

## SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.**

PRESENT:	Councillor	J Windell – Town Mayor
	“	Miss A Betts
	“	I Bradbury
	“	S Flunder
	“	Mrs J Jordan
	“	M Ladd
	“	M Rowan-Robinson

Also present, The Town Clerk and the High Steward. There were also 4 members of the public in attendance.

#### 1. **Apologies:**

*To note/approve apologies for absence.* Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Goldsmith, Cllr Sutton and Cllr Temple which were noted.

*To retrospectively approve the absence of Cllr Temple at the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022.* This was agreed by all.

#### 2. **Declarations of interest:**

a) *To receive any declarations of Personal Interest regarding the agenda.* Nil.

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

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 Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**On the proposal of Cllr Bradbury, seconded by Cllr Betts it was RESOLVED by all to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 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.*

N/A.

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

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

Cllr Ladd advised that he had met SCC Highways last week regarding Potters Bridge.

They advised that if water level rises 17cm the road will need to be closed but it is hoped this will not happen as if it can be kept clear then this will not be a problem.

Regarding the Suffolk devolution deal - SCC had not put forward for a directly elected Mayor and were surprised at this being included within the deal.

Highways – the first gritting of the winter took place last week when 38 machines went out.

Budget of some £913k has been provided to enable SCC to hit net zero by 2030. SCC is launching Suffolk Design Streets Guide. LED Lights Project is nearly complete and savings of £2.5m have so far been made.

*Questions to SCC Cllr Ladd:*

SCC Cllr Ladd was asked about the Suffolk deal and specifically re an elected Mayor - and whether a referendum would be possible to establish whether a Mayor should be appointed. Cllr Ladd advised that there could be a referendum but more information is awaited. SCC are anxious not to add another layer of bureaucracy and costs by having a Mayor.

Members asked ref Potters Bridge – who is monitoring the height of the water? SCC Cllr Ladd advised that there is a gizmo which was installed with money from Reydon PC which measures the height of the water and that the results are then published on ESC Ward Cllr Beavan’s Facebook page. The information will also soon be going on Reydon PC website and a request has been made for it to go onto SCC Highways site. Members asked that the information also be made available to go onto the Southwold website - Cllr Jordan advised that once a way has been found to get it onto the Reydon PC site, then the information should be able to go onto the Southwold site too.

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

Members of the public asked about the Xmas lights and whether there was an organising committee – and if so how could they get involved. Cllr Ladd advised that the Xmas Lights cttee had stepped down in 2021 and that the business association were going to take on the arrangements for 2022. However at the last minute, when no arrangements had been made, some members of the previous cttee, together with a few business representatives and members of the Town Council had worked together to ensure that the lights went on for 2022.

Jeremy at the Amber Shop and Lorraine at Durrants were compiling a list of people who would like to help with the arrangements for 2023 with a view to facilitating a meeting in January 2023 to start the arrangements and consider the funding required. It was suggested that all those interested in helping contact either Lorraine or Jeremy.

5. **To receive reports from Committees.**

- a) To receive the written report of the meetings of the Planning and Development Committee held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022, and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. *No recommendations.* Report received.

To receive a verbal update from Planning and Development Committee on any further planning/development matters; *Nil.*

- b) To receive the written report and recommendations of the Landlords cttee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Rep LL 7/2022 *Recommendations in relation to various property works. \*Some aspects might need to be discussed in agenda item 14 if the need arises.*

**Cllr Jordan presented the report that had been circulated. Recommendations taken together. On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Flunder, it was Agreed by all to approve the recommendations as follows;**  
**11 Station Road – quote received for completion for secondary double glazing to front lounge and front bedrooms at a cost of £1569.10. Approve that this be accepted.**

**1 Strickland Place – Tenders for works to be procured. It has been suggested that combining the works at no 1 and no 2 might reduce costs. However, planning application will need to be submitted for works at no 2, and this will cause further delay to the procurement of the works for no 1. It is recommended that the tendering for no 1 goes ahead as a standalone project in order that the costs and business case can be assessed asap.**

**Flat 9a Hurren Terrace – secondary double glazing quote £2386.40. It is recommended that this be approved.**

- c) To receive the written report of the Leisure and Environment cttee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 REP Land E 5/2022. *No recommendations.*

Cllr Flunder asked about the comms for Christmas Lights switch on and Adnams 10k run. The Town Clerk advised that the lights switch on was deliberately not widely advertised as there was a smaller road closure and it was known that there would be a large number of attendees without any wide advertising taking place. The risk assessment had also considered the impact of widely advertising and the inherent risk of an increase in anti-social behaviour as previously experienced.

Ref Adnams 10k run – the clerk was asked whether the Town Council have a role in advertising the road closure. The clerk advised that the Town Council are not made aware of road closures for events operated by other organisations, and that responsibility for advertising the road closure was with the respective event organiser.

Cost of Living rises and Warm room initiative;

Members were advised that there is presently no data regarding demand for warm rooms.

Cllr Ladd advised that ESC and SCC are co-ordinating comms – discussion about how people can get hold of information

Cllr Jordan advised that Reydon PC is doing a leaflet for all residents and are supporting the provision of additional free hot school meals, if they are needed, at Reydon School.

Cllr Ladd advised that free school meals are being made available to 260k people, which has been an increase from 150k people over the past 5 years.

