

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th September 2023.

PRESENT:	Councillor	S Flunder – Town Mayor
	“	D Beavan
	“	P Davy
	“	Mrs V Gladwell
	“	Mrs P Goldsmith
	“	Mrs C Kerr
	“	M Palmer
	“	Mrs V Redington
	“	M Wells

Also present: SCC Cllr Ladd, the High Steward, The Town Clerk and 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:**

To note/approve apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Jarvis, Sutton and Temple whose apologies were noted.

2. **Declarations of interest:**

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

Cllr Flunder declared a registerable interest re the Golf Club and the Millennium Hall

b) *To receive Declarations of Other Registerable Interests regarding the agenda.* Cllr

Davy declared an Other registerable interest re the Golf Club, Cllr Flunder declared a registerable interest re the Golf Club and the Millennium Hall and Cllr Wells declared a registerable interest re the Golf Club.

c) *To receive Declarations of Non-Registerable Interests regarding the agenda.* Nil.

d) *To note the decision of the Town Clerk regarding requests for dispensations relating to this agenda.* Nil.

e) *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:** (i) *To approve and sign the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 13th September 2023.*

On the proposal of Cllr Goldsmith, seconded by Cllr Davy it was RESOLVED by all to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023. All agreed.

4. **Public Section**

a) *To receive a report from East Suffolk Ward Councillor D Beavan*

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

(See Leaders Report attached).

Written report sent round. Strategy for 4 years is being consulted on – some hard copies will be made available at the Town Hall. ESC will discuss a statement on NSIPs at their meeting this week.

Potters Bridge – road is closed. Water has not been able to escape for the past 6 months. Now about 1.76 deep in the broad so inadvisable to go through. ESC Cllr Beavan and SCC Cllr M Ladd are very frustrated as the Environment Agency and the landowner are not liaising. There is a need for the outfall to be cleared. The Environment Agency were asked 3 years ago to let the landowner do this, but this has not been permitted. The landowner is refusing access to the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency is now obtaining a warrant.

Question to ESC Cllr Beavan – nil.

Cllr Flunder – the Town Council is frustrated as it is parishioners and others that are being affected including emergency vehicles. The diversion affects Southwold including workers coming to work. Wangford p c is also concerned as they are getting more traffic through the village.

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

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

Budget discussions started for 2024-25. Projection is £23m overspend in the rest of 2023-24, which equates to 6% of total budget.

Last month SCC Cllr Ladd celebrated the establishment of the 200th ‘no cold calls’ zone in Suffolk, which is in Kessingland where 2 areas are included. Trading Standards were involved in getting these areas designated – following a resident being £8k out of pocket having fallen foul of a scam.

Gull wing bridge – contractors have applied for 2 week extension. SCC Highways operations are transferred to Milestone on 1st October 2023.

Questions from Councillors – nil.

Cllr Flunder advised that Southwold has had issues with cold calling “County Broadband” is the company. Cllr Ladd was asked whether Southwold could investigate ‘No Cold Calling Zone’. SCC Cllr Ladd – advised that Reydon and Gisleham have had issues with this company, and they have been reported to trading standards.

c) *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).*

There were no comments from members of the public.

5. To receive reports from Committees.

a) i) *Planning and Development Committee - To receive the written report of the meetings of the Planning and Development Committee held on 1st and 15th August, and 5th September 2023. Noted.*

ii) *To consider the town council response for the following planning application; DC/23/3342/FUL – 9/11 Park Lane Southwold.*

Cllr Goldsmith advised that the tree seems suitable to take down. Extension at the rear will not affect the neighbours. **Recommend no objection. Proposed by Cllr Goldsmith, seconded by Cllr Davy. All agreed.**

Cllr Beavan – 62 Victoria Street was dealt with at the ESC referral panel today. Cllr Beavan could find no reason to refuse, and it will therefore be dealt with by delegated decision.

Cllr Flunder advised that the plans for Lloyds Bank, 17 Market Place, are still outstanding. Await discussion with planners.

Cllr Flunder advised re

iii) Fire Station Site update – to consider and agree members for a working group to meet with Hastoe on 17th Oct to review the Local Lettings Policy for the site.

It was agreed by all that Cllrs Beavan, Flunder, Davy and Redington were the representatives to meet with Hastoe. All properties are to be affordable housing.

Cllr Beavan advised that the Southwold ward has the largest waiting list in the whole of East Suffolk.

b) Landlords Cttee – To receive the written report of the meetings of the Landlords Committee held on 27th July, and 31st August 2023.

