

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 January 2021** at 7.30pm

Present (remotely via Zoom)

Councillors: Asker, Coote, Eke, Fairhurst, Freeman, Frost, Gadd, Hawke-Smith, Light, McLellan, Millward, Porch, Roberts, Toy

Officers: Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk)

Public: 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)

FC 158-21	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr De Vries</p> <p>Cllr Moran (ECC) also sent his apologies and had provided Council with a written update in respect of Min Ref FC161-211</p>
FC 159-21	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllrs Asker, Coote, Eke, Fairhurst, Freeman and Light declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC)</p>
FC 160-21	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>Mrs Rodden and Mr Kent indicated a desire to speak and agreed this would be taken during the update from the County Councillor</p>
FC 161-21	<p>County Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr Moran had provided his apologies and Council received and considered his written report as provided:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Bollards at The Old Sun Inn</p> <p>Council noted the LHP meeting which had taken place earlier that day. Cllr Eke had attended and provided an update, advising the bollards were now included for LHP funding for 2021/22. Mr Kent undertook to formally further confirm the quantity of bollards required and to advise of further damage caused to the paving during the Christmas period; this acts as further evidence for the urgency of any works</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record

Minutes of Full Council Meeting 11th January 2021

(b) Museum Street Crossing

Cllr Eke confirmed a meeting had taken place on site on 31.12.20 with Cllr Moran who had undertook to further present the Town Council's requirements to ECC Highway Officers for their comments and consideration. Cllr Eke note that proposals for Museum Street were not included in the LHP funding for 2021/22, Council was disappointed given the length of time improved pedestrian access had been discussed for this site. It was

Resolved:

To formally repeat the Town Council's request for improvements to this area to ECC, to include all options and opportunities available to improve pedestrian access and crossing.

(c) 20mph Limits

Council expressed disappointment that Cllr Moran had already initiated informal consultation on any proposals for 20mph. Council believe that any consultation should be informative and provide pros and cons for the implementation of 20mph, and that any consultation should include the impact of the proposals within the wider context of vehicular movement in and around Saffron Walden. It was

Resolved:

- (i) To ask Cllr Moran for details of the responses he had received following his newspaper article in December 2020;
- (ii) To query the need for 20mph repeater signs every 150 metres, Council was not aware of this requirement

(d) Cycling

Cllr Eke advised that a meeting had been arranged for 19.01.21 to progress the Town Council's applications and suggestions to improve cycling opportunities in Saffron Walden

(e) Mortimer's Gate

Council noted the need for temporary signage to be installed and thanked ECC Officers for their responses in providing a temporary solution to the problem. It was noted the site currently remains with the developer who retains ownership and responsibility for the roads and pavement at the present time

(f) Covid Vaccinations & Care Homes

Council noted with thanks the update regarding the roll out of Covid vaccinations in Saffron Walden

(g) ECC Grants

Council noted grants awarded by Cllr Moran to various bodies in SW. Cllr Moran to be reminded of the need to provide Cllr Light with further details of the proposals for St Marks College.

(h) Covid Transmission

Cllr Toy noted that at the December meeting, he had advised (under Min Ref FC 147-

	<p>20(g)) that local tiers are an ineffective means of controlling the virus. Extract from December Full Council approved minutes reads:</p> <p><i>“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.”</i></p> <p>Cllr Toy had made the above statement with his professional knowledge and experience of working in and with local authorities in the management of Coronavirus. Cllr Toy requests that Cllr Moran confirms what action he took as a direct result of this information provided by Cllr Toy and in his capacity as Deputy Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care at Essex County Council</p> <p>In his absence, Cllr Moran was thanked for his written update to Council</p>
FC 162-21	<p>Mayor’s Communications</p> <p>The Town Mayor, Cllr Heather Asker, advised she had visited care homes in SW before Christmas and thanked Ms Jacqui Porway and Mrs Elaine Baynes (Mayor’s Secretary) for their help and support in the planning and preparation for these visits. The visits had been very successful and warmly received by the care homes.</p> <p>Cllr Asker also thanked all who supported the Mayor’s raffle/tombola in December 2020.</p> <p>The Mayor noted the difficulties of fund raising during Covid-19 and asked Members to think of ideas for fundraising which could be done safely during Covid.</p>
FC 163-21	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Previous Meetings</p> <p>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14th December 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Deputy Mayor.</p>
FC 164-21	<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 26th November 2020 (approved minutes) • Finance and Establishment 17th December 2020 (draft minutes) • Assets and Services – No December meeting

FC 165-21	<p>Town and Parish Council Community Forums</p> <p>Council noted that details of specific forums for Town and Parish Councils were awaited and that Town and Parish Councils had not therefore been fully involved or consulted in the local plan process. Cllr Eke undertook to progress this further with UDC Officers and advise further.</p>
FC 166-21	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>Cllr McLellan updated Council on the operation of Uttlesford Community Transport (UCT) service, He advised UCT have made significant changes to their service and vehicles to ensure Covid-19 compliance and that they were currently involved in taking people for vaccinations.</p>
FC 167-21	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p> <p>No meetings were advised or noted</p>
FC 168-21	<p>Urgent Information Items</p> <p>There were no matters arising</p>
FC 169-21	<p>Date and time of Next Meeting(s)</p> <p>Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.30pm