

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.30pm in The Town Hall, Saffron Walden

Present Councillors: Cllrs Asker, de Vries (Chair), Coote, Fairhurst, Freeman, Gadd, Hawke-Smith, Light, McLellan, Millward, Porch, and Toy

Officers: Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk), David Broomfield (Financial Officer), Terry Frostick (Operations Manager), Georgia Arnold (Committee Clerk)

Public: Two members of the public represented the Heritage Development Group regarding the Saffron Story Interpretation Board

FC 067-22	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Eke, Frost, Gregory and Roberts
FC 068-22	Declarations of Interest Cllrs Asker, Coote, de Vries, Fairhurst, Freeman and Light declared generic, non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC) Cllrs Fairhurst and Coote further declared non-pecuniary interests as members of UDC's Planning Committee and left the room during discussions under Min Ref FC078-22 Cllr Light declared a non-pecuniary interest as a substitute member of UDC's Planning Committee. Cllr Gadd declared generic, non-prejudicial interests as county councillor for Essex County Council.
FC 069-22	Public Speaking Time There were no questions arising.
FC 070-22	Essex County Councillor Update Cllr Gadd's written update (attached to the agenda) was noted by Council
FC 071-22	Mayor's Communications The newly elected Mayor, Cllr de Vries invited past Mayor Cllr Porch to speak about his upcoming Rotary event on Sunday 15 th May. This is the final fund-raising event for Cllr Porch (notably the event had previously been postponed due to covid measures). The event starts with a walk at 9.30am and there will be community and food stalls with a classic car show.

Signed as a true and accurate record

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FC 072-22	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Town Council meetings</p> <p>The 11.04.2022 Full Council minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Mayor.</p>
FC 073-22	<p>To receive the Minutes of the Previous Meetings</p> <p>Council received and noted the minutes from the following Committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Transport 14.04.2022 (Approved minutes) • Planning and Transport 27.04.2022 (draft minutes) • Finance and Establishment 19.04.2022 (draft minutes) • Assets and Services 25.04.2022 (draft minutes)
FC 074-22	<p>Saffron Story Interpretation Board</p> <p>Mr Starte and Ms Rodden presented their final designs for the Saffron Story Interpretation board which is due to be installed on the Town Hall.</p> <p>Cllrs passed on their congratulations to the Heritage Development Group for their time and efforts for the wonderful design.</p> <p>Cllrs asked if the Group could consider whether the font is visibly suitable for those visually impaired and asked this was considered before finalising the print. Otherwise it was unanimously agreed that the group should continue to finalise installation.</p>
FC 075-22	<p>Actual Year End Carry Forwards / Budget 2022/23</p> <p>Council received and unanimously agreed the actual, carry forward figures from the 2021/22 budget into the 2022/23 budget resulting in a total expenditure budget of £2,049,983.49</p>
FC 076-22	<p>Climate Emergency Action Plan</p> <p>Council unanimously agreed to adopt the action plan prepared by the Town Clerk and thanked her for the excellent document.</p>
FC 077-22	<p>Uttlesford District Council – DEFRA Funding Bid</p> <p>Council noted the report and thanked UDC Officers and the Town Clerk for their collaborative approach and agreed with the recommendation to continue with this project.</p>
	<p>Having declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of UDC’s Planning Committee, Cllrs Coote and Fairhurst left the meeting for the following item</p>
FC 078-22	<p>Chase New Homes – Friends School Site</p> <p>The Mayor explained that Chase New Homes have submitted their planning application directly to the planning inspector for 96 dwellings at the former Friends</p>

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	<p>School site, which will be considered by Town Council at its Planning & Transport committee on 12.05.2022.</p> <p>Cllrs Asker, Freeman and Light did not participate in discussions as members of UDC.</p> <p>Council discussed whether in principle SWTC would be interested in taking on the public open space, including the tennis courts and swimming pool noting that appropriate S106 monies should be sought.</p> <p>Cllrs noted that the swimming pool is very old and has not been in use for several years and a swimming pool and the Town Council has no knowledge or experience in operating or managing a swimming pool.</p> <p>It was agreed that SWTC would propose to take on the public open space, playing fields and tennis courts but not the swimming pool.</p>
	Cllrs Coote and Fairhurst returned to the meeting
FC 079-22	<p>Policies</p> <p>a) Standing Orders – unanimously agreed for re-adoption</p> <p>b) Financial Regulations – the Town Clerk noted that paragraph 14.5 details that “all assets with a value greater than £500 shall be recorded” and proposed that this is changed to £1,000. This change and the policy was unanimously agreed for adoption.</p>
FC 080-22	Reports from other Meetings - No meetings reported.
FC 081-22	Additional Forthcoming Meetings - No meetings reported.
FC 082-22	Urgent Items - No matters raised.
FC 083-22	<p>Date and time of Next meeting(s)</p> <p>The Mayor reminded all that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 13th June.</p> <p>The Mayor also reminded Council of the upcoming Ceremonial Mayor Making on Saturday 14th May; Jubilee Weekend 2nd-5th June and the St Mary’s Church Service on Sunday 5th June.</p>
FC 084-22	<p>Confidential Item – Exclusion of Press and Public (Part II meeting)</p> <p>To resolve 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 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>

FC085-22	<p>Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Council reviewed the report as presented and unanimously agreed that UDC be formally requested to proceed the Plan to Referendum. Council recorded thanks to Mrs Chloe Fiddy (ex SWTC employee) who had written the plan in her capacity as Planning and Projects Officer at SWTC and Miss Georgia Arnold (Committee Clerk) for her continued support of the Plan and aiding the process to Referendum stage.</p>
FC 086-22	<p>Town Council Assets</p> <p>Council agreed with the recommendation within the report, to purchase the property as stated for the sum as approved.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.50pm