Discussion about STC providing a leaflet for residents too. It was agreed that a leaflet will be drafted for hand delivery in the new year and that Reydon P C and STC work jointly on this in the future.

**6. To receive reports from working groups;**

- a) *Sustainable Travel – to receive update from meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 with Plug in Suffolk. To note that comments continue to be received regarding camper vans along North Parade.*

Plug in Suffolk – more funding is available for Plug in Suffolk projects. STC is being offered to apply for 1 x 4 banks of charging points for Gardner Road car park and that the same offer will be made for Millennium car park. Town Clerk is obtaining quotes from UKPN for the provision of electricity to the sites.

7. **ESC Community Partnership - Cost of Living Crisis including ESC Ease the Squeeze Campaign** – *To receive update on projects, including Warm Rooms, and to consider production of newsletter collating local community initiatives and opportunities for grants/funding/financial and additional assistance. See above.*

8. **Sizewell/Anglia One/Eurolink/Sealink** – *To consider and note options being presented on these projects and to consider their cumulative impact - Cllr Flunder/Cllr Bradbury.*

Cllr Flunder advised the meeting that Hinckley has been delayed for 11 years and Sizewell is of the same design.

The meeting was advised that Dr Therese Coffey MP had held a question and answer session last week regarding the national infrastructure projects due to be installed within East Suffolk, with up to 300 public attending. Cllr Bradbury and Cllr Flunder attended. Eurolink – exhibition held yesterday at the Stella Peskett Millennium Hall.

Letter has been sent to ESC to gather their views on the Infrastructure Projects – and a response has been received from Steve Gallant.

The Friston substation is still at judicial review.

Cllr Flunder advised that STC should respond to the non statutory consultation from Eurolink by 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Cllr Bradbury advised members that discussions are taking place with other local parishes about the cumulative energy projects and their potential local impacts as there is much expertise in other parishes to make use of.

Cllr Bradbury reminded individuals to respond to Eurolink questionnaire by 18<sup>th</sup> December. .

Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that he attended the Eurolink drop in event, and advised members that there will be a cable from the Netherlands to Friston. The query is about where will it come ashore. Electricity can come each way within this link. 4 options for coming ashore – it is cheaper to lay cables on land than under the sea but there should be no permanent impact to the landscape. Will be minor disruption compared to Sizewell.

There will be issues around coastal erosion timescales. Would hope there will be stabilising of cliffs to aid coastal erosion.

SCC Cllr Ladd advised that he had 2 briefings from SCC about these projects which are a NCIP.

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. Southwold and Walberswick Flood Board – Cllr Beavan – n/a.
- b. Resilient Coasts Project Board – Cllr Beavan – n/a.
- c. HMC Meeting/SAG meeting– Cllr Flunder/Cllr Bradbury – Cllr Bradbury – this is working well. New general manager in post. HMC is convinced that ESC is talking to STC about the 3<sup>rd</sup> field. Subsequently Kerry Blair has contacted the Town Clerk and will call again tomorrow.

Cllr Flunder advised that the HMC is working better than in the past. Road is an issue. Health and safety discussions held last week, and one option is to close the road. Risks are very high of a traffic/public accident. One option is to reduce the speed to 5mph and these signs were ordered yesterday. Stages/huts rents are up by 5%. Visitors are up by 10%.

- d. Allotment Society – Cllr Bradbury – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Full house at the Constitutional Club for the talk by Kate Bradbury. Oak tree gifted by STC is flourishing and siting will need to be discussed by the Common Trust.

10. **Financial Matters**

a) *Accounts for Payment* - To receive and confirm the Accounts for Payment for November 2022 (*circulated to members*).

**On the proposal of Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Bradbury it was agreed by all to approve the Accounts for payment for November 2022.**

b) *Precept letter from ESC* - To note timescales on in relation to budgeting. Budget and Precept to be discussed and agreed January 2023. Noted dates.

c) *To receive report and recommendations of Finance and Governance Meeting* held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Fin Rep 10.2022. See recommendation in relation to website.

**Recommendation for separate website for 1 year £1835 was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Flunder, seconded by Cllr Jordan. All agreed.**

*\*Some aspects might need to be discussed in agenda item 14 if the need arises.*

11. **Town Mayor updates/correspondence including.**

*Armistice Day - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022* – the children attended and this was very good event.

*Remembrance Sunday – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022* – event went well.

*St Edmunds Day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022* – very good.

*Christmas Lights Switch on – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Also to receive information on; volunteering for 2023 event from Cllr Goldsmith, and Cllr Ladd regarding financial aspects.* Special thanks to the High Steward for all his work over the years. **Re finances for Christmas Lights event – maximum £1500 needed as usual. Proposed by Cllr Ladd, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was agreed by all to support the event up to a max. of £1500.**

*Station Rd redevelopment project – update.*

Underpinning of 7 and 9 is going ahead and will then be a new wall between the site and No. 11. Getting ready for piling. Outstanding issue is BT and UK Power Networks moving. Mixbrow are carrying out their comms plan and speaking to the tenants.

12. **Dates for Diary**

*Town Community Carol Service – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6pm* - mince pies/white wine afterwards. Rev Simon Pitcher is moving to Lavenham with effect from April 2023.

13. **Date of next Town Council Meeting:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm.

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.

If required from the items above for legal, commercial confidentiality, staff or tender discussions.  
\*if the need arises.

Confid LL report 7.22 received and noted.

Confid finance report 10.22 received and noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....