

## SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL MEETING held remotely via the online platform “Zoom” and in accordance with the Coronavirus Act, C 7, Part 1 Local Authority Meetings, Section 78. This Act allows members to be present and attend a meeting without being present in the Council Chamber or together in the same place.

Date of meeting: **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020** at 7.30pm

### **Present (remotely via Zoom)**

**Councillors:** Coote, De Vries, Eke, Fairhurst, Freeman, Gadd, Hawke-Smith, Light, McLellan, Millward, Porch, Roberts, Toy

**Officers:** Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk) | David Broomfield (RFO) | Chloe Fiddy (Planning & Projects Officer)

**Public:** Cllr John Moran (ECC Cllr), Mrs Judith Rodden (SW Local Newspaper and Chair of SW Heritage Development Group), Mr Douglas Kent (Member of SW Heritage Development Group and local resident)

	In the absence of the Mayor, Cllr Asker, the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Porch
FC 144-20	<b>Apologies for absence</b>  Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Asker and Frost
FC 145-20	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Cllrs Coote, De Vries, Eke, Fairhurst, Freeman and Light declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC)
FC 146-20	<b>Public Speaking Time</b>  Mrs Rodden and Mr Kent indicated a desire to speak and agreed this would be taken during the update from the County Councillor
FC 147-20	<b>County Councillor Update</b>  Cllr Moran was present and provided the following updates: <b>(a) Bollards at The Old Sun Inn</b> Cllr Moran advised the application has been submitted to the Local Highways Panel (LHP) and should be considered at the February 2021 meeting. Cllr Porch further progressed access to the Officers’ report; Cllr Moran noted he had previously advised the reports are not available but agreed to continue pursuance of same. In response to a question from a member of the public, Cllr Moran confirmed that 3 bollards have been requested in the LHP application.

Signed as a true and accurate record .....

Minutes of Full Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**(b) Winstanley Road**

Cllr Moran advised the road is to be resurfaced April 2021.

**(c) Museum Street Crossing**

Cllr Moran advised that he did not believe it possible to implement the scheme proposed by the Town Council given it was cost prohibitive as utilities needed to be moved. Cllr Eke reminded all of the November meeting at which he advised it was not necessary to move utilities and therefore the cost was not as anticipated from the desktop review. In a repeat of that from November, Cllr Moran undertook to speak further with ECC Officers and to arrange a meeting (either on site or via video link).

**(d) 20mph Limits**

Cllr Moran advised that ECC's position on the implementation of 20mph speed limits had changed and encouraged SWTC to resubmit its requests for 20mph limits in town. Cllr Gadd advised that SWTC would look for 20mph speed limits in all of Saffron Walden, creating a safer and more conducive environment for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. Cllr Moran advised that he, along with an ECC Officer, would draft a list of proposed 20mph zones for Saffron Walden and would welcome the Town Council's response to these proposals. Cllr Gadd reiterated the requirement for all of the town to be 20mph, this in line with many other counties and communities across the UK including London, this supported by Cllr Freeman. Cllr Moran advised he would not support a blanket 20mph request across Saffron Walden and that it would likely fail ECC's 20mph criteria and that the cost of signage would be cost prohibitive. It was noted that only 1 set of signs would need to be installed at each entrance into town if there was a blanket 20mph speed limit. It was agreed SWTC would formally submit a 20mph request to ECC for consideration and would welcome details of ECC's parameters for any scheme validation.

**(e) Cycling**

Cllr Moran advised those cycling schemes as previously submitted by the Town Council would be further reviewed and considered by ECC, given the change in policy at ECC. He noted his support of the Great Chesterford cycling scheme; Town Councillors were disappointed that Cllr Moran had not supported (to date) the Town Council's schemes. Town Councillors noted the continued need and desire to meet with the ECC Cycling Officer; Cllr Moran further undertook to progress this request. Cllr Moran noted that no schemes had been submitted by Uttlesford under the Active Travel Scheme, administered by ECC and he undertook to provide Cllr Eke with further details of this.

Town Councillors queried the lack of funding allocated to towns such as Saffron Walden from ECC, specifically referencing the recent £7m awarded to ECC for greener transport initiatives, all of which appeared to be spent in major conurbations.

