

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Full Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 1st December 2025 at 7.30pm

Present Councillors: Cllrs Ahmed (Mayor), Asker, Curtis, Eke, Fiddy, Freeman, Hawke-Smith, McLellan, Porch and Reeve.

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: None present

FC 182-25	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Abercrombie, de Vries, Jones and McBirnie. Absent Cllrs Coote, Gadd, Parker and Shotropa.</p>
FC 183-25	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllrs Ahmed, Asker, Fiddy, Freeman and Reeve declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC).</p>
FC 184-25	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>There were no questions arising.</p>
FC 185-25	<p>Updates from 3rd parties – for information only</p> <p>(a) An update was not received by the Essex County Councillor. (b) Cllr Fiddy noted she will be meeting Essex County Council regarding the Linden Homes S106 Highways contribution. (c) No specific updates were provided by the UDC Councillors.</p>
FC 186-25	<p>Mayor's Communications</p> <p>Council received the Mayor's update report.</p>
FC 187-25	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Town Council meetings</p> <p>The 11.11.2025 Full Council minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Mayor.</p>
FC 188-25	<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 13.11.2025 (draft minutes) • Finance and Establishment 17.11.2025 (draft minutes) • Assets and Services 24.11.2025 (draft minutes) • Assets and Services 03.11.2025 (draft minutes) (extraordinary meeting)

FC 189-25	<p>Chase New Homes – Former Friends School Playing Fields - Sports Provision</p> <p>Council considered the written report and recommendations from the Assets and Services Committee regarding the potential adoption of the sports provision at the Former Friends School Playing Field site.</p> <p>Unanimously Resolved: To defer determination. SWTC to contact third party sporting groups to gauge interest in leasing the facilities from SWTC, with clubs being responsible for the maintenance of the provision, aligning with existing leases with local sporting organisations. Item to be carried forward to a future Full Council meeting, pending replies from any interested parties.</p>
FC 190-25	<p>Local Government Reorganisation</p> <p>Council received details of the Government Reorganisation consultation, closing on 11 January 2026, favouring the five unitary proposal.</p> <p>Unanimously Resolved: The Town Clerk would draft a response favouring the five unitary proposals, for further consideration at an extraordinary Full Council meeting, to be held before the consultation closing date of 11.01.26</p>
FC 191-25	<p>Code of Conduct Consultation – Government Response</p> <p>Council noted the results of the above consultation.</p>
FC 192-25	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 193-25	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 194-25	<p>Urgent Items</p> <p>SWTC has been short-listed by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) for the Council of the Year Award, noting there are over 10,000 Town/Parish Councils in UK. Council congratulated members and staff for the achievement.</p>
FC 195-25	<p>Date and time of Next meeting(s)</p> <p>The Mayor reminded all that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 12 January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Saffron Walden. Cllr Fiddy gave her apologies.</p>
FC 196-25	<p>Confidential Item – Exclusion of Press and Public (Part II meeting)</p> <p>Resolved 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</p>

	<p>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> <p>This is confidential because it is commercially sensitive.</p>
FC 197-25	<p>Community Land at Chase New Homes site (former Friends School)</p> <p>Council received and noted the update report.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.40pm

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