

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER of the TOWN HALL on **Monday 13th January 2020 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Councillors A Coote (Chair), S Coote (from Min Ref FC004-20), Eke (from Min Ref FC011-20), Fairhurst, Freeman, Frost, Gadd, Hawke-Smith, Light, McLellan, Millward, Porch and Roberts.

Visitors / Speakers: Mr Dave Kenny and Mr Tim Walker – representatives of Save the Railway Arms (STRAP)

Officers: Lisa Courtney, Town Clerk
Chloe Fiddy, Planning and Projects Officer

FC 001-20	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Asker, De Vries, Eke (for late arrival due to attendance at a meeting at UDC), Toy
FC 002-20	Declarations of Interest Cllrs Asker, A Coote, Eke, Fairhurst, Freeman and Light declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC). Cllrs Gadd and Hawke-Smith declared non-pecuniary interests in Minute Reference FC004-20 as members of Save the Railway Arms Pub (STRAP)
FC 003-20	Public Speaking Time None arising
	With the permission of the Council, the Mayor brought forward agenda item 8 Cllr S Coote arrived at the meeting
FC 004-20	Railway Arms Mr Kenny addressed Council, noting that STRAP had submitted an expression of interest in the purchase of the Railway Arms, triggering the full moratorium period (under the Localism Act 2011), for the disposal of this property. Mr Kenny noted that The Gate public house was currently vacant and sought Council's support in the registration of that property as an Asset of Community Value; this matter will be carried forward to a future Town Council Assets & Services Committee meeting. Messrs Kenny and Walker were thanked for their update and Council offered its continued support in the community/STRAP purchase of The Railway Arms.

Signed as a true and accurate record

Minutes of Full Council Meeting 13th January 2020

FC 005-20	<p>Mayor's Communications</p> <p>The Mayor's communications were noted.</p>
FC 006-20	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th December 2019</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.</p>
FC 007-20	<p>Committee Minutes</p> <p>Council received and noted the minutes from the following Committee meetings:</p> <p>Planning and Road Traffic 12th December 2019 (draft minutes) Finance and Establishment 16th December 2019 (draft minutes) Assets and Services 19th December 2019 (draft minutes)</p>
FC 008-20	<p>Mayoral Selection from May 2020</p> <p>Cllr Gadd proposed that the amended policy as presented and as attached to the agenda be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Porch. It was</p> <p>Resolved: To adopt the revised Mayor Making Policy as presented.</p>
FC 009-20	<p>GDPR Training</p> <p>Members noted details of the training to be held on Wednesday 22nd January from 09:00 to 13:00 hours. It was agreed that notes from the training session would be circulated to all Members and a second session would be arranged where possible (perhaps in the evening) for those unable to attend on the 22nd.</p>
FC 010-20	<p>UDC Consultation – Community Infrastructure Levy Viability Assessment – Stakeholder Consultation</p> <p>Chloe Fiddy spoke further to the report as tabled. It was noted that the consultation closed 31.01.20. Members wished to express further views on the proposed response and requested further opportunity to do so. It was</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the paper as presented be considered the draft response from SWTC and that any Councillor wishing to add, amend or make further comment to the consultation contacts Mrs Fiddy directly and no later than 23.01.20. These comments will be collated and sent to all Councillors for verification of a final Town Council response on or about 28.01.20 and in good time to meet the deadline of 31.01.20.</p>

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Minutes of Full Council Meeting 13th January 2020

	<p>Cllrs Eke and Moran (Essex County Council) arrived at the meeting, providing apologies for late arrival as they had attended the Local Highways Panel (LHP) meeting held earlier that evening at UDC</p>
<p>FC 011-20</p>	<p>County Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr Moran updated Council on the LHP meeting held at UDC at which the Committee had approved funding for work to amend/consider the Traffic Regulation Orders for the Market Square / King Street and surrounding roads.</p> <p>Council received and noted the written report as provided. The following matters were further discussed / debated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Audley End Road – proposed speed reduction to 40mph SWTC supports the speed reduction, further querying why this could not be reduced to 20 or 30mph, whatever may be a more appropriate speed. Cllr Moran advised that the minimum speed limit for Audley Road could be 40mph according to national legislation and further governed by the width of the road and neighbouring properties. <p>Post meeting note: Subsequent to the meeting, Council is advised that DfT guidelines “Setting Local Speed Limit” (2013), paragraph 4 notes <i>“These national limits are not, however, appropriate for all roads. The speed limit regime enables traffic authorities to set local speed limits in situations where local needs and conditions suggest a speed limit which is different from the respective national speed limit.”</i></p> <p>It is therefore noted that Essex County Council may itself determine the most appropriate speed limit for Audley Road which is not required to be 60mph (currently) or 40mph (as proposed by ECC). This matter to be progressed further with Cllr Moran.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Audley End Road – rut/ridge by Audley End House/Miniature Railway Cllr Moran advised that remedial works are due to take place last week of February with operating hours from 09:00 to 14:30 hours, avoiding peak travel hours. (c) Little Walden Road – bridge and speed reduction These works have been approved by the LHP and are on track for delivery. (d) Debden Road – pedestrian crossing Cllr Moran noted that further investigative works were required to ascertain the best solution for pedestrian access/crossing, noting that a site visit would be appropriate. Cllr Moran advised he would set up a site meeting and advise Councillors of same. (e) High Street Paving Cllr Moran noted that the project has been submitted to ECC Cabinet for progression; he will progress and advise SWTC of proposed work dates

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Minutes of Full Council Meeting 13th January 2020

	<p>(f) Debden Road – Flooding Parts of Debden Road have historically been prone to flooding. Cllr Freeman requested an on-site meeting to further discuss and agree remedial action. Cllr Moran agreed to arrange this and will advise Council further.</p> <p>(g) Ashdon Road – Zebra Crossing Cllr Moran advised that the scheme is at the design stage and undertook to keep the Town Council informed of progress.</p> <p>(h) SWTC proposals for Church Street / Museum Street Noted that Cllrs Moran, Eke and Gadd are to meet on site to progress any proposals or schemes to improve pedestrian access/crossing and improve traffic flow</p> <p>(i) SWTC proposals for cycling initiatives and schemes in SW Cllr Moran further noted the ECC policy that cycling lanes must be 3m wide. This policy was challenged by Council, noting that there was no apparent written policy or statement from ECC to that effect. Councillors further noted that other authorities / areas had narrower cycle lanes (Cambridge was specifically cited), which worked effectively. Agreed that Cllrs Moran, Eke and Gadd are to meet on site to discuss further</p> <p>(j) Highway Meetings It was noted that the next highway meeting between ECC, UDC and SWTC would take place in February 2020, date tbc.</p>
FC 012-20	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>Cllr Light provided an update on conversations with consultants acting on behalf of English Heritage/Audley End; she had provided them with a range of additional bodies and individuals to contact regarding tourism at Audley End House and to the Saffron Walden area.</p>
FC 013-20	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p> <p>There were no meetings to report</p>
FC 014-20	<p>Urgent Information Items</p> <p>Councillors were advised of the extraordinary UDC Planning Committee meeting to discuss the Stansted Airport planning permission and proposed S106 agreement. Councillors agreed not to send representation to the meeting.</p>
FC 015-20	<p>Date and time of Next Meeting(s)</p> <p>Full Council Monday 10th February 2020, 7.30pm Council Chamber, Town Hall</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.30pm

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