

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th October 2021.

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

Also present; The Town Clerk and the High Steward and 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies:**

To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Beavan.

2. **Declarations of interest:**

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

Cllr Jeans declared a Personal Interest as Chair of Southgen re the Red Cross Hut.

Cllr Ladd declared a Personal Interest as Chair of the Millennium Foundation re Christmas Lights.

Cllr Temple declared a Personal Interest as a Trustee of the Fox Trust re the Red Cross Hut.

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:** *To approve and sign the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 29th September 2021. 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 Wednesday 29th September 2021.*

4. **Public Forum**

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

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

Apologies were received from ESC Cllr Beavan.

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

SCC Cllr Ladd advised that the Bailey Bridge had reopened. SCC had assisted the local community by allocating a £20k budget from County Council for those who needed to cross the river for work etc – of which they have spent £16,500 from this.

Cllr Ladd advised members that it was good news re Anglian Water sewage treatment update – both Southwold and Southend will be trials. Southwold is presently in top 200 of troublesome areas.

The SCC Budget process for 2022-23 has started. There has been a major impact on officer time/resources being spent on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project Support - for example the Sizewell C report was over 1000 pages.

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

Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that Anglian Water were at the Arts Centre this morning and were handing out information leaflets about the work that they were carrying out in town. 400 tons of ‘stuff’ was flushed out of Southend sewers.

Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that this was a tribute to all Councillors/Councils who have lobbied over the years.

Cllr Jeans – as a resident expressed thanks to SCC Cllr Ladd for assisting with the Southwold Library Project.

- c) To receive comments on matters on the agenda (*each will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes*).

(10 minutes will be allocated overall for this section- subject to Town Mayor discretion).

A resident had sent in a written question asking Cllr Rowan-Robinson about the removal of the dam boards and whether this had been investigated. Cllr Rowan-Robinson answered that the water levels on marshes are above the correct level for this time of year. Tenant advises that the boards are not in situ and usually there is no need for the boards to have to go in. Tenant advises that there is no missing board.

A resident asked by written question about the lack of food outlets opening late and lack of transport/low wages/etc. The Town Mayor advised that he will ask the Town Manager to investigate the reasons for this and get some information from the businesses.

Cllr Goldsmith advised that there is a national problem in hospitality.

Cllr Jeans advised that the Neighbourhood Plan said that young people could not find somewhere to live near town/and that their lack of own car made them reliant on public transport.

Cllr Goldsmith – email from SCC that transport links are being improved. Cllr Ladd advised that Rural transport is an SCC priority.

Cllr Ladd advised members that Adnams used to have their own staff houses for their employees.

5. To receive reports from Committees:

a) *To receive the report of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 5th October 2021. No recommendations. Noted.*

b) *To receive a verbal update from Planning and Development Committee on any further planning/development matters to be brought to the attention of the Council. Members noted that the Blyth Hotel is in a poor state. Question was raised as to whether they were renting out rooms? STC wrote to ESC Philip Ridley some time ago about the property. Recommend that STC write to Adnams Executive Directors to ask for repairs (copy to Philip Ridley) as Blyth Hotel is a locally listed building.*

Cllr Goldsmith – matter was on social media some time ago. Apparently being upgraded inside.

It was agreed by all that Cllr Jeans and the Town Clerk would prepare and send a letter in this respect.

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

a) **N Plan Task and Finish Group.** (*N Plan = as per Town Council priorities 2019 – 2022 c) encourage full time residency within the Town d) Preserve and enhance the natural and built environment*). To receive update regarding N Plan referendum. Cllr Rowan-Robinson – Neighbourhood Plan has been accepted by the Inspector. Referendum in January 2022. Inspector did ask for several changes which have been successfully made. Thanks were extended to all those that had been Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group =

S. Allen, I. Bradbury, T. Bright, D. Brown, G Denny, K. Flodin, W. Green, M. Horwood, J. Jeans, M. Ladd, D. Palmer, M. Rowan-Robinson, R. Temple, M Tucker, W. Windell and the Town Clerk. Thanks to all who had contributed.

Cllr Jeans – Examiner said that the Town had exceptional circumstances and that the Neighbourhood Plan was “innovative”.

Cllr Bradbury extended thanks to Chris Bowden as the consultant too.

7. **Town Mayor updates**

Celebration of 800 years of Southwold Market within Love Your Market Fortnight Beccles Civic Service – attended. Mayors from around Suffolk but an absence of Beccles Town Councillors.

Armistice Day – 11th November 2021 – 10.50am at War Memorial.

Remembrance Sunday – 14th November 2021 – 10.20am at Town Hall. Cllr Windell advised that he would like to see as many Councillors as possible on 11th and 14th November 2021 to pay respects. As Councillors, it was noted that they represent the town and that these are two very important events.