**(f) ECC County Councillor Funding**

Cllr Moran advised that each County Councillor has a total of £10,000 to be spent in their locality and he had recently awarded the following monies to local organisations/charities:

- St Marks College for their proposed retreat. Cllr Moran undertook to provide Cllr Light with further information on this project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Chesterford</li> <li>• Gibson Library</li> <li>• SW Business Improvement District (x 2 grants)</li> </ul> <p>He noted there was a further £2,000 available to him to address food, fuel or water shortages and that he would likely support the Foodbank but welcomed further nominations.</p> <p><b>(g) Covid Tiers</b></p> <p>Cllr Moran noted the recent change in tiering for other parts of Essex, who were moving to Tier 3 restrictions. Uttlesford remains in Tier 2 restrictions at the current time. He noted that the numbers in Uttlesford remained relatively low and manageable and this could be attributable to good town management (thanking the Town Council Officers and the BID), the work of local schools, good communication to residents and businesses along with a supportive response and attitude from local residents. Cllr Toy noted the need for Uttlesford businesses to be especially aware and mindful of people travelling from Tier 3 to Tier 2 areas; this had been witnessed in other parts of the country and is inherently risky and likely to happen in areas with a combination of tiers.</p> <p>Cllr Moran was thanked by the Chair and left the meeting.</p>
FC 148-20	<p><b>Mayor's Communications</b></p> <p>The Town Mayor, Cllr Heather Asker, was not present thus no communications to report</p>
FC 149-20	<p><b>To verify the Minutes of the Previous Meetings</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Deputy Mayor.</p>
FC 150-20	<p><b>Committee Minutes</b></p> <p>Council received and noted the minutes from the following Committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Road Traffic 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (approved minutes)</li> <li>• Planning and Road Traffic 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (draft minutes)</li> <li>• Finance and Establishment 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (draft minutes)</li> <li>• Assets and Services 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 (draft minutes)</li> </ul>
FC 151-20	<p><b>Update on Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan (NP)</b></p> <p>It was <b>Resolved:</b></p> <p>To note that the NP had been subject to an independent health check and recommended changes made. The NP as presented was approved by Council for submission to UDC under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General)</p>

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Minutes of Full Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

	<p>Regulations 2012.</p> <p>Council thanked Mrs Chloe Fiddy and members of the NP Steering Group for their hard work and dedication in completion of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
FC 152-20	<p><b>Proposed Budget for 2021/22</b></p> <p>Cllr Toy provided a comprehensive summary of the proposed budget, providing details of the Working Group meetings and the rationale of the proposed recommendations presented. He thanked the budget Working Group for their diligence and hard work in the production of the draft budget and commended the draft budget to Council for adoption. He noted it was a prudent, efficient and resourceful budget which recommended a minimal increase, this in recognition of the challenging financial times ahead.</p> <p>It was noted that the proposed budget did not contain specific monies for a crisis fund in 2021/22 but funds for this could be further considered during the course of the year and as necessary.</p> <p>Cllr Toy proposed adoption of the budget as presented, seconded by Cllr Eke. The budget was approved as follows:</p> <p>The setting of Band D equivalent figure of £176.17pa (£173.56 pa in 2020/21) representing a 1.5% increase in the Band D figure. This would recognise a precept budget of £1,184,935 with a total budget of £1,893,338.27 (includes EMR brought forward).</p>
FC 153-20	<p><b>Wedding Venues</b></p> <p>Council considered the report as presented; it was <b>Resolved:</b></p> <p>To request UDC to abdicate their “Community Venue” status for weddings in Saffron Walden/Uttlesford given their offices are currently closed to the public. This would allow the Town Council to adopt the “Community Venue” status; the benefits of this being a reduced charge from the Registrar for wedding couples.</p>
FC 154-20	<b>Reports from other Meetings</b> - There were no reports
FC 155-20	<b>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</b> - No meetings were advised or noted
FC 156-20	<b>Urgent Information Items</b> - There were no matters arising
FC 157-20	<p><b>Date and time of Next Meeting(s)</b></p> <p>Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom. Cllr Porch thanked all Councillors and staff for their dedication and commitment in 2020 and wished all a Merry Christmas.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.40pm

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Minutes of Full Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020