

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden

Present Councillors: Cllrs Abercrombie (Walker) (until minute reference FC 071-23) Ahmed, Asker (Mayor), Coote, Curtis, de Vries, Eke, Frost, Freeman, Gadd, Hawke-Smith, Jones, McBirnie, McLellan, Meloy, Porch, Reeve, Shotropa

Officers: Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk), Terry Frostick (Operations Manager) and Georgia Arnold (Committee Clerk & Office Administrator)

Public: Five present plus representatives of the Business Improvement District

FC 063-23	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Eke
FC 064-23	Declarations of Interest Cllrs Ahmed, Asker, Coote, Freeman, McBirnie and Reeve 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. Cllr de Vries declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of the Business Improvement District, a position he holds as elected to by SWTC.
FC 065-23	Public Speaking Time There were no questions arising.
FC 066-23	Essex County Councillor Update Cllr Gadd noted his concerns regarding the lack of education school places in the area. It was noted the Linden Homes site on Radwinter Road has provision for an education facility, but ECC has not issued its formal decision on whether the site is needed. Cllr Gadd advised ECC has just 6-months left in which to exercise this option.
FC 067-23	Mayor's Communications Newly elected Mayor, Cllr Asker noted she will provide her forthcoming events and plans at the June council meeting.
FC 068-23	To verify the Minutes of the Town Council meetings The 11.04.2023 Full Council minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Mayor.

Signed as a true and accurate record
Minutes of Full Council Meeting May 2023

FC 069-23	<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 13.04.2023 (approved minutes) • Planning and Transport 27.04.2023 (draft minutes) • Finance and Establishment 17.04.2023 (draft minutes) • Assets and Services 24.04.2023 (draft minutes)
FC 070-23	<p>Business Improvement District (BID) Referendum</p> <p>Representatives of the BID presented their business plan noting the current BID term ends in November 2023. The new manager also explained she is meeting with other national BIDs.</p> <p>The BID representatives further specifically addressed the questions and queries arising from the March Full Council meeting. A series of further questions were raised by Members, including concerns about previous conflict between BID levy payers and the BID. The BID representatives explained they are doing everything they can to support all BID payers in a collaborative manner and work on ideas together.</p> <p>Several businesses also attended to speak in favour of the BID.</p> <p>Council agreed to collate further questions and send to the Town Clerk by 19 May to discuss outside of this meeting with the BID and bring back to a future meeting.</p>
FC 071-23	<p>Actual Year End Carry Forwards / Budget 2023/24</p> <p>Cllr Gadd proposed to adopt the carry forward figures as presented, this was seconded by Cllr Coote and it was unanimously agreed by Council to:</p> <p>To approve the actual carry forward figures as presented. It was noted the proposal is to carry forward a balance of £28,693.00 to meet the 2023/24 budget.</p> <p>It was further agreed that the £5,362.000 balance (being the difference between budgeted net income/expenditure from 2022/23 and actual net income/expenditure) be allocated to a new EMR budget for Jubilee Hub.</p>
FC 072-23	<p>Priorities</p> <p>Council noted the current Council priorities, noting an updated Action Plan will be reviewed at a future Council meeting.</p>
FC 073-23	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 074-23	<p>Training</p> <p>The upcoming SWTC training dates were noted by Council.</p>
FC 075-23	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p>

	<p>Council noted the following future meeting dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Civic Mayor Making event on Saturday 17th June 2023, commencing at 10.15am in the Town Hall, Assembly Hall, followed by the St Mary's Church Service at 11am, with the closing reception at 12 noon. b) Uttlesford District Council Local Liaison Forum, 5th June at 19.00, Thaxted. Council appointed Cllr Porch to attend with the Town Clerk. c) Council has been invited to attend the 160th Anniversary celebrations of the Railway Pub, Saffron Walden taking place early evening, 18th May 2023.
FC 076-23	<p>Urgent Items</p> <p>No matters raised.</p>
FC 077-23	<p>Date and time of Next meeting(s)</p> <p>The Mayor reminded all that the next meeting is scheduled for 12.06.2023 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden.</p>
FC 078-23	<p>Confidential Item – Exclusion of Press and Public (Part II meeting)</p> <p>It was resolved 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>
FC 079-23	<p>Business Improvement District Referendum</p> <p>Council agreed to defer this matter, pending the BID responses to a series of further questions and to reconsider this matter at the June Full Council meeting.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 9.10pm