Arbor Day – Tree planting – will plant trees at the end of November/beginning December during National Tree Week. Old tradition of STC is to plant 3 trees, 1 – Town Mayor, 1 – Vicar, 1 – School Head, plus school children to be in attendance too. St Edmund’s Day will be celebrated in the normal way.

8. **Climate initiatives** – *to include Climate/sustainability forum.* Climate Forum 13th

November 2021 - guest speakers - being held at the Arts Centre. Information will be sent to Councillors to keep everyone up to date.

Climate Emergency has been declared by STC and therefore Town Council needs to lead the way – for example a water cooler has been purchased so that there is no need to use plastic bottles of water.

Groundworks have provided all the information for a Southwold energy survey for residents - and this has commenced. Volunteers are needed to help deliver the information to every house in Southwold. The survey/leaflets are funded by SCC.

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) *East Anglia One and Two/Sizewell – Cllr Flunder – range of Comms has come out on both of these. The 2 windfarms at sea may be consented but there is pressure from*

MPs regarding the Friston situation and they would like a different solution for location of sub-station.

Ref the Windfarms – confusion about where cables will come in. Likely to be Leiston/Aldeburgh area and this has received opposition.

Sizewell C - in news today. DCO consent order is complete. SCC have made strong arguments about infrastructure and want more done by EDF if it is going ahead.

Government want renewable energy as part of climate initiatives but are looking at smaller nuclear generators. East Anglia is a key area.

Cllr Windell advised that some new fresh water provisions will be required and it is suggested that this will create need to get water from Barsham which will have huge implications.

Cllr Ladd advised that 1/3rd of national energy will be coming through East Coast. Need to remember that this area is also AONB.

b) *Harbour Users* – Cllr Bradbury – Cllr Bradbury reported – see written report.

10. **To receive update from Station Road Project Board meeting regarding Design review**

(Project = as per Town Council priorities 2019 – 2022 b) *Diversify and enhance the local economy*). Meeting held today so notes not yet available.

Design Review has been completed and planning application will go to ESC as soon as possible. Clearance of site should be end of November. UKPN have cut electricity from old units at weekend. No disruption to tenants. LEP grant application being considered in November. Comms is being prepared in advance. It is hoped that the Project Board meetings in future will be before STC meetings. It is hoped that the draft updated plans for the variation of condition will be available this week.

11. **Financial Matters**

a) *Accounts for Payment* - To receive and confirm the Accounts for Payment for October 2021 (*circulated to members*). **On the proposal of Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was agreed by all to confirm the Accounts for Payment for October 2021. Cllr Goldsmith asked about two payments to the same supplier on the accounts and whether these were for the same works. It was verified that these were for individual works.**

b) *To receive report and recommendations of Finance and Governance Meeting Rep 10.21 held on 18th October 2021.*

Recommendation in relation to; Town Hall security upgrade, donation SRS for dog bags, donation to Xmas Lights cttee.

Recommendations

Council mobile phone – present out of hours mobile is a pay as you go flip top non smart phone which is no longer adequate for Council use. It was suggested that to negate need for staff to use own phone for such work use, a phone be purchased which has a camera, the ability to respond to text messages as well as calls – either on a monthly contract or purchase a reconditioned phone up to a max £250 and have on a SIM only basis dependent on available deals. **It was proposed by Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Jeans and agreed by all to approve the recommendation.**

SRS – Dog bags – on the proposal of Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith it was agreed by all that a donation of £150 be made for the bags. All agreed.

Christmas Lights donation – the Lights Cttee is considering purchasing new icicle lights – which will be for the Town Hall – costs to be confirmed - a budget of up to £1500 has been requested. As the lights will be for the Town Hall the Town Council will retain the lights as an asset. It was agreed by all to recommend that this purchase be made by the Christmas Lights cttee to a maximum of £1500.

Cllr Ladd advised that the lights will be for the Town Hall and Market Place. **It was proposed by Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Jeans and agreed by all to approve the donation request.**

Updated security at Town Hall. 2 quotes have been received for updating the security at the Town Hall, and a further quote is awaited. These improvements had been due to be actioned when the improvements works were to be made to the Town Hall, but as the works are still delayed, it is recommended that the security upgrade be undertaken with immediate effect. Present quotes are for £1000 and £1700 (including VAT), but the specs, and provisions are different in each instance. It is recommended that the Finance Cttee be given delegated authority to approve an upgraded system for the Town Hall within a budget of £2000.

It was Proposed by Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Sutton and agreed by all to support this recommendation.

12. **Date of next Town Council Meeting:** Tuesday 30th November 2021 at 7.30pm.

Cllr Windell left the meeting, and all Members of the public left the meeting.

13. **Exclusion of Public and Press if required:** Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodied (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following.

Rent updates - see confid report – it was agreed by all to continue discussions relating to 25 Market Place with tenant.

Red Cross Site - update received as to potential impact of N plan policies on this site, that will need to be considered along with the previous professional advice that Council has received.

Signed

Dated.....