

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, SUDBURY, ON TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2023 AT 7.00PM

Present: Ms E Murphy – Mayor of Sudbury, in the CHAIR.

Mrs J Antill

Mr S Hall

Mr N Bennett

Mr T Regester

Mr T Cresswell

Mr C Griffin – Town Clerk

Mrs J Budd – Deputy Town Clerk (online)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs S Ayres, Ms J Carter, Mr P Faircloth-Mutton, Mr A Osborne, Mrs J Osborne, Miss A Owen and Mr J Owen.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T Cresswell declared that he was a Babergh District Councillor.

Councillor S Hall declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 – the minutes of the Planning & Development Committee on the 27th February 2023. He agreed that he would leave the room if these minutes needed to be discussed.

3 DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

There were no declarations of gifts or hospitality.

4 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensation had been received.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th February 2023 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

6 ACTION FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Town Clerk read out the list of actions. A copy is shown at minute page 141.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the action plan be noted.

7. REPORTS

a) County Councillors' reports

The Town Clerk read out a report from Councillor Mr P Faircloth-Mutton. A copy is shown at minute page 142.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Faircloth-Mutton be thanked for his report.

Councillor Ms Carter was absent and no report had been received.

b) District Councillor's report – Councillor T Cresswell had sent members his Babergh District Council report in advance of the meeting. A copy is shown at minute page 143.

No questions were raised.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Cresswell be thanked for his report.

c) Police

The Town Clerk read a report received from Inspector Hollands. A copy of the report is shown at minute page 144.

The Town Clerk advised that he had accepted Inspector Hollands' invitation for a 'catch-up' meeting every three months. He has requested Inspector Hollands provides some suitable dates in April for consideration.

Another email had been sent to Police and Crime Commissioner Mr T Passmore regarding the ANPR cameras and a holding reply had been received.

The Police had been invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting but had declined. Members expressed their disappointment that the local police would miss an excellent opportunity to engage with the people of Sudbury.

Councillor Bennett advised members that the police had delivered a very impressive presentation on knife crime to a whole school assembly at Thomas Gainsborough School.

The Mayor expressed her disappointment at the low number of town councillors attending this full council meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk be thanked for the update.

That the Town Clerk send an email to Inspector Hollands expressing the Town Council's disappointment that no police would be present at the Annual Town Meeting.

d) Public Forum

No members of public were present.

8 TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Planning, Development and Highways on 13th February
It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT.

Planning, Development and Highways on 27th February – The Chairman advised that members considered a license application from the Weavers Tap for an extension to its hours. The committee recommended refusal on the grounds of the impact the extended noise would have on local residents.
It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT.

Human Resources on 15th February
It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT.

Human Resources on 28th February
It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT.

Leisure and Environment on 28th February.
It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT.

Finance on 7th March 2023 – The Chairman advised that the key items would be considered separately further down the agenda.
It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT.

9. APPOINTMENT OF THE RFO

Members were requested to confirm the appointment of Miss Anne Walker as the responsible finance office (RFO) under the Local Government Act 1972, s. 151.

The Town Clerk advised that Miss Walker was being employed on a six-month interim basis through an agency to ensure continuity of cover in the RFO post. A permanent RFO would still be required and work would continue to identify a suitable candidate.

RESOLVED

That Miss Anne Walker be appointed as the responsible finance office (RFO) under the Local Government Act 1972, s. 151.

10. ANNUAL INSURANCE POLICY

The Town Clerk informed members that the Town Council's main insurance policy ran until the end of March and a new policy would be required from 1st April 2023. There had been a delay in receiving the renewal quotation due to questions from the broker about the

rebuilding costs. Therefore, the Town Clerk recommended that members approve expenditure of up to £6,750, the maximum in budget line 109_4026 for FY2023/24, on the annual insurance policy so that he could set up the new policy without the need for an extraordinary meeting.

RESOLVED

That, under the power of Local Government Act 1972, s.111, members approve payment of a premium of up to £6,750 for an annual insurance policy.

11. ANNUAL CHARGE FOR STREET LIGHTING

The Town Clerk informed members that the invoice from Suffolk County Council for the annual charge for street lighting and electricity pillars was overdue. Suffolk County Council had advised that, due to large increases in the wholesale price of electricity, charges could be twice those of the previous year. Therefore, the Town Clerk recommended that members approve expenditure of up to £10,000 for the Suffolk Highways lighting invoice and authorise him to pay it without the need for an extraordinary meeting.

