

## SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of Full Council Meeting

**Date of meeting:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm

**Present Councillors:** Cllrs Asker, Coote, de Vries (Deputy Mayor), Freeman, Gregory, Hawke-Smith, Light, McLellan, Milward, Roberts, Toy.

**Officers:** Georgia Arnold (Office Administrator and Committee Clerk).

**Public:** None present

FC 279-21	<b>Apologies for absence</b>  Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Eke, Fairhurst, Frost, Gadd and Porch.
FC 280-21	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Cllrs Asker, Coote, de Vries, Freeman and Light declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC).
FC 281-21	<b>Public Speaking Time</b>  There were no questions arising.
FC 282-21	<b>Essex County Councillor Update</b>  Cllr Gadd sent his apologies.
FC 283-21	<b>Mayor's Communications</b>  The Mayor sent his apologies and Cllr de Vries shared the Mayors message, per agenda item 5.
FC 284-21	<b>To verify the Minutes of the Town Council meetings</b>  The September 2021 Full Council minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Deputy Mayor.
FC 285-21	<b>To receive the Minutes of the Previous Meetings</b>  Council received and noted the minutes from the following Committee meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Planning and Transport 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (approved minutes)</li><li>● Planning and Transport 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 (draft minutes)</li><li>● Finance and Establishment 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (draft minutes)</li></ul>

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

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assets and Services 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (draft minutes)</li> </ul>
FC 286-21	<p><b>Uttlesford Draft Housing Strategy</b></p> <p>Cllr McLellan reminded council that responses should be in line with our upcoming neighbourhood plan and that we support new builds being 40% affordable housing and smaller sizes are needed. Cllr Coote agreed that new builds should be based on what is needed but it shouldn't be forgotten that in the future that the larger homes might be needed for families.</p> <p>Regarding the housing standards Council agreed that Uttlesford have declared a climate emergency therefore any new builds should focus on being net zero carbon as well as affordable.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts explained that more standards should be placed when it comes to new builds so that they are built more sustainably. Cllr Light agreed, explaining that it should become a standard procedure and secondly that housing should be a mix of sizes at affordable prices.</p> <p>Cllr McLellan suggested a community land trust (CLT) would be beneficial in Saffron Walden to ensure that social housing remains affordable permanently. He referred to Thaxted Parish where this has been successful.</p> <p>In regards to who housing should be for council agreed it should be for residents and new buyers. Cllr Coote explained that you need to be an Uttlesford resident for three years before you can join the waiting list for social housing.</p> <p>When discussing how to keep a good quality standard of housing it was noted that houses are built at building standards and developers often use their own inspectors rather than hire those at Uttlesford, so often things are missed until the snagging checks are carried out.</p> <p>It was noted that Uttlesford also need to keep up on their own inspections to avoid delays in people moving in. Cllr Asker explained that a recent flat development in Castle Ward had a leak in the roof, meaning residents had to stay in a Bed and Breakfast not long after moving in.</p>
FC 287-21	<p><b>Saffron Walden Town Centre Consultation</b></p> <p>Council took note to expect the analysis of the town centre consultation in the next Assets and Services meeting.</p>

FC 288-21	<p><b>Food Bank</b></p> <p>Council passed on their thanks to Judith for the report and her ongoing work with the food bank.</p>
FC 289-21	<p><b>Community Governance Review (CGR)</b></p> <p>Council agreed that we should increase the total of councillors from 16 to 18, not 20 as suggested by Uttlesford.</p> <p>Cllrs raised concern that requesting a boundary change is premature until a decision is made on the proposed housing development along Radwinter Road (which Saffron Walden and Swards End continue to object too). If the development is approved, this conversation will be had with Swards End Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Gregory asked whether a consultation should be carried out with the residents regarding joining Castle and Little Walden Wards. It was agreed providing residents have no concerns then there would be no issues with joining of the two parishes.</p>
FC 290-21	<p><b>Reports from other Meetings</b></p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 291-21	<p><b>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</b></p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 292-21	<p><b>Urgent Items</b></p> <p>No matters raised.</p>
FC 293-21	<p><b>Date and time of Next meeting(s)</b></p> <p>Cllr de Vries reminded all that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm in <b>The Garden Rooms</b>, Jubilee Gardens.</p>

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.18pm

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

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