

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm on Tuesday 27th September 2022.

PRESENT:	Councillor	J Windell – Town Mayor
	“	Miss A Betts
	“	Mrs P Goldsmith
	“	Mrs J Jeans
	“	Mrs J Jordan
	“	M Ladd
	“	R Temple

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

1. **Apologies:**

To note/approve apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Flunder, Cllr Sutton and Cllr Rowan-Robinson and these were noted. Cllr Beavan was not in attendance.

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 26th July 2022.* No August meeting held.

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Ladd it was RESOLVED by all to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 26th July 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. Nil.
- 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 been to library and presented for the reading challenge – for which over 100 children took part. 10 came along to receive medals.
SCC Cllr Ladd took part in peer review about libraries in communities in Suffolk, advising that Southwold library had a very good manager.
SCC is urging people to safely dispose of batteries as there was a fire at a waste site in Great Blakenham – with the fire starting from a battery.
Registration scheme for Solar Together in Suffolk is closing this week. SCC has submitted a bid of £1.3m in respect of electric vehicle charging pilot scheme, to put in more charging points in the county.

Questions to SCC Cllr Ladd:

Nil

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 member of public spoke in relation to agenda item 6 Rights of Way Group meetings, advising that these were useful meetings with good ideas. In the notes it advised that a working group will be formed by each Council to undertake a particular piece of work – the member of public would like to be on this working group. Buss Creek third cut has been requested from SCC Public Rights of Way. New Right of Way sign has been placed by Rights Bridge on the Reydon side of Buss Creek. Clearance of path has been requested.

5. To receive reports from Committees.

a) *To receive the written report of the meetings of the Planning and Development Committee held on Tuesday 9th August 2022, Tuesday 23rd August 2022, Tuesday 6th September 2022. No recommendations. No comments.*

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

- *ESC planning cttee application – 13th Sept 2022*
- *DCMS – Call for evidence. To consider and if approved send copy of response to MP and media. Cllr Jeans presented the STC response, advising that in Scotland, holiday lets have their own use class and have holiday let zones are in place which can control the number of holiday lets. STC has responded with similar ideas. Philip Ridley was supportive of the ideas.*
- *Meeting with Philip Ridley and Cllr David Ritchie. Cllr Jeans met with Nick Khan at ESC and then Philip Ridley and Cllr David Ritchie. Cllr Jeans explained all the issues discussed. ESC has a new ‘design champion’ to help with planning matters.*

Cllr Jeans explained the recent Southwold planning application which went to the ESC Planning Committee, and what happened during the meeting and the LPA decision. Members were advised that ESC councillors defended the officer decision, and the decision was approved contrary to the STC response.

Meeting with Philip Ridley and Cllr David Ritchie was considered worthwhile and hopefully will provide for a constructive relationship for the future.

c) *To receive the written report of the meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee held on 7th September 2022. Rep L and E 4.2022. Received.*

d) *Landlords cttee meeting – postponed to Oct.*

6. To receive reports from working groups;

a) PROW – see report attached. Comments as in the public section above.

7. 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) *Community Emergency Group – Cllr Ladd provided the report. “Call to Arms” request has gone out for volunteers – without volunteers there will be no*

plan/emergency group. 2 recruits have come forward and one of the volunteers has put forward for rest centre training.

- b) *Sizewell/Anglia One* - Cllr Flunder – written report received.
- c) *Southwold and Walberswick Flood Board* – Cllr Beavan – nil.
- d) *HMC Meeting/SAG meeting including Harbour Revision Order* – Cllr Flunder/ Cllr Bradbury – nil.
- e) *Health Centre meeting* – Cllr Bradbury – nil.
- f) *Allotment Association* – Cllr Bradbury –see written report.
- g) *Xmas Lights 2022* – see written report. Cllr Ladd previous Xmas Lights Cttee = finished last year. Business Association were going to do it but haven't. STC will do an event this year. It will be funded/sponsored by Adnams/STC/ESC and follow feedback. Switch on at 6pm with no High Street events. Will concentrate on lights in the Market Place. Cllr Jeans thanked everyone who is involved with Xmas lights. Shame to think that people think things just happen.

