

## SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL MEETING held remotely via the online platform “Zoom” and in accordance with the Coronavirus Act, C 7, Part 1 Local Authority Meetings, Section 78. This Act allows members to be present and attend a meeting without being present in the Council Chamber or together in the same place.

Date of meeting: **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020** at 7.30pm

**Present (remotely via Zoom)**

**Councillors:** Asker (Town Mayor), A Coote, De Vries, Eke, Freeman, Gadd, Hawke-Smith, Light, McLellan, Porch, Roberts, Toy

**Officers:** Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk), David Broomfield (RFO), Chloe Fiddy (Planning & Projects Officer)

**Public:** 5 Members of the public

FC 076-20	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs S Coote, Fairhurst, Frost, Millward</p>
FC 077-20	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>Cllrs Asker, A Coote, Eke, De Vries, Freeman and Light declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC).</p> <p>Cllr Eke declared a non-pecuniary interest in Min Ref FC085-20 “The Gate Inn” as a Member of UDC’s Committee which considers the assets of community value; he did not participate in any discussion or voting on this matter</p>
FC 078-20	<p><b>Public Speaking Time</b></p> <p>2 Members of the public spoke in favour of Council’s proposed motion (agenda No 11) on structural and systemic racism.</p> <p>Both members of the public provided personal accounts of racism directed to them and/or their family members and urged Council to adopt a motion which supports the BAME community. Both members were thanked for their moving testimonies and for their strong support of the Council’s motion.</p> <p>2 members of the public spoke regarding agenda item 9, “The Gate Inn”, suggesting that Council did not appeal the decision from UDC regarding the listing but took the opportunity to continue supporting the retention of this asset within the public realm. Mr Kenny noted that Save the Railway Arms Pub group had submitted an offer to purchase The Railway Arms and this had been accepted by the owners; Council was delighted at this news.</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record .....

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	<p>With Council’s permission, the Mayor brought forward agenda item 11 “Structural and Systemic Motion”</p>
<p>FC 079-20</p>	<p><b>Structural and Systemic Motion</b></p> <p>Cllr Roberts spoke further to the motion as proposed, urging Council to adopt this motion and importantly to then take positive and tangible steps in dealing with racism in the community.</p> <p>Cllr Toy proposed an amendment to the motion to add that the Council should actively address the institutional, societal injustice that exists in the structures across all form of society and to take a leadership role and active steps to address the unconscious bias that pervades the social fabric of organisations, institutions and societies that create injustice. This amendment was agreed and Councillors therefore considered the substantive motion as proposed.</p> <p><b>It was Resolved:</b></p> <p>Unanimously to support and implement the motion as presented.</p>
<p>FC 080-20</p>	<p><b>County Councillor Update</b></p> <p>Cllr Moran was not present and no written report or update had been received for consideration.</p> <p>Cllr Eke reported on a recent Highways meeting held with Officers and Councillors from Uttlesford District Council (UDC), Essex County Council (ECC), and SWTC at which Cllr Moran had been present. At this meeting, Cllr Moran had advised there was no funding available for cycling schemes in Saffron Walden. Cllr Moran had been pressed for information on ECC Covid-19 spend on cycling and walking initiatives in Saffron Walden but had advised this information was not currently available. Members were very disappointed at the lack of funding for cycling schemes; Cllr Eke advised this very concern would be further progressed via the UDC Executive Team. It was</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) That SWTC issues a press statement noting its severe disappointment and frustration at the lack of funding from ECC for any cycling initiatives either generally or via the Covid-19 funding.</li> <li>(b) It was noted that the Department for Transport’s “Propensity to Cycle” national toolkit could and should be used to evaluate the current and potential cycle schemes and usage in town and this should be funded via ECC’s S106 funds and should therefore be further explored. It was agreed that these opportunities would be further progressed with ECC and/or UDC</li> <li>(c) To progress any updates on outstanding matters generally with Cllr Moran</li> </ul>

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FC 081-20	<p><b>Mayor's Communications</b></p> <p>The Town Mayor, Cllr Heather Asker, provided a resume of her activities over the past month, noting that the recent Fete de la Musique had raised approximately £500 towards the Mayor's charity, Fairycroft CiC.</p>
FC 082-20	<p><b>To verify the Minutes of the Previous Meetings</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Mayor.</p>
FC 083-20	<p><b>Committee Minutes</b></p> <p>Council received and noted the minutes from the following Committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Road Traffic 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (approved minutes)</li> <li>• Planning and Road Traffic 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (draft minutes)</li> <li>• Finance and Establishment 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (draft minutes)</li> <li>• Assets and Services 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 (draft minutes)</li> </ul>
FC 084-20	<p><b>Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b></p> <p>Council received a copy of the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 with detailed explanations and supporting financial papers, supported by a verbal presentation from the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).</p> <p>On consideration of the Annual Governance Statement, it was unanimously</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p><b>Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20</b></p> <p>Qs1-8 – to respond “yes”</p> <p>Q9 – to respond “N/A”</p> <p><b>Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20</b></p> <p>To approve the accounting statements as per the details presented to Council.</p> <p>Council thanked the RFO and Town Clerk for their due diligence in sound financial accounting and management.</p>
FC 085-20	<p><b>The Gate Inn</b></p> <p>It was <b>Resolved:</b></p> <p>To note details as presented on the agenda and that no further action would be taken by SWTC in consideration of this matter</p>

FC 086-20	<p><b>Evaluation of SWTC Carbon Footprint</b></p> <p>Council received and noted the report as presented by the Planning &amp; Projects Officer who spoke further to the report, responding to any queries raised by Members. It was</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) To engage a company to evaluate the Town Council's own carbon footprint;</li> <li>(b) That the awarding of any contract be in compliance with the Town Council's financial regulations;</li> <li>(c) That Officers be delegated to award a contract as appropriate;</li> <li>(d) That a budget be set to a maximum of £10,000 to be met from monies held in legal and professional services and/or the Neighbourhood Plan budget;</li> <li>(e) That Officers report back to Council on the progress of the project.</li> </ul>
FC 087-20	<p><b>New Model Code of Conduct</b></p> <p>Members noted the consultation, it was</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p>That individuals would submit their own responses and that no corporate SWTC response would be provided in this instance</p>
FC 088-20	<p><b>Reports from other Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Cllr Light reported on a recent virtual SW Arts Committee at which Mr Tim Atkinson was elected Chair of the Committee.</li> </ul>
FC 089-20	<p><b>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</b></p> <p>None advised</p>
FC 090-20	<p><b>Urgent Information Items</b></p> <p>There were no matters for discussion or information</p>
FC 091-20	<p><b>Date and time of Next Meeting(s)</b></p> <p>Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm by Zoom</p>
FC 092-20	<p><b>Confidential Item</b></p> <p>It was resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the</p>

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	<p>following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972</p>
<p>FC 093-20</p>	<p><b>Planning Matters</b></p> <p>Council received and noted the report as presented by Officers who spoke further to the report, responding to any queries raised by Members. It was</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p>That the recommendations within the report be noted and further progressed and that Cllr Gadd, as Leader of the Council, should oversee this process.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 10pm