

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 12th July 2021 at 7.30pm

Present Councillors: Cllrs Coote, De Vries (from Min Ref FC248-21), Freeman, Gregory, Light, McLellan, Porch, Roberts, Toy.

Officers: Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk), David Broomfield (Financial Officer), Georgia Arnold (Administrator).

Public: None present

FC 243-21	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Asker, Eke, Fairhurst, Frost, Hawke-Smith, Millward, Toy</p> <p>Cllr Eke remains unwell and to avoid the six-month no attendance disqualification, pre-approval was agreed by the Council for his continued absence due to ill health. It was noted that his last attendance was the Full Council meeting on 8th February 2021. Council wished him well with a full and speedy recovery.</p>
FC 244-21	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllrs Coote, De Vries, and Freeman declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC)</p> <p>Cllr Gadd declared a generic non-pecuniary interest as County Councillor for Essex County Council</p>
FC 245-21	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>There were no questions arising.</p>
FC 246-21	<p>Essex County Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr Gadd provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) He noted that funding received by ECC for Covid funding, was distributed to the local community via UDC who in turn devolve funds according to local procedures and determination.b) Cllr Gadd advised ECC visit “most sites” following work carried out by 3rd parties (ordinarily utility companies) and will seek to fine those companies that fail to return the site to a good condition following works.

Signed as a true and accurate record

Minutes of Full Council Meeting 13th July 2021

	<p>c) He noted that the Addenbrookes Cardiology unit will now be available for further Uttlesford patients, rather than travelling to Harlow hospital.</p> <p>d) Cllr Gadd reiterated that the pothole count will need to be completed soon by the newly appointed administrator and this can be discussed further in the Planning & Transport Committee meeting.</p> <p>e) Cllr Gadd advised of cost saving efficiencies which must be met by ECC over the coming years; these include £58m in 2021/22 and £91m over the next 3 years.</p> <p>f) Cllr Light queried the schedule for the revised speed limits along Audley End Road – the Clerk undertook to provide details.</p>
FC 247-21	<p>Mayor’s Communications</p> <p>The Mayor discussed the success of the Mayor Making event which took place on 10 July 2021. He encouraged all Councillors to donate generously to the Mayor’s charities, noting that he will initiate “fines” for misdemeanours to raise further funding; a light-hearted schedule of charges was agreed.</p> <p>He advised the forthcoming events include Rolling Clones concert on 18.09.21 and tickets are selling quickly and the dance on 27.11.21.</p>
	Cllr De Vries arrived at the meeting
FC 248-21	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Town Council meetings</p> <p>The June 2021 Full Council minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Mayor.</p>
FC 249-21	<p>To receive the Minutes of the Previous Meetings</p> <p>The following minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Mayor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Transport 10.06.21 • Planning and Transport 24.06.21 • Finance and Establishment 21.06.21 • Assets and Services 28.06.21
FC 250-21	<p>Committee Governance Review (CGR)</p> <p>The Town Clerk reiterated that the CGR consultation closes on 31.07.21 and notably any agreed changes (by UDC) would not be implemented until 2023; it was further noted that it was unlikely such review would take place again for another 10 years. Members therefore identified that any proposed changes must serve both the current and future needs of the Town Council and town (and until at least 2033). Members considered the following options:</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record
Minutes of Full Council Meeting 13th July 2021

	<p>a) To increase the number of Councillors representing Saffron Walden</p> <p>b) To amend the SW boundary to include the potential Radwinter Road development, which currently sits in the geographical area of Swards End Parish Council.</p> <p>Following considerable discussion and debate, it was Resolved:</p> <p>(c) To request UDC to increase the number of Councillors representing Saffron Walden as a whole from 16 to 18 Councillors. This increase will accord with NALC's recommended ratios of 625 residents per Councillor.</p> <p>(d) In order to ensure best representation, UDC is requested to reconsider the existing SW ward boundaries (for the Town Council) and to reallocate to ensure the best ratio between electorates and residents.</p> <p>(e) To request UDC to rejoin the ward boundary of Little Walden with Castle Ward (as proposed by UDC) in order to regain both the ratio of numbers and to ensure inclusivity into SW for those in Little Walden</p> <p>(f) To redraw the parish boundary line to incorporate the proposed development land off Radwinter Road. For the avoidance of doubt, this is the land which currently rests in the parish of Swards End Parish Council and is proposed for development by Rosconn Group for circa 240 homes. It was further noted that the Town Council maintained its strong opposition and objections to development on this site but equally wished to adopt a pragmatic approach should future planning permission be granted on this site. Council noted that whilst this development sat outside of Saffron Walden, any new residents (should future planning permission be granted) would likely associate more with SW than Swards End. These residents would equally create a demand on Town Council services on the basis that residents would access the town centre, shops, services, facilities, public open spaces, community and leisure facilities.</p>
FC 251-21	<p>Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for Financial Year ended 31st March 2021</p> <p>Council received a copy of the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 with detailed explanations and supporting financial papers, supported by a verbal presentation from the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). On consideration of the Annual Governance Statement, it was unanimously</p> <p>Resolved:</p>

	<p>Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21</p> <p>Qs1-8 – to respond “yes”</p> <p>Q9 – to respond “N/A”</p> <p>Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20</p> <p>To approve the accounting statements as per the details presented to Council. Council thanked the RFO for his due diligence in sound financial accounting and management.</p>
FC 252-21	<p>Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Council considered the work of the external examiner and the current situation regarding her ill-health and possible inability to continued with the examination of the neighbourhood plan. It was</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To defer any decision on appointing a new external examiner for two weeks to see if the current appointee is in better health. If, at the end of 2 weeks, the examiner continues to be unwell the Town Clerk (working in conjunction with the Mayor and Neighbourhood Plan Team) is authorised to appoint an alternative examiner.</p>
FC 253-21	<p>Health & Safety – Statement of Intent</p> <p>It was Resolved: To adopt as proposed</p>
FC 254-21	<p>Affinity Water Drought Plan</p> <p>Council reviewed the draft plan and agreed to make no further response to the consultation</p>
FC 255-21	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 256-21	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 257-21	<p>Urgent Items - No matters raised.</p>
FC 258-21	<p>Date and time of Next meeting(s)</p> <p>The Mayor reminder all that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.30pm and that there is no August meeting.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Signed as a true and accurate record

Minutes of Full Council Meeting 13th July 2021