Recommendations in relation to; EPC improvements.

To receive update re gable end works for Hurren Terrace.

Cllr Flunder provided an update for members and advised that there are queries about the structure of that part of Hurren Terrace. The works will be done as a separate contract.

Cllr Flunder advised that the additional/ improved toilets in the town council owned properties will not go ahead within this phase of the project.

Recommendation re EPC improvements – proposed by Cllr Goldsmith, seconded by Cllr Davy that the cttee concentrate on all the landlords responsibilities including EPC and fire at the properties at Station Road/ Hurren Terrace in the first phase. All agreed.

c) Leisure and Environment Cttee – No meeting held.

No meeting. New date to be set as soon as possible.

d) Roads Cttee – to receive reports from meetings held 21st July 2023 and 23rd August 2023. Received and noted.

6. **Drop in at Town Hall on possible One-Way System for High Street** – *To receive feedback. To consider and if agree, approve next steps.*

Cllr Beavan advised members that the cttee were trying to do things in a different way and want to be open and transparent by looking at the problems and then finding the solutions. All discussions/ topics are still in very early stages.

Cllr Beavan advised that there are problems with carers being able to park, and residents being able to park in the summer. Health and safety of pedestrians in the High Street was also a concern. The cttee have so far held 2 committee meetings and 2 drop ins. The old ESC parking proposal is not going to be taken forward. The SCC one way system is just proposals/ideas at this stage. The cttee will meet again in about 10 days to try and set out some solutions to the problems. Cllr Beavan will provide information for the Town Council web page.

Standing Orders were suspended for SCC Cllr Ladd to speak.

SCC Cllr Ladd – advised members that SCC had picked up safety in the High Street as a problem and that ideas 1 and 2 meet all SCC health and safety aspects/designs to help

improve the situation. Heartened to see that approx. 200 people attended the drop ins. SCC would like to see a “unanimous” agreement before taking either idea onto a next phase.

Standing Orders closed 8.05pm.

Cllr Flunder agreed that council was pleased at the numbers attending the drop ins and acknowledged that there were very strong views as change is always a difficult topic.

Members of the public left the meeting.

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

a) *Southwold T C and Reydon P C working group – To receive verbal report.*

Cllr Flunder advised that himself, Cllrs Temple, Palmer and Kerr had attended a working group meeting with 6 members from Reydon PC.

Topics:

- a) LionLink – Reydon PC is very concerned. They have created a lobby group called R.A.I.D.
- b) Footpaths.
- c) Traffic consultation drop in. Reydon P C has completed a traffic movement survey which will be sent to the Town Council.
- d) Comms – Cllr Kerr would like to set up a working group to collaborate on comms with a policy for communication to be discussed with the Town Council comms group – to then be brought forward to the Town Council.
- e) Food Bank - there might be one being set up by the Methodist Church in Southwold.

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 Sutton/Cllr Flunder.* The group is having a quiz night on 27th October 2023.
- b) *HMC –Cllr Flunder/Cllr Beavan –* survey of caravan site is still outstanding. New manager of the caravan site has been appointed. Significant health and safety implications in the harbour after the fire. Cllr Beavan suggested that the town will need to decide what it wants for the harbour.
- c) *SAG –To consider offer to appoint an additional STC rep to the Group.* Cllr Flunder/Cllr Gladwell. Cllr Gladwell, as a business owner, is on SAG – can discuss issues with ESC before HMC. It was not considered necessary for the town council to have another representative. **Agreed by all that Cllr Gladwell becomes the Town Council rep on SAG.**
- d) *Harbour Users – Cllr Gladwell.* Group has not yet met. Discussion about whether the group could join with Blyth Estuary Group as all are the same members.
- e) *Southwold Walberswick Flood Board meeting of Sept 2023-.* Cllr Beavan advised that the group has now met and now need to build up a baseline survey to obtain funding. Cllr Goldsmith asked whether Potters Bridge could be addressed by this Board. Cllr Beavan advised that this was discussed by the Environment Agency but that they do not come to the meetings. Wolsey Bridge also needs to be considered.
- f) *Allotment Holders – Cllr Goldsmith.* Rents will not be increased for 2023/24. Tree – seat has been arranged for delivery at the end of October/November. The next meeting is the AGM.

g) *Reydon and Southwold Pantry – Cllr Kerr.* Very well run – continually alert to new opportunities. Friday is their open day. Hope to establish link with the primary school re uniform/coats. Anything left over on Fridays will go to the new foodbank.

Cllr Beavan advised that the Citizen Advice Bureau outreach is at the Millennium Hall every other Monday. No one attended last Monday – so all members were asked to please publicise as otherwise it will go elsewhere.

Cllr Goldsmith suggested that the pantry to be given information re the Citizens Advice Bureau so that connections can be made between all agencies.

h) *Summer Theatre/ Arts Centre – Cllr Redington* advised that it had been a great success. Jon Simpson is the new patron. The information provided by the Town Council on its market stall helped the Arts Centre with numbers this year.

9. **Enterprise Hub** *to receive progress update from meetings with Project Board, construction team, and operators. **

Cllr Flunder advised that Project Board meetings are once a month and includes ESC. Programme is on track with the end of January construction completion.

The EPO concerns regarding comms being sent on to new colleague has been sorted out and the monitoring process is ongoing.

TMS is providing construction comms.

Operator - Menta will go onto site as soon as the roof is on. Menta contract/lease - await draft lease to be sent to both parties. Mechanism for rent review at 5 years is being sorted. Menta are dealing with Broadband provider.

Cllr Davy advised that council needs to try and achieve all parts of the timetable. Shop – toilet has been sorted as the shop can access the toilet in the office hub.

A drop in will be sorted after Menta lease is signed.

Shop/ flat opportunity will be made available for enquiry as soon as the rent is determined.

Millenium Car Park spaces – requirements – see discussion in agenda no 17 below.

10. **Banking in Southwold.** *To consider and if agreed approve next steps.*

Members were advised that it is hoped that Barclays will be able to have a presence at the Millennium Hall. The provision of a multi-bank Community Hub has been assessed and has been declined for Southwold. Provision of a Link ATM – await results of the analysis of provision for Southwold to ascertain whether one will be provided.

Cllr Redington asked whether the Town Council is pressing for 24 hour ATM - and Cllr Flunder confirmed that it was.

11. **National Energy Projects** – *Lionlink consultation. To consider and if agreed approve STC response. Also, see letter attached.*

Sizewell/Anglia One//Sealink, and North Falls Offshore Wind Farm, Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Project – To receive updates - Cllr Flunder

Cllr Flunder updated as follows;

Sizewell – still await details of full funding where judicial review was rejected – another review is taking place about de-salination point.

R.A.I.D. will meet on 27th October 2023 at Reydon Village Hall. Reydon PC is committed to fight LionLink Project. Would like support from Southwold/Walberswick.

Discussion about what they were objecting to. R.A.I.D. would like to liaise with Southwold/Walberswick and they seem to be against the LionLink Project. Cllr Beavan advised that LionLink have several possibilities, but the town council should not support division with other parishes – but that all should work together. It was mentioned that one option is to put a link on the pier car park. Cllr Beavan explained the background. National Grid need to consider offshore links.

Note decision will not be made until 2027. There are about 10 wind farms that want to come in which will ruin East Suffolk.

It was agreed by all that the town council would send Reydon a letter saying that the Town Council support their objectives.

Cllr Wells suggested that all individuals do respond to the Lionlink questionnaire.

12. **CCTV/anti-social behaviour/policing in Southwold**

New Policing initiative – police came to meet councillors today. The CCTV on the bridge can be downloaded remotely and this will be arranged. New CCTV cameras – the police have a design team who could advise where it should go. Landlord Committee to consider Ring doorbells as a proposal from the police. Police will offer to attend regular meetings with the Town Council

Discussion re CCTV for the town centre. It was Proposed by Cllr Flunder, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and agreed by all to ask the Design Team to assess the High Street for possible locations.

13. **Forthcoming Meetings for Council/councillors**

Community Networking Events for Environmental Change – see invitation attached.

PCC And Chief Constable meetings – See attached.

East Anglian Coasts and Estuaries Conference – see attached.

Resilient Coasts Project Board – to consider and if agreed, approve member to sit on the Board. First meeting 9th Oct 2023.

Resilient Coasts Project Board – the Town Council has been offered a place on the Board. It was agreed by all that Cllr Flunder would be the representative.

SALC – Conference 29th November at the Hold Ipswich. Cllr Wells would like to attend.

14. **Financial Matters**

a) To receive report and recommendations of Finance and Governance Cttee – To receive reports from meeting August and September 2023 FIN Rep 07.23. and 08/2023. To consider and if agreed approve recommendations in relation to; donation requests – Holocaust Memorial Day, Arts Centre and Emergency Group.

