

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 10th January at 7.30pm in The Garden Rooms, Jubilee Gardens

Present Councillors: Cllrs Asker, de Vries, Coote, Freeman, Frost, Gadd, Gregory, Hawke-Smith, Roberts, and Toy

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

Public: Mrs Judith Rodden from The Walden Local newspaper

FC 001-22	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Eke, Fairhurst, Light, McLellan, Millward and Porch.</p> <p>In the Mayor's absence Deputy Mayor Cllr de Vries chaired the meeting.</p>
FC 002-22	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllrs Asker, de Vries, 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.</p>
FC 003-22	<p>Public Speaking Time</p> <p>There were no questions arising.</p>
FC 004-22	<p>Essex County Councillor Update</p> <p>Council noted Cllr Gadd's written report.</p> <p>It was noted that SWTC have a system in place to report potholes and highway defects and Councillors are encouraged to report any specific issues to Officers so they can be reported to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways. Officers will liaise with Cllr Gadd who will follow up on unresolved issues. However, Cllr Gadd reminded Cllrs that all issues are reported but they are not always considered sufficiently dangerous by ECC and therefore not fixed.</p> <p>A series of questions were raised for Cllr Gadd as County Councillor, regarding ECC's policies. Cllr Gadd reminded Cllrs to please email any specific queries prior so they can be looked into them further outside of meetings.</p>
FC 005-22	<p>Mayor's Communications</p> <p>The report was provided and noted by Council.</p>

FC 006-22	<p>To verify the Minutes of the Town Council meetings</p> <p>The December Full Council minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Chair.</p>
FC 007-22	<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 16th December 2021 (draft minutes) • Finance and Establishment 13th December 2021 (draft minutes) • Assets and Services 20th December 2021 (draft minutes)
FC 008-22	<p>Covid Update</p> <p>The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council is still legally required to carry out council meetings face to face; this is a legislative requirement and thus formal Council meetings cannot legally be held via Zoom, Members must be present in the room to participate in the meeting. The Clerk advised she had written to the Levelling Up Minister, Kemi Badenoch MP, regarding this matter, requesting the MP to support a position that would allow remote or hybrid meetings.</p> <p>It was noted that covid measures and procedures were still therefore necessary (such as wearing of face masks and request to take lateral flow tests), to protect Members and Officers during meetings and all were asked to respectfully comply with these requests.</p> <p>The Clerk advised of current working practices at the Council, noting the Council continues to make plans for a series of 2022 events, building into each covid precautionary measures and mitigation.</p>
FC 009-22	<p>2022/23 Budget</p> <p>Cllr Gadd provided a precise of the budget proposals and Members reviewed the budget as presented. Cllr Coote proposed to accept the budget which was seconded by Cllr Asker. It was Resolved</p> <p>To adopt the budget for 2022/23 as presented recognising the following:</p> <p>To set the total budget at £1,996,311</p> <p>Less Income -£255,221</p> <p>Total Expenditure budget of £1,741,090 (this incs EMR)</p> <p>Recognising a precept of £1,233,629</p> <p>Represented by a 2% increase on Band D to £179.70 (against a tax base of 6,865.09)</p>

FC 010-22	<p>Reports from other Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 011-22	<p>Additional Forthcoming Meetings</p> <p>No meetings reported.</p>
FC 012-22	<p>Urgent Items</p> <p>No matters raised.</p>
FC 013-22	<p>Date and time of Next meeting(s)</p> <p>The Chair reminded all that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 14th February 2022 at 7.30pm in The Town Hall.</p>

The Deputy Mayor closed the meeting at 7.56pm