

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden

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

Officers: Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk), David Broomfield (Financial Officer)

Public: Representatives of the Saffron Walden Almshouse Charity

FC 173-22	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Eke, McLellan, Porch and Roberts
FC 174-22	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). Cllr Gadd declared a generic non-pecuniary interest as County Councillor for Essex County Council.
FC 175-22	Council agreed to bring forward agenda item 8
FC 176-22	King Edward VI & The Revd Joseph Prime Almshouse Charity – Project Crocus Saffron Walden Almshouses Trustees of Saffron Walden Almshouse Charity presented to Council regarding the proposed development scheme, noting the proposals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Demolition of the existing bungalows at Prime Close, 2 of the existing 8 are currently empty- The culvert runs under the existing flats- upgrades to the existing building will cost around £2.1million. The total rebuild will total to £5.5 million.- The current tenants will be temporarily re-homed during the refurbishments. Council passed on their thanks to the trustees for their informative presentation.
FC 177-22	Public Speaking Time There were no questions arising.
FC 178-22	Essex County Councillor Update

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	<p>Cllr Gadd noted ECC has allocated £10,500 per Ukrainian resident/refugee but it is unclear how this can be spent. Cllr Gadd is continuing to press for more information on how and what this money can be spent on.</p>
FC 179-22	<p>Mayor's Communications</p> <p>The Mayor noted he recently attended the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWTC Christmas Events, including the lantern parade. Light Switch On, hosted a Tombola at the Christmas Market and the recent carol singing around the Memory Tree. - Accuro's Santa Dash - SWCHS Young Musician Event - Saffron Hall's Together in Sound
FC 180-22	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Town Council meetings</p> <p>The 14.11.22 Full Council minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Mayor.</p>
FC 181-22	<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 11.11.22 • Planning and Transport 24.11.22 • Finance and Establishment 21.11.22 • Assets and Services – this meeting was cancelled
FC 182-22	<p>HMS Lapwing Memorial</p> <p>Council noted the HMS Memorial Service will take place the afternoon of 18th March 2023 and further details would be provided nearer the date/time.</p>
FC 183-22	<p>Bad Wildungen</p> <p>Council noted the written report attached to the agenda. During the meeting Council was unsure whether a Saffron Walden Street had been named after Bad Wildungen and this would be reviewed and the matter referred to the P & T Committee for any potential names to be considered.</p>
FC 184-22	<p>Proposed Budget 2023/24</p> <p>Council considered the proposed budget and it was unanimously agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rename the budget heading "Special Constable Support" to "Crime Prevention Initiatives" - Approve the budget as proposed (pending the final Band D figures). Council noted the budget would therefore be further presented to the January 2023 Full Council meeting, once the Band D figures were confirmed by UDC.

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	<p>Council considered the request from UDC regarding possible funding towards the Highway Rangers roles (currently funded by Essex County Council (ECC)), and the request for town and parish councils to contribute towards future employment and overheads charges in order for this service to continue. Due to budget constraints, ECC had chosen to cease this service from April 2023 and town and parish councils were being asked to collectively fund the posts for the service to continue.</p> <p>Council duly considered this request, agreeing it was not the remit of SWTC to pick up a responsibility which ECC did not wish to continue funding. The response to UDC was to note the posts and responsibilities should not fall to town or parish councils simply as one other council (in this instance ECC) did not wish to continue with funding. Queries were raised regarding ECC's statutory responsibility to clear and maintain the highways and grass verges and that ECC should precept accordingly to ensure it meets its obligatory and statutory duties. It was therefore unanimously agreed not to offer funding towards the continuance of the Highway Rangers posts and that ECC should continue funding this service and meet its statutory duty of clearing and maintaining its own assets and property.</p>
FC 185-22	<p>Garden Rooms</p> <p>The Town Clerk provided a verbal update regarding future use and occupation of the Garden Rooms, Jubilee Gardens, noting the legal paperwork for the leasehold transfer of the property from UDC to SWTC is being prepared and finalised.</p>
FC 186-22	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 187-22	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 188-22	<p>Urgent Items</p> <p>No urgent information Items were raised. It was noted an update report regarding progress on work to the former Nat West Bank building (purchased by SWTC) would be provided to a future A & S Committee meeting.</p>
FC 189-22	<p>Date and time of Next meeting(s)</p> <p>The Mayor reminded all the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Saffron Walden. Dementia Training will be available for Councillors that same evening, prior to the meeting at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden.</p> <p>The Mayor wished all a happy and safe Christmas.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.45pm

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