

***Town Hall Pre contract works* - The design team will need to be appointed, Riba stage 4 achieved, conditions discharged and pre contract works carried out i.e. tenders invited for the construction etc. It is recommended that the council project managers be appointed to carry out this service to get the council to the**

construction phase of the project - at a cost £8913 (plus preparation of the construction contracts). Proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Gladwell. All agreed.

Quotes to approve;

- **Work at Kilcock Toilets – 2 quotes received. Details differ so the quotes are being checked for accuracy. Budget £8k max to be agreed – finance cttee to be able to select contractor. Proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Wells. All agreed.**
- **Workshop brickwork repairs £595 – Proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Gladwell. All agreed.**
- **Repair of potholes in Gardner Road car park £1850 plus Vat – Proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Gladwell. All agreed.**
- **Checking of acoustics of partitions at Hub - £1880 plus Vat - Proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Gladwell. All agreed.**

Insurance - It is recommended to approve the renewal of the Insurance Policy with Aviva as above, and with a new 3-year rating stability agreement Proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Miller. All agreed.

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

a) **SAG / HMC – Cllr Flunder/ Cllr Beavan**

Cllr Jarvis advised that he has met the ESC Finance Officer - reserves will now be shown as a separate item and it is hoped there will be more clarity about the Harbour balances.

12. Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor updates including:

RAF Honington Voluntary Band – 28th February 2026

Hadleigh Civic Service – 8th March 2026

13. To note date of Annual Town Meeting – 15th April 2026 at 6.30pm at Town Hall.

14. Forthcoming Events for councillors

Commonwealth Day – Monday 9th March 2026 at 10am

15. Consultations to consider

Statement of Community Involvement

Major Energy Projects Workers' Accommodation Planning Position Statement

NPPF consultation to 10th March 2026

16. Date of next Town Council Meeting: Tuesday 31st March 2026.

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

17. **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.

Any matters, including those above as required**

Town Council Long service awards - to consider nominations. 3 names suggested and approved.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed.....

Dated