

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th April 2022.

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 Ladd
	“	M Rowan-Robinson
	“	J Sutton
	“	R Temple

Also present; The Town Clerk, High Steward, 2 members of the public at the Town Hall and 5 members of the public via Zoom.

- Apologies:**
To receive apologies for absence. There were no apologies for absence.
- Declarations of interest:**
 - To receive any declarations of Personal Interest regarding the agenda.*
Nil.
 - To receive any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests regarding the agenda.*
Nil.
 - To note the decision of the Town Clerk regarding requests for dispensations relating to this agenda.* Not applicable.
 - Councillors to be reminded of the requirement for them to individually update their Register of Interests as appropriate.* Noted.
- Minutes:** (i) To approve and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 29th March 2022.
On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith it was RESOLVED by all to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 29th March 2022.
- Public Participation**
 - To receive a report from East Suffolk Ward Councillor D Beavan.*
ESC Cllr Beavan will then take questions from Councillors and electors.
ESC Cllr Beavan advised that for Potters Bridge they have now got some technology in association with Reydon PC. Will be linked to depth of water. The Broad is filling up and should be ok this year. Trying to get level boards as per other sluices.

Next Tuesday Connected Communities will be coming into town. Will provide help to over 65s, helping with care and housing issues. CAB locally have joined this initiative too and it is hoped that it can come once a month. Skatepark day was a very good day open community day - the organisers will come to Leisure & Environment meeting to provide a debrief.

Questions for ESC Cllr Beavan

A member asked about the role of ESC Cllr Beavan in the decision making for the Community Governance Review.

Cllr Beavan advised that he was a substitute on the ESC Committee who will look at the various options for parishes and will decide the way forward, but not dictating what any town/parish should be doing.

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

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

SCC Cllr Ladd advised that SCC were asking for land to describe as a "Healing Wood". 150 nature tree species were placed on the first one in Bury.

First section of the new Gull Wing Bridge opened last month. Completion is due next year.

Of the SCC pupils, 98.5% received a place at one of their preferred secondary schools in the county.

Campaign is being led for people to recycle glass properly and use recycling bins.

Suffolk Fire & Rescue are providing fire engines and kit to Ukraine.

Scrutiny cttee will be on 11th May 2022.

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).

A resident advised that in respect of agenda Item 7, they were concerned about the suggested merger of the parishes of Southwold and Reydon within the CGR and has written to ESC. The resident read out his letter to ESC and advised that the Southwold & Reydon Society has voiced support for a merger but does not offer reasons.

The Town Mayor noted that he has been advised of postings on community social media referencing town council colleagues. The Town Mayor reminded all Councillors of the Local Code of Conduct, noting that all councillors work very hard to support the town, and that everyone should act with integrity.

5. To receive reports from Committees.

a) To receive the written report of the meetings of the Planning and Development Committee held on 5th April 2022 and 19th April 2022. No recommendations. Noted.

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

c) Landlords Cttee – No meeting held. Nil.

d) Leisure and Environment Cttee –No meeting held.

To receive verbal update on preparations for Platinum Jubilee events. Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that plans are proceeding. Several meetings have been held by zoom – and that there were some 30 suggestions originally. Most have fallen by the wayside, but the main core of events is happening. Southwold Town Council is organising events for

Thursday 2nd June. Reydon PC is holding an event on Sunday 5th June. There are also events at the Arts Centre. Funding has been received from National Lottery for community events. Councillors were urged to help support events.

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

a) *Sustainable Travel cttee — no meeting held.* Nil. Cllr Jeans spoke about signage – noting that people are still using the High Street when they are looking for places to park. Discussion about liasing with ESC/SCC regarding the signage audit, asking them to come back with suggestions and costs.

SCC Cllr Ladd advised that he paid for the new sign by the bridge. Sustainable Travel to take this forward. All agreed.

7. **Community Governance Review** – *to consider email of 14th April from East Suffolk Council regarding the CGR consultation, and to consider STC response.*

See email from ESC. Cllr Windell advised members that at the last meeting Cllr Beavan had suggested that councillors should respond to the consultation individually, but that ESC now wishes for an STC collective response.

Cllr Rowan-Robinson advised that he did not respond individually, as it had seemed that the purpose of the review was to deal with smaller parishes who cannot have a council in their own right. Cllr Rowan-Robinson has attended several meetings between the two parishes of Southwold and Reydon and a merger through this Review, has not been mentioned. Cllr Rowan-Robinson suggested that there were key differences between the two and that it should be necessary to see contested council elections in both parishes before supporting.

Cllr Rowan-Robinson proposed that; STC does not support a merger with Reydon PC at this time. Cllr Ladd seconded. Discussion took place.

Cllr Temple advised that he agreed with many comments made by Cllr Rowan-Robinson but suggested that members don't close minds.

Cllr Beavan advised that this is about whether there should be a consultation; would need to consider the number of Councillors, and consider wards, and that there would then be a referendum in both parishes at the same time as elections. ESC will not force anyone to do anything.