See Finance Cttee papers.

Holocaust Memorial Day – requested Donation £200. Proposed by Cllr Wells, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith. Agreed by all.

Southwold Arts Centre – Literary Festival – request for £1000. Cttee agreed to recommend that the town council assist with the specific costs of £550 for programme printing and £400 for marketing / publicity as per listing and that if agreed by STC, the Literary Festival be asked to acknowledge the donation in their programmes etc.

It was agreed by all to provide a donation of £950 for the items above.

Southwold and Reydon Emergency Plan – donation of £61 requested as half cost of printing copies of the plan.

Agreed by all members.

Seating – Arts Centre request for £1783.80. Proposed by Cllr Wells, seconded by Cllr Davy to discuss the request.

The meeting was advised that over the past 4 years the Town Council has given the Arts Centre many donations. Question regarding the present seating – what is wrong with it?

Discussion about the Arts Centre requests over the past 4-5 years. It was agreed by all to ask the Finance Committee to get more information about the request and for the Town Clerk to assess the Arts Centre donations over the past 5 years.

b) *To receive update on liquid investments/capital investments.***

Cllr Davy gave update on the CCLA, having met the officers at CCLA, and advised members that the finance cttee were confident they had carried out due diligence on behalf of the council and would support more monies being transferred to CCLA. . **It was agreed by all that a maximum of a further £2m be transferred to CCLA depending on Finance cttee assessment of cashflow requirements.**

c) *Budget Setting 2023.2024 – Committees/ working groups to note timescales for budget consideration requests. Dates noted.*

d) *Accounts for Payment - To receive the management accounts and balance sheet for August 2023 and to receive and confirm the Accounts for Payment for Aug/Sept 2023.*

On the proposal of Cllr Davy, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith it was agreed by all to approve the Accounts for Payment for September 2023.

15. Town Mayor updates including.

a) *Events attended*

Southwold Summer Theatre – 26th July 2023

Pit Stop Cream Tea Day – 30th July 2023

RNLI Day – 5th August 2023

TIMT Theatre Co - Robin Hood – 23rd August 2023

RAFA Parade Beccles – 17th September 2023

b) *Upcoming engagements*

Beccles Mayor Civic Service – 24th September 2023.

Southwold School Council Elections – 5th October 2023.

Karen Hester COO Adnams – meeting for businesses/ traders at Swan 19th Oct 2023.

Cllr Goldsmith proposed that Standing Orders be suspended for an extra 15 minutes.

c) *Town Mayor volunteering project – update by Cllr Flunder.*

Community Action Suffolk event held at Town Hall 21st September 2023.

Promotion of volunteering during the Suffolk volunteering week – CAS will be on market stall 5th October 2023.

16. **Date of next Town Council Meeting:** Tuesday 31st October 2023 at 7.30pm

17. **Donations – new requests**

RNLI – to consider request – see attached letter Proposed by Cllr Goldsmith and agreed by all to support the RNLI with a donation of max. £1400 to support the crew with the purchase of a jacket each.

Southwold Golf Club – to consider request – see attached.

Cllr Flunder left the meeting at 9.30pm and did not vote on the following;

From 9 above - Millenium Car Park – Enterprise Hub.

Cllr Davy advised that spaces will be required on the Millennium car park for the Enterprise Hub on a longer term basis. STC previously offered to purchase the freehold of 10 spaces which had been declined but it had now been established that the Millennium Trust is selling freehold land to Hastoe for car park for their fire station development. Members were asked to consider whether the Town Council should now go back to the Millennium Trust and ask again to purchase the freehold for 10 spaces. **Discussion took place – it was agreed by all to approach the Millenium Trust again for the freehold of some of the spaces. If not successful, the council will need to provide an offer for a lease. Proposed by Cllr Beavan, seconded by Cllr Wells. All agreed.**

Cllr Davy and Cllr Wells left the meeting and did not vote on the following;

Golf Club donation request for irrigation system. See papers.

Discussion re the type of system – could they not have a soak/drip system instead which would be more environmentally friendly and economical to operate. It was agreed by all to ask for more information.

***Note: Discussions above may need to be considered as confidential as appropriate and dealt with in the agenda item below.**

18. **Exclusion of Public and Press if required during discussions:** *Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodied (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.*

Nil

Signed

Dated

DRAFT