

/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 27th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Freeman, Gadd (substituting for Cllr Coote), Light, Roberts and Toy.

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr McLellan and Deputy Chair, Cllr Frost, Committee agreed Cllr Gadd would chair this meeting.

Officers: Lisa Courtney, Town Clerk and Terry Frostick, Operations Manager

A & S 026-23	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Coote (substituted by Cllr Gadd), de Vries, Frost, McLellan and Porch.</p>
A & S 027-23	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllrs Freeman, Light and de Vries declared non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council</p> <p>Cllr Gadd declared non-pecuniary interest as a member of Essex County Council.</p>
A & S 028-23	<p>Minutes of the last meeting of the Assets & Services Committee (27.02.2023)</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 029-23	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>There were no questions or matters arising from the public</p>
A & S 030-23	<p>Affinity Water – water softening update</p> <p>The Town Clerk provided a verbal update regarding conversations with Affinity Water, about the lack of water softening treatment in Saffron Walden, it was noted that Affinity has provided some information on their legal advice but notably this is not the full advice received. It was Resolved:</p> <p>To request a full copy of the legal advice from Affinity Water and to obtain a full copy of the House of Lords legislation relating to the water softening requirement.</p>

A & S 031-23	<p>Garden Room, Jubilee Garden – lease update</p> <p>Committee noted the following update provided by the Town Clerk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) SWTC is keeping a list of interested hirers. b) A lottery funding application is being prepared jointly with UCAN and Enterprise East CIC. c) The lease has been signed for a 10-year period and SWTC is scheduling some refurbishment works.
A & S 032-23	<p>SWTC Events</p> <p>Committee noted the following updates regarding SWTC events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) SWTC celebrated <i>International Day of Happiness</i> with Mind in West Essex this month. b) The next SWTC Event is taking place on Thursday 6th April with Easter Crafts. c) The Coronation weekend takes place 6th and 7th May with events including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saturday 6th - Coronation Service (live open-air screening of the service at Saffron Walden Castle) with family activities - Sunday 7th – Afternoon activities and music at Jubilee Garden and evening Concert at The Castle (live open-air screening of the concert at Saffron Walden Castle)
A & S 033-23	<p>Anglo-American Play Area Refurbishment - Update</p> <p>Committee noted the play area refurbishment at Anglo-American Playing Fields and works are due for completion w/c 10/04/2023, once works are complete a formal opening event will take place and the date will be confirmed in due course.</p>
A & S 034-23	<p>Saffron Walden Market – Promotional Campaign Update</p> <p>Committee noted the Market Co-Ordinator is arranging a branding and marketing campaign for Saffron Walden Market. Committee suggested boards could be placed on the former Natwest Bank windows to promote local events and/or provide public information about the proposed future use of the building.</p>
A & S 035-23	<p>Community Woodland Project at Lime Avenue</p> <p>Committee noted, due to the extreme heat and drought last summer, the vast majority of trees planted the previous winter at Lime Avenue unfortunately failed, despite best efforts to keep them going.</p> <p>Committee requested for the April meeting a report is prepared detailing the planting success, loss of trees, lessons learnt and details of the advice from Essex Wildlife Trust which can be referred to for future tree planting activities. It was noted there was a further opportunity to develop a tree planting policy and this would be further reviewed.</p>

A & S 036-23	Urgent Information Items There were no matters arising
A & S 037-23	Date and time of Next Meeting Noted and agreed as being Monday 24 th April at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden. Apologies were noted from Cllr Toy.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm