

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 11th May 2020** at 8.08pm

Present (remotely via Zoom)

Councillors: Asker (Town Mayor), A Coote, De Vries, Eke, Fairhurst, Freeman, Frost, Gadd, Hawke-Smith, Light, McLellan, Millward, Porch, Roberts, Toy

Officers: Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk) **Public:** 2 x Members of the Public

FC 048-20	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Coote</p> <p>Essex County Councillor Cllr John Moran also forwarded his apologies and had sent the Town Clerk a brief written resume of activities</p>
FC 049-20	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllrs Asker, A Coote, Eke, De Vries, Fairhurst, Freeman and Light declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC).</p>
FC 050-20	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>There were no questions arising</p>
FC 051-20	<p>County Councillor Update</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Cllr Moran and the written update as received via email earlier that evening was circulated and received by Members. The followings items were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Update on works to the Slade No specific update available at the present time from the Environment Agency or ECC(b) Highways Meeting held on 09.03.20 No specific update with other matters taking priority at the present time under the circumstances.(c) George Street Paving Repairs Cllr Moran advised that some minor works were carried out but not all that had been requested had been completed.

Signed as a true and accurate record

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(d) Paving / surface by St Clare's Hospice shop
Cllr Moran advised of findings from ECC Highways Officers who advise surface changes would not address the problem. Cllr Moran has therefore formally submitted a request for a feasibility study of the site.

(e) Pavement Parking
Cllr Moran noted this was a matter for NEPP and/or requires a change in legislation to allow greater enforcement against those who park on the pavement

(f) ECC Cycling Officer
Cllr Moran agreed to follow up a meeting with the Cycling Officer and SWTC Members to progress cycling opportunities in and around Saffron Walden.

(g) Parking by the Roundabout at Hop Fields / Peasland Road
Cllr Moran suggested this matter be referred to NEPP

(h) High Street Paving
Cllr Moran advised that some minor works have been completed but major works will not be carried out as the primary cause of the problem are the tree roots. Noted that queries remain on how best to resolve this issue.

(i) Audley End Road
Cllr Moran advised that the ECC Highways Cabinet Member has agreed to the current 40mph area being reduced to 30mph and the current 60mph being reduced to 40mph. Cllr Moran noted this request has been submitted to LHP for funding (application submitted by SWTC).

It was noted that SWTC had originally requested the entire stretch of road to be reduced to 20mph

Members expressed grave concerns regarding the apparent lack of funding and investment in highways project in and around Saffron Walden. It was

Resolved:

That SWTC submits a Freedom of Information request to ECC asking for specific details of ECC expenditure on highways improvement projects and specifically to request:

1) How much has been spent per district in Essex on:

(a) highways repairs; and

(b) pavement repairs

Breaking these down into Capital Works, Revenue works and LHP.

2) How much has been spent per district in Essex on cycling projects, not including money spent on producing cycling strategy documents.

To state where these were funded by S106

	3) How much money has been spent producing cycling strategy documents, per district.
FC 052-20	<p>Mayor's Communications</p> <p>Cllr A Coote, the retired Mayor, provided a brief resume of his activities during the past year as Mayor and was thanked by Council for his tireless work during his Mayor ship. Cllr Coote noted it had been an honour and privilege to have served as Mayor of Saffron Walden and he wished Cllr Asker (the newly elected Mayor) very best wishes for her Mayor ship.</p>
FC 053-20	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th March 2020</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.</p>
FC 054-20	<p>Committee Minutes</p> <p>Council received and noted the minutes from the following Committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Road Traffic 12th March 2020 (approved minutes) • Planning and Road Traffic 23rd April 2020 (draft minutes) • Finance and Establishment 16th March 2020 (approved minutes) • Finance and Establishment 20th April 2020 (draft minutes) • Assets and Services 27th March 2020 (draft minutes)
FC 055-20	<p>The Gate Inn</p> <p>It was Resolved:</p> <p>(a) To note the listing of The Gate as an Asset of Community Value by UDC</p> <p>(b) To register the Town Council's interest in as a potential bidder for the asset which the owners have now given notice of sale to UDC (closing date for notification being 27th May 2020)</p>
FC 056-20	<p>VE Day Celebrations</p> <p>Council noted the postponement of Town Council plans for a community VE Day due to the restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19.</p> <p>Cllr A Coote noted the number of people hosting socially-distanced parties and celebrations from their gardens and this was demonstrative of the great Saffron Walden community spirit.</p>
FC 057-20	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>Council received a verbal update from the following meetings:</p>

	<p>(a) Cllr Toy advised on a recent Crabtrees and Hopfields Residents' Association AGM at which they had discussed parking issues in the area and would be carrying out a local consultation to gauge residents' views on the problems and potential remedies. He expressed thanks on behalf of all residents for the public access to the Crabtrees football pitch which had proven invaluable during this current Covid-19 crisis; especially for those living in flats where this was one of the only accessible outdoor spaces. He further noted the need for the grass to be cut at the football pitch; noted this was the responsibility of the Football Club.</p>
FC 058-20	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p> <p>None advised</p>
FC 059-20	<p>Urgent Information Items</p> <p>There were no matters for discussion or information</p>
FC 060-20	<p>Date and time of Next Meeting(s)</p> <p>Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 8th June at 7.30pm by Zoom</p>
FC 061-20	<p>Confidential Item</p> <p>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.</p>
FC 062-20	<p>Registry of Land at Landscape View</p> <p>Council received and noted the report along with the recommendations from the Assets & Services Committee (Min Ref A & S 045-20). It was</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To proceed with the recommendations within the report and as proposed by the A & S Committee.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 9.10pm