

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.30pm

Present Councillors: Cllrs Asker, Coote, Freeman, Frost, Gadd, Gregory, Hawke-Smith, Light, Millward, Porch, Roberts, and Toy

Officers: Lisa Courtney (Town Clerk), David Broomfield (Financial Officer), Georgia Arnold (Committee Clerk and Office Administrator).

Public: None present

FC 259-21	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs de Vries, Eke, Fairhurst and McLellan</p>
FC 260-21	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllrs Asker, Coote and Freeman declared generic non-pecuniary interests as District Councillors for Uttlesford District Council (UDC).</p> <p>Cllr Gadd declared a generic non-pecuniary interest as County Councillor for Essex County Council. He further declared a non-pecuniary interest in Min Ref FC267-21 as a member of Stansted Airport Watch.</p>
FC 261-21	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>There were no questions arising.</p>
FC 262-21	<p>Essex County Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr Gadd provided a written report and spoke further on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debden Road and East Street are scheduled for resurfacing this month. Committee noted that Cromwell Road requires resurfacing, Cllr Gadd undertook to find out details of any scheduled resurfacing• A drainage and pothole report will be prepared imminently (by SWTC) now the risk assessment has been completed.• Locality funding is available for projects of £300 up to £10,000 but grants must be used on capital works and be spent by parish councils and charities by 31 March 2022. Two grants have been given so far for church extensions and facility works. <p>Cllr Porch passed on his thanks to Cllr Gadd for his continuing updates.</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record

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FC 263-21	<p>Mayor's Communications</p> <p>The Mayor circulated a written report, showing details of events and activities attended over the past few months. He explained that it has been a busy summer and the next event is the sold-out Rolling Clones concert Saturday 18th September.</p>
FC 264-21	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Town Council meetings</p> <p>The July 2021 Full Council minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Mayor subject to the following amendments:</p> <p>(a) Minute Reference FC243-21 – to remove Cllr Toy's apologies (he was present at the meeting)</p> <p>(b) Minute reference FC 250-21 paragraph F to be strengthened in confirming the Town Council's continued objection to the application but should the application be granted, the Town Council would seek to mitigate the impact in extending the parish border and seeking S106 contributions.</p>
FC 265-21	<p>To receive the Minutes of the Previous Meetings</p> <p>Council received and noted the minutes from the following Committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Transport 10.06.21 • Planning and Transport 24.06.21 • Finance and Establishment 21.06.21 • Assets and Services 28.06.21
FC 266-21	<p>Budget 2022/23</p> <p>Committee accepted and approved the budget timetable, confirming membership to the Working Group as Cllrs Gadd, McLellan, Millward, Roberts and Toy. Within the working group a Chair would be chosen, and it was requested that meetings take place toward the end of the day/late afternoons.</p> <p>Cllr Light asked whether the working group could meet online via Zoom so Cllr Fairhurst could be involved, it was resolved for the working group to decide this within their meetings.</p>
FC 267-21	<p>Stansted Airport Watch</p> <p>Cllr Gadd declared a generic non-pecuniary interest as he is a member.</p> <p>Cllrs agreed that this request should be included within the Finance and Establishment Committee and a grant application form will be sent to Stansted Airport Watch to complete.</p>

FC 268-21	<p>Dance in the Square – Thank you</p> <p>Council gratefully received the thanks from the Dance in the Square organisers.</p>
FC 269-21	<p>Community Governance Review</p> <p>Council took note of this informative and made no comment.</p>
FC 270-21	<p>Dispensation – Cllr Paul Fairhurst</p> <p>Cllr Fairhurst remains unwell and requested Council to consider a dispensation, allowing continued absence due to ill health. This request was approved and Council wished him well with a full and speedy recovery.</p>
FC 271-21	<p>Town Council Action Plan and Priorities</p> <p>Cllrs reviewed the updated action plan and priorities, noting this would inform the basis of future budgets, having due regard to the Council’s forward plan and 5-year budget. Cllrs requested that the costs on the action list show a direct relationship and link to monies set aside in Ear-Marked Reserves, evidencing the intent of the project and financial commitment.</p> <p>Council noted the progression of the play area improvements at Anglo-American Playing Fields and approved the submission of a funding request to Essex County Council under the Community Initiative’s Fund.</p> <p>Council affirmed its support of the continued road closures in the town centre, to their expiry at the end of January 2022.</p> <p>Council unanimously agreed on the action plan and priorities as presented and passed on their thanks to the Town Clerk.</p>
FC 272-21	<p>Environmental Policy Statement</p> <p>The policy was adopted as presented, with an amendment to note the statement was in line with the Town Council’s equality policy</p>
FC 273-21	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 274-21	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 275-21	<p>Urgent Items</p> <p>No matters raised.</p>

Signed as a true and accurate record

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FC 276-21	<p>Date and time of Next meeting(s)</p> <p>The Mayor reminded all that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 11th October 2021 at 7.30pm.</p>
FC 277-21	<p>Confidential Item – Exclusion of Press and Public (Part II meeting)</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 278-21	<p>Town Council Assets</p> <p>Members considered the report as presented. There followed considerable discussion regarding the benefits and disadvantages of the proposals presented. It was unanimously resolved:</p> <p>To pursue the recommendations within the report, authorising the Town Clerk and Town Mayor to negotiate further on behalf of the Town Council in accordance with the framework of the report. Any specific proposals would need to be endorsed by Full Council (which may require the hosting of an extraordinary Full Council meeting)</p>

The Mayor closed the meeting at 21.05