8. **Cost of Living Crisis including ESC Ease the Squeeze Campaign** – *To consider best practice to promote/signpost local concerns – see the various reports attached.*

The Town Clerk provided a briefing on behalf of the ESC Community Partnership Board and explained the project regarding 'warm havens' including the facilitation of assistance for a resident in Wrentham (which has now been passed onto Wrentham PC). The role of the town council will be to signpost to the various projects that are taking place. Cllr Jeans spoke as Southgen, Old Hospital who are pledging for some ESC funding for "comfort food".

Cllr Ladd advised there was a recent presentation by Community Partnership at the Stella Peskett for all parishes within the partnership and many parishes were not there. Southwold Library is likely to be a warm haven through the SCC schemes and Cllr Ladd had offered to put some extra funding into the VHC lunches, but that there is difficulty gaining chefs. Cllr Ladd advised that the Community Partnership is the vehicle through which information should be shared and engagement be made with all the parishes. Social isolation is one of the key initiatives. A "call for volunteers" is needed for any projects to be delivered in town.

9. **ESC Resilient Coasts Project Board** – see supporting papers for information.

10. **Civility and Respect Pledge** – *to consider and if agreed approve to adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge and the Dignity at Work Policy.* Councillors voiced support for this NALC Project. **On the proposal of Cllr Temple, seconded by Cllr Ladd it was unanimously RESOLVED to adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge and the Dignity at Work Policy.**

11. **Financial Matters**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Betts, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was agreed by all to approve the Accounts for payment for September 2022. All agreed.

b) *To receive report and recommendations of Finance and Governance Meeting held on 30th August 2022. Fin Rep 8.2022 with Recommendation to adopt 'Bring Your Own Device' Policy.* **It was approved unanimously to adopt the 'Bring Your Own Device' Policy.**

c) *NALC briefing analysis on Council tax levels – see report attached.* Noted.

d) *To receive return of audit report AGAR 2021- 2022 and to note actions required.*

The Town Clerk advised that the AGAR for 2021-2022 had been signed off and returned by the external auditor and that there were no actions arising. Public Notice has gone on Notice Board and is on website. Thanks were extended to the Town Clerk/RFO for the work required to receive such a report.

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

Model Yacht Regatta – Tuesday 16th August 2022

Southwold Wi-Fi Launch – and see first report attached. Noted. Cllr Jordan advised that she could not log on to the system – this to be noted to ESC.

Theatre on the Coast – Wednesday 10th August 2022

Open Air Theatre – Wednesday 31st August 2022

Proclamation of King Charles III – Ipswich and Southwold 11th September 2022. The Town Mayor provided members with details of the requirements made on the Town Council to ensure that protocol was carried out as required including the attendance of the Mayor and Deputy at the Proclamation in Ipswich, and the reading of the Proclamation in Southwold.

Church services – Bury St Edmunds, Southwold and Beccles. Members were advised that the Deputy Mayor attended the Bury St Edmunds Service and the Town Mayor attended Southwold and Beccles.

Station Rd redevelopment project – feedback from drop-in day and updates. The Town Mayor advised that several people came in for the drop-in day, and that the Project Manager, Mixbrow and Menta were there. A photo shoot was carried out the following week with all the contractors, who were then able to meet each other.

Cllr Ladd provided thanks to the Town Clerk, Councillors and the High Steward involved in organising the Proclamation event in Southwold.

13. **Dates for Diary**

URC Harvest Festival – Sunday 9th October 2022 – to note date of URC lunch and service.

Armistice Day - Friday 11th November 2022

St Edmunds Day – Friday 18th November 2022

Remembrance Sunday – 13th November 2022

14. **Date of next Town Council Meeting:** Tuesday 25th October 2022 at 7.30pm

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.

To receive update on property lease negotiations – see REP on 25 Market Place.

On proposal of Cllr Ladd, seconded by Cllr Jeans, it was RESOLVED unanimously to adopt option 2 of the report.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed

Dated