

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 8th June 2020** at 7.30pm

Present (remotely via Zoom)

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

Officers: Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk)

Public: Cllr John Moran, Essex County Council
3 x Members of the Public

FC 063-20	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs S Coote, Frost, McLellan
FC 064-20	Declarations of Interest Cllrs Asker, A Coote, Eke, De Vries, Fairhurst, Freeman and Light declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC).
FC 065-20	Public Speaking Time A member of the public noted the difficulties with parking on George Street, by the junction with Cates Corner. Cars and delivery vehicles parked close to the junction create access and egress concerns for residents of Saffron Barns. The member of the public present undertook to provide Councillors with further details of the issues. It was Resolved: To note the queries and concerns raised by the member of the public and further that this matter would come forward as a formal agenda item to the Town Council’s Planning & Road Traffic Committee.
FC 066-20	County Councillor Update Members received and noted the written report received from Cllr Moran, with a specific update on the following: (a) Peasland Road & Ashdon Road Zebra Crossings Cllr Moran advised that work on the zebra crossings planned for both locations would be implemented imminently.

Signed as a true and accurate record

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- (b) George Street Paving Repairs
Cllr Moran advised that some minor works were carried out but not all that had been requested had been completed; he noted disappointment at the works carried out (in terms of the scope of works) and undertook to review further with ECC Highways
- (c) Paving / surface by St Clare's Hospice shop
Cllr Moran has formally submitted a request for a feasibility study of the site and this is awaited.
- (d) 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 – it was noted that this matter is long overdue and has been progressed numerous times with no response from ECC to date. Cllr Gadd expressed intense frustration, noting a request for a meeting was first made over 8 months ago and is still awaited.
- (e) High Street Paving
Cllr Moran noted that queries remain on how best to resolve the issue of uneven paving. This matter was not resolved. SWTC Officers noted that this had been discussed previously (2018-2019) and ECC Officers had undertaken to consider the use of resin-based gravel; no response had been received from these requests. Cllr Moran undertook to pursue this further with ECC Highways Officers.
- (f) Audley End Road
Cllr Moran noted the Town Council's request for 30mph was being progressed in accordance with requirements (albeit the Town Council had requested 20mph in some stretches but this not agreed by ECC).
- (g) SW Cycling Schemes
Councillors noted the inordinate amount of time taken in delivering any cycling schemes or initiatives in SW, this despite SWTC submitting numerous requests over numerous years. Cllr Moran had noted that a scheme for Great Chesterford was progressing but Cllr Gadd noted this is not a SWTC priority scheme and that SWTC schemes are not being actively progressed by ECC. Cllr Moran noted the ever-pressing need to progress further with this and endeavoured to follow this matter up and to keep SWTC informed. Cllr Moran agreed he would present his findings and any further information in a written format.
- (h) East Street Build Out (by old Police Station)
SWTC noted that the developer is in a position to install this build out (a requirement from the S106 agreement) but we are advised anecdotally that the scheme is held in abeyance, awaiting further details and response from ECC Highways. Cllr Gadd noted that the build out was subject to the S106 agreement which specifically noted no houses should be sold until the build out scheme is designed and approved and yet, ECC

	<p>Highways are failing to progress the design. SWTC Councillors expressed grave concerns at this lack of progress.</p> <p>Cllr Moran undertook to progress this matter.</p> <p>(i) Museum Street Crossing SWTC noted the unsatisfactory responses received from ECC to date regarding the Town Council’s requirements; the responses perhaps evidencing a lack of understanding of the requirements. Cllr Moran undertook to progress this matter, noting that utility companies had recently been on site, taking measurements. Cllr Eke pressed for a meeting with ECC Highways Officers so that this scheme could be fully and evidentially considered further.</p> <p>(j) Cllr Moran noted the joint working between ECC, UDC, SWTC and The BID in the introduction of the pedestrian friendly schemes as part of the Covid-19 Safer Streets Funding.</p> <p>(k) Bollard at The Old Sun Inn Cllr Porch noted the Town Council’s further submission and request for bollards at the Old Sun Inn, noting an application had been made under the Local Highways Panel process. Cllr Moran agreed to follow up this request and to keep SWTC informed.</p>
FC 067-20	<p>Mayor’s Communications</p> <p>The Town Mayor, Cllr Heather Asker, provided a resume of her activities over the past month. She noted she and Cllr De Vries had recently supported the BID with the town tidying, in readiness for the re-opening of the retail on 15th June and urged other Councillors to join in with future events – the next one scheduled for Wednesday 10th June at 10am.</p>
FC 068-20	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Previous Meetings</p> <p>The minutes of the following meetings were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman:</p> <p>(a) Annual Meeting held on 11th May 2020 (b) Full Council Meeting held on 11th May 2020</p>
FC 069-20	<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 14th May 2020 (approved minutes) • Planning and Road Traffic 28th May 2020 (draft minutes) • Finance and Establishment 18th May 2020 (draft minutes) • Assets and Services 26th May 2020 (draft minutes)

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FC 070-20	<p>The Gate Inn</p> <p>It was Resolved:</p> <p>(a) To note details as presented on the agenda (b) To support the submission as made in support of the Town Council's application for listing of this asset.</p>
FC 071-20	<p>Resume of SWTC Activities during Covid-19</p> <p>Council received and noted the Town Clerk's report as presented.</p> <p>Members commended all Town Council staff and officers for their hard work, diligence and commitment during these difficult times.</p>
FC 072-20	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>(a) Cllr Eke reported on the LHP Meeting held on 08.06.20 and the discussions taken place there regarding the Covid-19 requests for safer streets during Covid-19. He noted that ECC had prioritised Colchester and Chelmsford in the plans and preparations for road closures and that plans for smaller towns (such as Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow), would be considered once plans for the larger towns/cities were concluded.</p> <p>(b) Uttlesford Community Transport – Members noted the written report as presented by Cllr McLellan (who had already tendered his apologies for absence). This was received with thanks.</p>
FC 073-20	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p> <p>None advised</p>
FC 074-20	<p>Urgent Information Items</p> <p>There were no matters for discussion or information</p>
FC 075-20	<p>Date and time of Next Meeting(s)</p> <p>Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 13th June at 7.30pm by Zoom</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.40pm