

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 February 2021** at 7.30pm

Present (remotely via Zoom)

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

Officers: Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk), David Broomfield (RFO)

Public: Cllr Moran, Essex County Council

FC 170-21	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Coote and Freeman
FC 171-21	Declarations of Interest Cllrs Asker, Eke, De Vries, Fairhurst and Light declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC)
FC 172-21	Public Speaking Time There were no questions arising
FC 173-21	County Councillor Update (a) Vaccinations at Lord Butler Centre Cllr Moran advised he had visited the vaccination centre and was pleased to report on an excellent service (b) Winter Gritting Cllr Moran advised the lorries had already been out several times this year in anticipation of the cold weather (c) Local Highway Panel Meeting 27.03.21 Cllr Moran advised of the future LHP meeting and that he anticipated a project to create a footpath from the skatepark to Thaxted Road, using the current desire line. Cllr Roberts reported the lack of dropped kerb on the cycle path, by Aldis – Cllr Moran advised he would speak further with ECC Highway Officers on this matter

Signed as a true and accurate record

Minutes of Full Council Meeting 8th February 2021

(d) Proposed development along Radwinter Road – Bidwell Homes

Cllr Moran advised of the intentions of the developer to build on the site, adjacent to the Linden Homes site in Radwinter Road. Cllr Porch advised SWTC was aware of this potential application and the developer had made contact with the Town Council. Indicative outline plans show significant public open space which Councillors agreed would make a positive difference to the current town's deficit and noted the proposed public open space should be protected (where possible) as part of the outline and reserved matters planning applications.

(e) Farmadine Grove

Cllr Eke raised the query and concerns regarding newly created parking spaces in Farmadine Grove; the creation of which did not appear to have followed statutory consultation, design or process. Cllr Eke advised the local residents were very upset and cross with the installation of the new parking space and despite best endeavours, it was proving difficult to ascertain who or how any permission was granted to the home owner to install this parking space.

Cllr Eke advised he had spoken with the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) who advise they did not carry out works. Cllr Moran advised ECC has no legal jurisdiction in this area (as it is a private road), and therefore unlikely that ECC will have granted any permissions. All present were concerned at the apparent lack of process, permission or authorities granted for the installation of this parking bay and Cllr Moran undertook to contact the company which had carried out the works (these details are known to him), and will advise.

(f) Audley End Speed Limit

Cllr Moran advised the legal process has been initiated and noted that residents had received details of the statutory notice to reduce the speed limit in this area; details as previously agreed with the Town Council.

(g) Museum street Crossing

Cllr Gadd raised the continued query of works at Museum Street and how the area could be made safer for pedestrians. Cllr Gadd cited the long outstanding request from the Town Council for engineering works to this area to support pedestrian access in/out of town. Cllr Moran advised an option was to close off part of the path to cease its use if it presented a health and safety issued for pedestrians. This matter was not reconciled and noted that it would be further pursued outside of this meeting.

(h) 20mph Speed Limits

Cllr Moran advised that in response to his newspaper article (late 2020), he had received 8 comments from the public regarding proposed implementation of 20mph speed limits in town. 4 had been in support and 4 against any reduction. It was noted that a separate meeting was to be held with ECC and SWTC on Wednesday 10th February to further discuss and progress. Cllr Moran advised that should SWTC submit a request for all of the town to be 20mph, this would require a full consultation of all residents; this was noted.

(i) Bollards at Church Street

Cllr Moran confirmed that 3-4 bollards would be installed and these would be sympathetic to the conservation area

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Minutes of Full Council Meeting 8th February 2021

	<p>(j) Church Street Resurfacing Cllr Moran advised resurfacing was scheduled within the next 6 months, latest summer 2021.</p> <p>Cllr Moran was thanked for his update to Council and left the meeting</p>
FC 174-21	<p>Mayor's Communications</p> <p>The Town Mayor, Cllr Heather Asker, advised that due to Covid-19 her fundraising activities and civic events had been largely curtailed although opportunities were continuously being sought to raise funds for Fairycroft, the Mayor's charity. The Mayor advised on the closure of the East Street store and that she would visit the premises to formally thank the family for their long service to the town.</p>
FC 175-21	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Previous Meetings</p> <p>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 11th January 2021 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Mayor, subject to the following amendment:</p> <p>Min Ref FC 161-21 (g) to be rewritten as follows: Council noted grants awarded by Cllr Moran to various bodies in SW, [new text as follows] <i>noting that the funding for Uttlesford Community Transport was an integral part of ECC's funding (ie, not specifically funded via any allowance from Cllr Moran)</i>. [end of insertion]. Cllr Moran to be reminded of the need to provide Cllr Light with further details of the proposals for St Marks College.</p>
FC 176-21	<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 Transport 17th December 2020 (approved minutes) • Planning and Transport 11th January 2021 (approved minutes) • Planning and Transport 25th January 2021 (draft minutes) • Finance and Establishment 18th January 2021 (draft minutes) • Assets and Services 25th January 2021 (draft minutes)
FC 177-21	<p>Year End Return (AGAR) for year ended 2019/20</p> <p>Mr Broomfield, RFO, presented the year end figures to Council, commending their adoption; this in line with the recommendation from the Finance & Establishment Committee meeting on 18th January 2021.</p> <p>Council reviewed details as presented, it was Resolved:</p> <p>Unanimously to accept and adopt the year end return as presented</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record

Minutes of Full Council Meeting 8th February 2021

FC 178-21	<p>May 2021 Elections</p> <p>Council noted details of the election schedule for May 2021 which will include a by-election for the Town Council ward of Little Walden. Council further noted and approved the estimated cost of the election (to SWTC) of £1,003.00 (details as provided by UDC).</p>
FC 179-21	<p>Community Governance Review</p> <p>Council noted the details of the Community Governance Review, scheduled to take place in June 2021.</p>
FC 180-21	<p>UDC Local Plan – Call for Sites</p> <p>Council noted the call for sites process, as part of the Local Plan development at UDC. It was Resolved:</p> <p>Not to submit any proposed land or sites under the call for sites</p>
FC 181-21	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported</p>
FC 182-21	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p> <p>Cllr Gadd noted the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 10th February with ECC Officers and Cllr Moran to progress the Town Council’s request for 20mph. Cllr Eke advised that he had previously taken the opportunity to discuss the proposed 20mph for Saffron Walden with both Roger Hirst and the Ch/Insp at Essex Police – both had indicated a support for the implementation of 20mph for Saffron Walden</p>
FC 183-21	<p>Urgent Information Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Queries were expressed regarding any progression of works to the gardens in High Street, in front of Close Gardens. It was agreed to ask Cllr Moran for an update on any progression (b) Litter picking – Cllr Asker advised she was looking to initiate a community litter pick in the near future but this would be post-Covid 19 restrictions
FC 184-21	<p>Date and time of Next Meeting(s)</p> <p>Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom.</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.30pm