

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the SAFFRON WALDEN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held in the COMMITTEE ROOM of the TOWN HALL, SAFFRON WALDEN on **Monday 11th March 2019** at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Fairhurst, (Chair), Asker, Coote, K Eden, S Eden, Freeman, Gadd, Goddard, Hibbs, Morris, Perry

Also Present: Approximately 50 members of the public

Officers: Lisa Courtney Town Clerk, Terry Frostick Operations Manager, Chloe Fiddy Project Co-Ordinator, David Broomfield Responsible Financial Officer

AM001-19	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted apologies from Councillors Eastham and Sadler
AM002-19	Declarations of Interest None declared
AM003-19	Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 5th March 2018 Minutes from the meeting held on 5 th March 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were agreed and signed by the Chairman
AM004-19	Mayor's Report The Mayor's report was presented and received
	Reports by Chairs of the Committees
AM005-19	Finance & Establishment Committee The Chairman's report was presented and received.
AM006-19	Planning & Road Traffic Committee The Chairman's report was presented and received
AM007-19	Assets & Services Committee The Chairman's report was presented and received

Signed as a true and accurate record

Minutes of Annual Town Meeting 11th March 2019

AM008-19	<p>Presentations from Community Groups</p> <p>Community Groups who have worked with or been supported by the Town Council in 2018/19 took the opportunity to present details of their organisations, summarising annual achievements and show-casing their community work.</p> <p>Presentations were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saffron Walden Round Table • Saffron Walden Initiative • Uttlesford Community Travel • Saffron Hall • Saffron Players • Royal British Legion • Hyperfusion Academy • Volunteer Uttlesford • STRAP (Save the Railway Arms Pub) <p>The Mayor thanked all groups and commended them all for their hard work and dedication to Saffron Walden Community</p>
AM009-19	<p>Mayor's Community Champions</p> <p>A community champion is someone who actively engages with the community and works, or has worked, together with others to make a real difference in the town.</p> <p>Certificates of appreciation were presented by the Mayor to the following individuals for their commitment and volunteering in the community:</p> <p>John Ready – for his significant community contribution including involvement with the Saffron Walden Initiative and the Blue and Town Trail Plaques projects.</p> <p>Adrian Marsh – for his longstanding dedication to training and managing of youth football teams</p> <p>Margie Hall – for her significant volunteering at the Red Cross, Tourist Information Centre, The Day Centre and Meals on Wheels</p>

	<p>Jodie Rowlandson – for her fundraising efforts and raising awareness and understanding of childhood cancer</p> <p>Neil Gregory – for working in the community, spearheading projects such as the Town Team and the Business Improvement District</p> <p>Pam Jenner – for her role in setting up and running the Open-Door free counselling service for young people with mental health problems</p> <p>Ann Holloway – for her longstanding volunteering activities including running the Talking News and sessions on dementia</p> <p>Deirdre Hickey – for her dedication as a leader of the Saffron Walden Explorer Scouts and as a Duke of Edinburgh Leader</p> <p>Tim Atkinson – for setting up and running a successful arts and media centre at Fairycroft House and supporting local young carers</p> <p>Malcolm Domb – for his volunteering as Uttlesford Foodbank Co-ordinator and Chair of the local Macmillan fundraising committee</p> <p>Cheryl Waters – for her support of Saffron Walden Music Hall Society as well as producing and starring in the shows</p> <p>Maureen Gypps – as a founding and lifetime member, producer and star of Saffron Walden Music Hall Society</p>
AM010-19	<p>Questions from the Public</p> <p>A number of questions were posed from those present and these are summarised as below:</p> <p>(a) Mr Simon Trimnell had posed a question in advance of the meeting. He noted that the Town Hall was a “beautiful building” which had undergone significant and necessary repairs. Mr Trimnell’s question was if the financing of the repairs was unanimous decision or not by the Council and if not, why not.</p> <p>Reply: The Town Clerk replied, referencing the following minutes and noting the following minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Property and Services Committee meeting 11th April 2016 at which the Committee resolved to make a recommendation to Council to progress with the Town Hall works. The voting for this meeting is not specifically recorded and therefore confirmation cannot be given to how individual Councillors voted on this matter

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	<p>(ii) Full Council meeting 18th April 2016 at which the Full Council unanimously approved the recommendation from the Committee meeting as referenced in (i) above</p> <p>(iii) Full Council meeting 9th May 2016 at which the Full Council unanimously approved the “fallback” position to continue the repair works to the Town Hall if the Public Works Loan Board application was unsuccessful</p> <p>(b) Mr Martyn Everett asked if the emerging policies from the Neighbourhood Plan would be incorporated in time for a Referendum, anticipated late summer / early autumn 2019.</p> <p>Reply: Cllr Hibbs noted that the Neighbourhood Plan work was gathering pace and he was confident that emerging policies would be incorporated into any final plan accordingly (subject to public consultation on the draft plan). He further noted that detailed policies will come forward for further public consultation in due course.</p> <p>(c) Mr Martyn Everett commented on the Essex County Council library consultation, believing the process to be flawed. He commended the Town Council for its support against any closure of libraries or the reduction in any services. He asked for continued support from the Town Council in its opposition to the closure of libraries or to any proposed reduction in services.</p> <p>Reply: Cllr Fairhurst replied, noting that the Town Council’s support for the Saffron Walden library had been a unanimous Council decision and he was confident that the Town Council would continue to adopt its current position in opposing the closure or reduction of library services.</p> <p>(d) Mr David Hall posed a question, noting that he was not an electorate of Saffron Walden. The Mayor advised that he would be content to respond to a question raised by Mr Hall.</p> <p>Mr Hall asked why the Town Council had supported the principle of the New Garden Village at Great Chesterford.</p> <p>Reply: Cllrs Freeman and Gadd responded noting that the only alternative (seemingly available at the present time) would be to develop a further 1,000 homes in Saffron Walden and / or other existing towns and villages. The Town Council did not support further development in existing towns given the lack of infrastructure and viability evidence and thus in light of any alternative, the proposed development at Great Chesterford appeared to be the only possible, viable solution. Cllr Gadd further noted that the Town Council only supported this concept due to the lack of any viable alternative.</p>
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AM009-18	<p>Closure of Meeting</p> <p>The Mayor closed the meeting at 9.00pm and thanked all those present for their contributions.</p> <p>The Mayor invited all those present to stay for light refreshments</p>
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