

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 28th October 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Ahmed, Curtis, Eke, Freeman, McLellan, Parker, Hawke-Smith (Chair) and Porch.

Officers: Town Clerk and Operations Manager

A & S 101-24	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Abercrombie and Asker.</p>
A & S 102-24	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllrs Ahmed and Freeman declared non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council</p>
A & S 103-24	<p>Minutes of the last meeting of the Assets & Services Committee 23.09.2024</p> <p>The minutes of the 23.09.2024 Assets & Services Committee meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p>
A & S 104-24	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>There were no questions or matters arising from the public</p>
A & S 105-24	<p>Land at Harris Yard</p> <p>The Clerk advised a response was awaited from the owner of the land, Vistry Group regarding queries on the potential land transfer to the Town Council. Once this information is received, an informed report will be presented to the Committee advising of all options and opportunities regarding the potential land transfer; no decision could be reached until this information is received.</p> <p>Officers reported on correspondence with local residents and UDC Cllrs, with some favouring installation of a small play area whilst others are firmly against any such proposals.</p> <p>It was Resolved:</p> <p>To note the verbal update and that a full report will come forward to a future A & S Committee meeting once Vistry responds to outstanding queries.</p>

A & S 106-24	<p>Salt Bins</p> <p>Committee noted the written report detailing options for the salt bin provision for 2025/26, as requested by the budget working group. It was noted the salt and bins have ordinarily been funded through UDC Ward Members monies (as opposed to SWTC). It was further noted the UDC Ward Members allowance is being reduced (or ceased?) for 2025/26. It was further noted that the provision of salt bins and clearance of public highways and footpaths is the responsibility of Essex County Council, not SWTC.</p> <p>It was unanimously resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To remove the salt bins once they are empty and not to refill the bins; b) To remove the £10,000 set aside in the draft 2025/26 budget for salt; c) To publish a press release in the summer regarding this decision; d) To reuse / recycle the bins where possible, perhaps by donating or selling to other parish councils if possible.
A & S 107-24	<p>Splash Park Working Group Update</p> <p>Committee noted the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Officers have sought advice from Uttlesford District Council's planning department regarding installation of a splash park at Thaxted Road Saffron Walden, as agreed by Full Council in July. The advice received was presented and noted by the working group at its October meeting. b) At the October WG meeting, it was agreed the next step is to seek confirmation from the developer to use the S106 funds, this will be progressed by officers, updates will be provided when available. c) Resourcing costs (water, electricity, staffing, operating costs) for the splash park had been removed from the 1st draft 2025/26 budget given that any installation may take place towards the end of the 2025/26 financial year therefore operating costs would not be incurred in that budget year. <p>Committee also discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Concerns were raised regarding the increasing water costs and whether the water pressure is sufficient. e) The S106 monies are currently held by UDC. f) The S106 monies could be used for skate park works and installation of toilets /concessions. <p>It was resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) To note the update (a-b) as detailed on the agenda. h) To strongly recommend to November Full Council to purposefully review the remit and terms of reference of the working group to include works on the skate park.
A & S 108-24	<p>Urgent Information Items</p> <p>Officers noted the depot build is almost complete and the repairs to the Town Hall are ongoing.</p>
A & S 109-24	<p>Date and time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Noted and agreed as being 25th November 2024 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm