

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th March 2023.

PRESENT:	Councillor	J Windell – Town Mayor
	“	D Beavan
	“	Miss A Betts
	“	I Bradbury
	“	S Flunder
	“	Mrs P Goldsmith
	“	Mrs J Jeans
	“	Mrs J Jordan
	“	M Rowan-Robinson
	“	J Sutton

Also present, The Town Clerk, the High Steward and 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies:**

To note/approve apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ladd, agreed by all to approve this absence, and Cllr Temple whose apologies were noted.

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.*
Cllr Windell re Agenda Item 12.
- c) *To note the decision of the Town Clerk regarding requests for dispensations relating to this agenda.* Nil
- 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 28th February 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was RESOLVED by all to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 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*).

No comments from members of the public.

Cllr Bradbury proposed that Standing Orders be suspended for item 9a to allow the High Steward to speak.

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

a) *Planning and Development Committee - To receive the written report of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on 7th March 2023 and 21st March 2023.*

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

Southwold Conservation Area Appraisal Draft Document and Amalgamation – consultation to 15th March 2023.

Cllr Jeans advised that she will not be standing at the May election but has interest and concerns in relation to Planning matters. Would be willing to assist the Planning cttee depending on the needs of the Committee.

Members advised that they recognised Cllr Jeans work involved with the Neighbourhood Plan and her technical planning knowledge and agreed that council would be grateful for her technical support in the future.

b) *Leisure and Environment Cttee – Arrangements for Coronation weekend – verbal report and update provided, and a request was made for 20 volunteers for 6th May 2023 for the event on Gun Hill when there would be a Piper, Band, Bar, Picnics, and the Cannons would be fired and there would be fireworks at the end. Flags/Bunting is up in the High Street, together with a crown decoration made by a resident.*

c) *Landlords Cttee – See report from meeting held on 14th March 2023 – No further comment.*

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

Sustainable Travel Group – no update.

7. **National Energy Projects – Sizewell/Anglia One/Eurolink/Sealink, and Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Project Update Briefing Invitation.** *To receive updates.*

Cllr Flunder advised that there will be 2 judicial reviews, 23rd April 2023 and 24th May 2023. There is pressure for offshore co-ordination for wind farms and there is concern re cables coming in. Therese Coffee MP has set up a petition re the cables.

Sizewell C has gone to a judicial review – still unclear where the funding is coming from. Five Estuaries – consultation at the Millennium Hall on 18th April 2023 and there will be an ESC meeting in Aldeburgh in April.

8. **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) Christmas lights – Cllr Goldsmith advised that the first quiz was a huge success. £963 profit made. Just Giving Page has presently raised £740. Collection will be made at the Coronation event and there will be a stall at the Lions Fete.

9. **Finances including;**

It was agreed by all to suspend Standing Orders to enable High Steward to speak to item 9a). Agreed by all.

a) *Town Council Artwork - to consider;
Repair to painting of Andrew Matthews*

High Steward advised that the painting ought to hang in the Alms Houses. Canvas is split and buckled. High Steward will take to restorer on Thursday to get a quote to a) repair, b) clean picture and c) clean frame and High Steward will then advise the Town Clerk of the costs.

New Commission of painting representing King Charles Accession 2023

See Steve Wolfenden photo. High Steward suggested that council should mark the event with a permanent record by commissioning a painting of the picture to sit alongside the other pictures in the Chamber. Would propose an artist commission of the photograph to be done by Matthew Garrard of Reydon. A quote has been received for the commission of £3,500 plus frame at £245.

Members agreed that this was an excellent idea for this once in a lifetime occasion in the history of the town and would be an excellent addition to the Chamber. Could look at a contribution from STC and ask for community contributions too. It was mentioned that there is a need to display all pictures/paintings.

Future Exhibition

The High Steward advised that the Town Council premises means that the council cannot show off all the pictures which it owns. High Steward has one of the 1953 floods in his premises. Town Council has a full inventory of all the STC artefacts catalogued by TW Gaze and it was suggested that the next council could consider appointing an archivist for the town with perhaps the Museum and STC collaborating.