Cllr Jeans advised that STC is being asked to give views on whether it would support a merger and that she did not stand on a mandate to dissolve STC. Cllr Jeans advised that there is room for better initiatives between Southwold and Reydon and that there is reason to take shared problems forward.

Cllr Ladd mentioned that both parishes have individual strengths and that a larger Council might water down the strengths of each, as the present system works well at the moment.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowan-Robinson, seconded by Cllr Ladd, that STC does not support a merger with Reydon PC at this time. A recorded vote was requested.

Abstain – Cllr Sutton, Cllr Flunder, Cllr Temple, Cllr Jordan.

In favour of the proposal; Cllr Windell, Cllr Rowan-Robinson, Cllr Betts, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Goldsmith, Cllr Ladd, Cllr Jeans.

Against the proposal; Cllr Beavan.

Cllr Windell advised that he hope this encourages more co-operation with Reydon PC.

Discussion took place about joint meetings between the parishes and t eh low attendance of the previous one.

8. **To receive progress report from Station Yard Regeneration Project Board** (*Project = as per Town Council priorities 2019 – 2022 b) Diversify and enhance the local economy*). Members were advised that *demolition* is complete. Decontamination and remediation are nearly complete. A soil vapour test is now to be carried out. 9 gas monitoring stations have been inserted to test this.
Cllr Windell advised members that a further £200k grant has been awarded towards the project- show of support from another third party. Contractor’s interviews are being held re tender preferred bidders. Operators – all Councillors can have opportunity to meet the potential operators. For those unable to attend, summary notes will be made available.
Cllr Ladd advised that the CCF body met with Project Board and were very impressed with the project and the team on it. Discussion about the financial shortfall.
9. **Havenbeach Marsh** – *To receive update on registration of Havenbeach Marsh, and to consider and agree next steps.*
Statutory Declaration has been drawn up and got it back from local solicitor but needs to be checked for accuracy in order to move forward. Cllr Beavan advised that the statement is ready to go to the Land Registry and that STC should now send it.
Discussion about land ownership, the use of the land over past 20 years, and costs of barrister fees to take this forward. Discussion about whether a Statutory Declaration was the right way to go forward.
Statutory Declaration to be circulated to all members and the matter brought back to Council next month.
10. **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 Bradbury No meeting held.*
 - b. *Harbour Users – Cllr Bradbury-Harbour Road has been improved – some suggestions that traffic speed has increased. There is a boat lift used by Harbour Marine and when this is operating the road will be closed to all. Takes 10 – 15 minutes. Parking around the harbour is difficult even now. The Harbour Management Committee will take such matters into account.*
 - c. *Southwold Harbour Stakeholder Advisory Group – Cllr Windell – meeting cancelled.*
 - d. *Allotment Association – Cllr Bradbury - 75th Anniversary this year and they have been given one of the oak trees to plant. Clerk to note that there are names on the lease that will need changing. Plant sale will take place this year. Next meeting is on 13th June 2022.*
11. **Financial Matters**
- a) *Accounts for Payment - To receive and confirm the Accounts for Payment for April 2022 (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 April 2022. All agreed.
 - b) *To receive report and recommendations of Finance and Governance Meeting REP 4.22 held on 20th April 2022.*
Recommendations in relation to; Donations and VAT advice. Recommendation re VAT advice, donations and CCTV to be revised.

CCTV – it was noted that there was an unspent budget of £10k in the mgt accounts for CCTV. Discussion about the potential benefit of having some CCTV in town- particularly around the Market Place area.

It was suggested that the provision of some CCTV in the town be revisited.

VAT advice - Recommend Price Bailey carry out no's 1 – 4 to as described above, and within their correspondence, at the costs as quoted.

Proposed by Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Jordan - All agreed

SRS – Dog bags – total cost for 25,000 is £750. Recommend that STC provides a donation of £250.

On the proposal of Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith it was agreed by all to donate £250 to SRS for dog bags. Cllr Windell asked if the dog bags can still be biodegradable.

12. Town Mayor updates/ correspondence including.

Jubilee Tree planting – Cllr Windell reported that 3 oak trees given – 1 to Allotment Association, 1 to STC which Cllr Betts planted and 1 to the Common Trust for Nursemaids Park.

Lions Annual Celebration at the Randolph – Amazing work being done by them.

Southwold Railway Trust – welcome to new locomotive “Blyth” train launch. Built by a firm in Darlington.

Opening Lions Fete on Sunday 1st May 2022.

Attending ESC Civic Reception on 5th May 2022.

13. Dates for Diary

Annual Town/Parish Meeting – 27th April 2022 - guest speaker – Suffolk Police Authority.

Annual meeting of Town Council – 10th May 2022

Charter Fayre opening – Friday 27th May at 5pm

Parade led by Leiston Band to Songs of Praise St Edmunds Church – Sunday 29th May 2022 – leaving Town Hall at 10.20am

Formal events for Queens Platinum Jubilee – throughout Thursday 2nd June 2022

Annual Parish meeting – 6.30pm tomorrow at the Stella Peskett Millennium Hall.

14. Date of next Town Council Meeting: Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7pm – Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

15. 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 for legal, staff or tender discussions.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed

Dated

DRAFT