

Minutes of the Saffron Walden Annual Town Meeting 2022

Date of meeting: Monday 4th April 2022, 7pm at The Town Hall, Saffron Walden

Present Councillors: Cllrs de Vries, Freeman, Gadd, Hawke-Smith, Light, McLellan, Porch (Chair) and Roberts.

Officers: Lisa Courtney, Town Clerk; Georgia Arnold, Committee Clerk and Office Administrator and Operative Keith Churchward

Public: Approximately 20 members of the public

AM001-22	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Asker, Coote, Fairhurst, Frost, Millward and Toy.</p>
AM002-22	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Minutes from the meeting held on 11th March 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were agreed and signed by the Chairman.</p>
AM003-22	<p>Mayor's Annual Report</p> <p>The Mayor's report was noted and the Mayor explained that £12k has been raised to date for his chosen charities, these being: Uttlesford Clothes bank, Uttlesford Foodbank and Opendoor Counselling. It was noted that the Rotary Club have also arranged a sponsored walk which will take place in May and will raise additional funds for these charities.</p>
AM004-22	<p>Annual Reports by Chair's of Committee's</p> <p>The committee chairs each spoke and summarised their written reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Assets & Services Cllr Freeman noted his thanks to the Town Clerk, Lisa Courtney and Operations Manager, Terry Frostick for their ongoing efforts, particularly demonstrated with the transfer of the POS from Persimmon Homes.b) Finance & Establishment In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Gadd noted the written report provided by Cllr Toy, noting that a five-year plan has now been adopted.c) Planning & Transport Cllr McLellan noted the report and passed on his thanks to the Committee Clerk, Georgia Arnold who started in post last summer.

AM005-22	<p>Community Reports</p> <p>Representatives of the following groups spoke and summarised their written reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Heritage Development Group Judith Rodden passed on her thanks to SWTC officers for their help and support for the upcoming Saffron Day event which will take place on 16th October 2022. It was noted that planning is underway with walking tours scheduled, talks with KS2 pupils and publication of leaflets and videos via the Tourist Information Centre. b) Royal British Legion (RBL) Michael Birnie presented his report and passed his thanks to SWTC for the free of charge hall hire to host the art exhibition. He noted that anyone could become a member of the RBL and that you do not need to have been in service. c) Saffron Walden Initiative (SWI) Jacqui Portway explained that the SWI run the annual dance in the square; the window display competition and in December 2021 SWI ran their first house and garden light display competition which was a success. She passed on her thanks to SWTC for the ongoing support with these events. d) Uttlesford Foodbank Sophie Durlacher presented the written report and noted her thanks to SWTC for organising grant applications and Judith Thompson at the Tourist Information Centre for her time and effort in ordering and delivering food. She also thanked the Mayor with the Foodbank being his chosen charity, the support has been fantastic during a difficult period. e) Citizen’s Advice Uttlesford Kate Robson explained that the CA have experienced a particularly difficult year+ due to Covid restrictions being particularly challenging. She noted the volunteers have been fantastic and should anyone be interested in joining they will gladly help train them up. f) Uttlesford Community Travel Gave apologies but passed on their thanks to Cllr McLellan who noted the fantastic work their service provides. g) Volunteer Uttlesford – were unable to attend but their report was noted.
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	<p>h) Saffron Walden Musical Theatre Group – were unable to attend but their report was noted.</p>
AM006-22	<p>Police Community Support Officer</p> <p>The Mayor explained that Tammy Blest has left her position as PCSO for another role within Essex Police and wished her the best of luck and thanked her for her dedicated work and commitment to Saffron Walden. Ms Blest was in attendance and was awarded with a gift from SWTC.</p>
AM007-22	<p>Questions from Electors</p> <p>Ms Sharpe noted that she had submitted her question in writing prior and that the Town Clerk had already answered, Ms Sharpe explained her concern for residents being charged estate charges – which are uncapped and on top of Council Tax bills, where POS could be transferred to SWTC.</p> <p>The Town Clerk explained that there is no legislation detailing that POS should be transferred to Councils but where possible SWTC do try and have POS transferred, except any SUDS as SWTC do not have the capacity to manage these areas.</p> <p>Ms Sharpe explained that the POS has not yet been transferred at the Bloor Ridgeons site and the Town Clerk explained that the paper work is with a third party being chased regularly by officers.</p> <p>A resident asked why there are no dog poo bins around the Cornell Court area. The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council do not install these bins and would likely sit within the District Council Remit. The Town Clerk said she would progress this matter with the resident outside this meeting.</p> <p>Ms Portway noted that in a lot of new residential developments that the social housing is built to a poorer standard than those private and why they are not built to the same standards. Cllrs and Officers explained that the District Council Enforcement must be informed to chase this up but UDC now have a policy in place stating that private and social housing must migrate together.</p> <p>Ms Sharpe asked an additional question regarding the Anglo-American Play Area refurbishments which includes consideration for a Splash Park, asking how much water would be consumed. Cllr Freeman explained that SWTC are still carrying out research but water can be recycled and it would not be wasted.</p> <p>No other questions were asked.</p>
AM008-22	<p>Closing from the Mayor</p> <p>The Mayor thanked attendees and those who presented and invited those in attendance for light refreshments.</p>

Meeting closed 8pm