

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 2 December 2024 at 7.30pm

Present Councillors: Cllrs Ahmed, Asker, Coote, Eke, Freeman, Hawke-Smith, McLellan, Meloy and Shotropa.

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: None present

FC 201-24	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Abercrombie, Curtis, de Vries, Gadd, Jones, McBirnie, Parker, Porch and Reeve.
FC 202-24	Declarations of Interest Cllrs Ahmed, Asker, Coote and Freeman declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC).
FC 203-24	Public Speaking Time - There were no questions arising.
FC 204-24	Updates from 3rd parties – for information only (a) It was noted a written update from the from Cllr P Gadd as the Essex County Council- lor will be presented to the planning and transport committee. (b) An update was not received from UDC Councillors on any matters which may be par- ticularly pertinent to Saffron Walden.
FC 205-24	Mayor’s Communications The Mayor noted he had attended: a. The Christmas Light Switch on and lantern parade, which was a huge success. b. The recent Beavers meeting. c. The Mayor also noted, he has received thanks from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Mr Scruby, thanking SWTC for the Remembrance Sunday Parade arrangements.
FC 206-24	To verify the Minutes of the Town Council meetings The 11.11.2024 Full Council minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings, it was agreed to delete the following sentence, and the mayor would sign the minutes outside this meeting: <i>FC 188-24 “it was explained Council can mandate a Working Group via Terms of Reference (as per historic practice) and...”</i>
FC 207-24	To receive the Minutes of the Previous Meetings It was noted Council would receive the minutes from the following Committee meetings at the January Full Council meeting, as they were unavailable for this meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and Transport 14.11.2024 (Approved minutes)• Planning and Transport 28.11.2024 (draft minutes)• Finance and Establishment 18.11.2024 (draft minutes)• Assets and Services 25.11.2024 (draft minutes)

Signed as a true and accurate record
Minutes of Full Council Meeting December 2024

FC 208-24	<p>Draft Budget 2025/26 Council noted the budget working group is continuing its work on preparing the 2025/26 budget, Council noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The first draft budget will be presented to an extraordinary Finance and Establishment Committee meeting on Friday 20th December at 12.30pm in the Town Hall. At this additional meeting, the F & E Committee will review and make a budget recommendation to the January Full Council meeting to set the precept. b. The deadline to submit formal precept notification to the District Council is anticipated to be on or around the 22nd January 2025 (date TBC).
FC 209-24	<p>Climate Change and Environment Working Group - Quarterly update Council received and noted the quarterly officer written update, presented by the CC&E WG Chair Cllr Hawke-Smith.</p>
FC 210-24	<p>Consultation on Remote/Hybrid Attendance and Proxy Voting It was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Government consultation on the detail and practical implications of allowing remote and hybrid attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings in England has opened. b. At the November FC meeting, Council agreed to delegate the responsibility to draft a response to the Town Mayor and Town Clerk for presentation at this meeting. c. Council noted and received the proposed response to the consultation, noting the benefits and changes to hybrid meetings. It was further noted, any legislative changes would require a model practice for SWTC to be adopted. <p>It was agreed: To support the proposed response, as prepared by the Mayor and Town Clerk and to submit this in response to the consultation. Should remote/hybrid attendance and/or proxy voting be enacted through legislation, SWTC would then consider any local policies or practices for implementing any new legislation.</p>
FC 211-24	<p>Reports from other Meetings No meetings reported.</p>
FC 212-24	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings No meetings reported.</p>
FC 213-24	<p>Urgent Items No matters raised.</p>
FC 214-24	<p>Date and time of Next meeting(s) The Mayor reminded all that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 13 January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Saffron Walden.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.55pm