

ASSET & SERVICES COMMITTEE
SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ASSETS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden.

Date of meeting: Monday 28th February 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Freeman (Chair), Porch and Roberts.

Officers: Lisa Courtney, Town Clerk; Terry Frostick, Operations Manager and Georgia Arnold Committee Clerk

Public: Representatives of The Walden Local and The Reporter Newspaper.

A & S 018-22	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Asker, Coote, de Vries, Light and McLellan.</p>
A & S 019-22	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllrs Freeman declared a non-pecuniary interest as District Councillor for Uttlesford District Council</p>
A & S 020-22	<p>Minutes of the last meeting of the Assets & Services Committee (24th January 2022)</p> <p>The minutes of the last Assets & Services Committee meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p>
A & S 021-22	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>There were no questions or matters arising from the public</p>
A & S 022-22	<p>Town Centre Consultation</p> <p>The Committee Clerk explained that the Town Centre road consultation ran in two phases with phase one closing last Summer seeking to find out likes and dislikes from respondents, whereas the second phase hoped to ascertain a favoured proposal, these being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All roads closed (Pedestrianisation) 2. Partially open/closed - Retain the pedestrian area of Market Square but re-open King Street / part of Market Street for cars 3. All roads open to traffic, all year <p>Options 1 and 2 included the following variables, for the closures to take place: All of the time; 08.00-16.00 only; April-October only; or three days a week only.</p>

	<p>The presentation (attached to the agenda) detailed that over 1400 people responded and 949 of these people are residents of Saffron Walden, with varying ages with 59% being aged 35-85+.</p> <p>It was noted that 40% asked for all roads to be closed; 35% asked for a partial closure and only 25% of respondents asked for all roads to be open for traffic. When asked when a closure should be in place, 'all of the time' was favoured by respondents however, The Committee Clerk noted that thought should be considered for residents in the Town Centre.</p> <p>The presentation recommended to request a partial road closure – this was the second favoured option and it would be a suitable compromise for those who would like a pedestrianised area but it would allow access for those less able and deliveries.</p> <p>Committee unanimously agreed to support the principle of a partial road closure and this proposal will be presented to Full Council in March. It was resolved that an additional report will be presented to Full Council to agree suitable timings for the partial road closure as the favoured option was all of the time but Officers noted that decisions should be mindful of residents who live in the Centre.</p> <p>Cllrs thanked The Committee Clerk for the report and noted that it is a complex issue.</p>
A & S 023-22	<p>Abbey Homes – Little Walden</p> <p>Committee noted the update and confirmed that we will not be taking on the Public Open Space at the Abbey Homes site as there are no S106 contributions.</p>
A & S 024-22	<p>Concession trading on Saffron Walden Common</p> <p>The Operations Manager presented the report to Committee, noting that a concession stall is likely to require planning permission and that any concessions for 2022 will be in conflict with the upcoming events planned for the year.</p> <p>Committee unanimously agreed to hold decisions in abeyance until further advice is received.</p>
A & S 025-22	<p>Transfer of land at Lime Avenue and Tudor Park from Persimmon Homes to SWTC</p> <p>The Town Clerk noted that all transfer documents have finally been signed but some works are being carried out by Persimmon Homes (access is granted via a licence from SWTC). These works are all at Persimmon's own cost, they are connecting the weeper pipes from some residents (those that have requested it) to the mains foul sewerage.</p> <p>Committee thanked the Town Clerk and Operations Manager for their excellent work.</p>
A & S 026-22	<p>Refurbishment of Anglo-American Play Area and new Splash Park</p> <p>Committee noted the written report.</p>

<p>A & S 027-22</p>	<p>Area Fronting Close Gardens</p> <p>The Town Clerk explained to Committee that renovations are required to the verge which will require planning permission, costing around £1,200. Committee unanimously agreed to support this.</p>
<p>A & S 028-22</p>	<p>Half Term Events</p> <p>Committee noted the report and shared thanks to the Events Officer and all SWTC Staff who organised the events.</p>
<p>A & S 029-22</p>	<p>Council Chamber Furniture</p> <p>Committee noted the report and unanimously agreed to dispose of the table and chairs.</p>
<p>A & S 030-22</p>	<p>Planning Application at Catons Lane Football Club</p> <p>Committee noted the update.</p>
<p>A&S 031-22</p>	<p>Date and time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Noted and agreed as being Monday 28th March 2022 at 7.30pm in The Town Hall, Saffron Walden.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm