

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 12th June 2023 at 7.30pm

Present Councillors: Cllrs Abercrombie (Walker), Ahmed, Asker (Mayor), Curtis, Eke, Frost, Freeman, Gadd, Hawke-Smith, Jones, McBirnie, McLellan, Reeve and Shotropa.

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

Public: None present

FC 080-23	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Coote, de Vries, Meloy and Porch.</p>
FC 081-23	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllrs Ahmed, Asker, Freeman, McBirnie and Reeve 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> <p>Cllr Eke declared a generic non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Business Improvement District.</p>
FC 082-23	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>There were no questions arising.</p>
FC 083-23	<p>Essex County Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr Gadd noted it seems Saffron Walden schools are at or over capacity however the villages seen to be undersubscribed. The primary deficit of school spaces appears to be with primary school spaces and nursery, rather than secondary.</p> <p>He further reported ECC will be taking up the option on the school site straddling the Linden Homes and Redrow developments in the east of Saffron Walden.</p>
FC 084-23	<p>Mayor's Communications</p> <p>The Mayor recently attended the SWTC Band Stand Season Opening, SWTC Eco Market and Car Boot, Railway cutting of turf along the line</p> <p>The Mayor reminded Council Mayor Making is taking place this Saturday 17th June.</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record

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FC 085-23	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Town Council meetings</p> <p>The 15.05.2023 Full Council minutes and the 15.05.2023 annual meeting minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings (save for amendment on attendance details) and signed by the Mayor.</p>
FC 086-23	<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 25.05.2023 (draft) • Finance and Establishment 19.05.2023 (draft) • Assets and Services 30.05.2023 (draft)
FC 087-23	<p>Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-2023 (Annual Return)</p> <p>(a) Annual Internal Audit Report: Council received and accepted the unqualified Internal Auditor’s Report as presented</p> <p>(b) Annual Governance Statement 2022-23 with detailed explanations: Noted and accepted.</p> <p>(c) Reconciliation documents: Noted and accepted</p> <p>(d) Asset Register: Noted and accepted</p> <p>(e) Dates for the exercise of public rights: The dates of Monday 19th June ending Friday 28th July 2023 were approved.</p> <p>(f) Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement: Council affirmed all sections.</p> <p>Council approved all papers presented and the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23.</p>
FC 088-23	<p>Business Improvement District (BID) Referendum</p> <p>Council noted the written report attached to the agenda detailing responses to additional questions raised at the May Full Council meeting.</p>
FC 089-23	<p>Bad Wildungen – Twin Town Visit</p> <p>Council noted the written report scheduling the events taking place to mark the Twin Town visit this August and that interested parties should contact Mark Starte at the Tourist Information Centre should they wish to attend any meetings or activities.</p>
FC 090-23	<p>Police Engagement Day</p> <p>Council noted the Uttlesford Community Policing Team is hosting engagement session on Tuesday 1st August at 10am until 2pm in the Market Square, alongside a formal session in the Town Hall for invited guests.</p>

	Councillors were encouraged to report any items of interest/for inclusion in the walk around with the police representatives, to the Town Clerk by the July Full Council meeting.
FC 091-23	Reports from other Meetings No meetings reported.
FC 092-23	Additional Forthcoming Meetings No meetings reported.
FC 093-23	Urgent Items Cllr Reeve advised a number of Ukrainian host families had expressed concern and frustration to him regarding the lack of support funds now held by UDC (as devolved to UDC by ECC). Cllrs Asker and Reeve agreed this was a matter for them to address further as UDC Councillors.
FC 094-23	Date and time of Next meeting(s) The Mayor reminded all that the next meeting is scheduled for 10 th July 2023.
FC 095-23	Confidential Item – Exclusion of Press and Public (Part II meeting) 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.
FC 096-23	Business Improvement District Referendum Council considered and agreed its position in the referendum and mandated the Town Clerk to vote on behalf of the Town Council in respect of the Town Council properties.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.45pm