It was AGREED by all that the community be asked to contribute to the commission of a new painting of the Proclamation 2022

Standing Orders were re-established. Agreed by all.

b) *Accounts for Payment* - To receive and confirm the Accounts for Payment for March 2023 (*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 March 2023. All agreed.

c) *To receive report and recommendations of the Finance and Governance Meeting held on 20th March 2023. Fin Rep 03.2023. See recommendations in relation to policies, Resource assistance, and donations.*

Recommendations.

i) **That the complexity of the work on Station Rd project finances, including the work on monthly VAT returns would be extremely time consuming whilst the project is ongoing, and that available resources will need to be made available to ensure that all financial work is completed within given timescales. Price Bailey and the accounts software providers are assisting with some of the finances, including the St Rd project VAT element, and it is recommended that they be retained to assist as much as required. Recommendation: Proposed by Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Bradbury. All agreed.**

ii) the skatepark community group might approach the council for another pledge to help towards their match funding applications for the new skate facility. It is understood that

they have raised approx. £110k at present and will be looking to tender for the installation during March/April. **It was suggested that as/when the council receives an official request from the community group, it might wish to consider a pledge of an additional £5k.**

Members noted that they would wish to be actively involved in choosing/doing the landscaping etc in the same style/design of other projects. It was noted that the CAA advises that there should be a consistent look of public spaces and there was full support that STC organises the landscaping. **On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith it was AGREED by a majority to support a pledge of £5k.**

iii) **The council policies for Child Protection/Disciplinary/Complaints were reviewed and were still considered to be appropriate. It was agreed by all to recommend that these be readopted.**

On the proposal of Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Bradbury it was agreed by all to readopt the reviewed policies.

Accounts/investments - Treasury Bills – It was suggested that the balances in the accounts could earn more interest, even for a short period, depending on cashflow needs of the council. On the proposal of Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith it was agreed by all to research investing in Treasury Bills/Bonds for a 3-month period if funds/cashflow are sufficient. Agreed by all.

10. **Annual Parish Meeting** – *Feedback from parish meeting of Thursday 2nd March 2023.*

Members noted that they had received good feedback and that it had been excellent to hear from all the guests who attended. It was suggested that the speeches/reports could go onto the website with the minutes of the meeting.

Cllr Flunder suggested that the invites could be expanded to include more organisations in the future. It was noted that the Allotment Association were delighted to attend.

11. **Date of next Town Council Meeting:** Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.00pm – Annual Meeting of Town Council 2023.

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.*

It was RESOLVED to close the meeting to Public and press - 8.15pm.

Landlords Confid. report from meeting 14th March 2023 SEE Conf LL 1.23- To consider recommendations with regards to properties

- ***Pt Haven Marshes/ Town Marshes - lease now expired. SWT are not interested in this small site. Present tenants would like to relet for 5 years in line with the funding that they have received. It is suggested that the marsh be relet to present tenant on the same terms as previous.***

It was suggested that there might be another person also interested in renting this area. It was agreed that a discussion will be held with the third party about this site and whether they might be interested in any other of the

marsh areas that are available. It was noted that council did not wish to jeopardise the funding available to the previous tenancy, and hence a new lease to them is to be advanced. Agreed.

Water Tower – 2 offices. To be let to wef July 2023. Lease for 5 or 10 years requested by an interested party with a break clause. It was agreed by all to approve a 10-year lease with 5-year break clause. SEE Conf LL report 1.23 for details.

- **Potential property Sale** – See Landlords Conf Report 1.23 – It was **AGREED** by all to approve the proposal contained within the report and instruct solicitors.

Cllr Windell left the meeting.

- **Water Tower** – See Landlords Conf Report 1.23 – The one shed in situ is presently being used and a licence to use agreement is being drawn up. It is suggested that, to keep options open with regards to the final siting of the shed (should LPA planning allow more sheds to be incorporated at the site it might be necessary to move this one), a 6 month licence for use, be drawn up with rent at £50 pm – with all service utility use/ business rates etc to be paid for separately. Proposed by Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith. Agreed by a majority.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.