RESOLVED

That, under the power of Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3, members approved expenditure of up to £10,000 excluding VAT to pay for the lighting of roads and other public places, and authorised the payment of the invoice to Suffolk County Council.

Should the invoice exceed £10,000, an extraordinary meeting would need to be called.

12. EELGA STRUCTURAL REVIEW

The Human Resources Committee had discussed the need for the next stage of the EELGA Structural review and recommended that phase two should be undertaken at a cost of £6,750.

RESOLVED

That, under the power of Local Government Act 1972, s.111, members approve the further expenditure of £6,750 excluding VAT on phase 2 of the EELGA structural review.

13. COMMUNITY WARDENS' ELECTRIC VANS

The Town Clerk informed members that there was currently about a 12-month delay from ordering an electric van to its delivery. The extension of the lease on the current diesel vans would expire at the end of March 2024 and so, if they were to be replaced with electric vans, these would need to be ordered soon.

There were two options for acquiring electric vans; leasing or purchase. Currently, electric vans were holding their prices well and did not suffer from the same maintenance issues as diesel vehicles. In addition, grants may be available to help purchase electric vehicles, but not to lease them.

The Town Clerk asked members to confirm that the Town Council wished to replace the current diesel vans with electric vans. Although he had not been able to obtain detailed

costings in time for this meeting, he estimated that the purchase cost of two electric vans would be in the order of £100,000. He hoped to have costed options for both leasing and purchase by the end of March and proposed that he bring these to the Finance Committee in April for approval. Any purchase or lease of this scale would then need to be approved by the full council.

RESOLVED

That the Council wish to replace the current diesel vans with electric vans in April 2024 if there is a viable and affordable solution.

That the Finance Committee consider the options in April 2023 for both lease and purchase and make a recommendation to the full council.

14. INTERNAL AUDIT

Members were requested to approve the recommendation from the Finance Committee to appoint SALC as the internal auditor for FY2022/2023. SALC had undertaken this before. The Town Clerk confirmed that the cost would be £640 plus travel expenses and so would be with the budget allocation of £700.

RESOLVED

That, under the power of Local Government Act 1972, s.111, members approve the appointment of SALC as the internal auditors for FY2023/2024 at a cost of up to £700 excluding VAT.

15. FIXED ASSET REGISTER

Members were requested to approve the annual revision of the asset register as recommended by the Finance Committee. The chair of the Finance Committee confirmed that his committee had scrutinised the changes to the register and were content. Further work would be required once the new RFO was settled in post to transfer all the items on the asset register to the Rialtas Omega software.

RESOLVED

That the revised version of the Fixed Asset Register be approved.

16. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023-2024

The chair of the Finance Committee advised members that his committee had considered the revised risk management strategy in detail, including the risk scores, and recommended that this strategy was still current.

RESOLVED

That the Risk Management Strategy for 2023-2024 be approved.

17. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Deputy Town Clerk advised members that this year’s Annual Town Meeting would be held on Wednesday 29th March and would focus on the water quality in the River Stour. As previously approved by council, members had agreed to support the initiative to give parts of the River Stour in Sudbury designated bathing area status.

As part of the application process, a public meeting needed to be held to discuss the proposal.

The Annual Town Meeting would be slightly different from previous years as it was being held during the pre-election period. Therefore councillors would not be able to ‘canvas’ with members of the public.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

18. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk advised that the Museum Trust were giving a presentation on Tuesday 21st March 2023 on the history of the market. This would take place in the Assembly Room starting at 6pm. All councillors and members of the public were invited to attend.

Members were also informed that Babergh District Council had identified 4 architects who were considered suitable to carry out a high level concept design and cost plan for the Town Council’s preferred solution to remediate the Old Swimming Pool site in Belle Vue park. Once estimated costings for this work had been received, meetings would take place to identify sources of funding.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7.43pm – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS) That pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 s.100A(4), the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in items 8, 12, and 18 on the grounds that, if the public were present during these items, it was likely that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in Schedule 12A, ss 1-2, that is to say information relating to any individual or information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

19. TO RECEIVE THE MONITORING OFFICER’S REPORT AND AGREE ON HOW TO CARRY OUT THE SANCTIONS

See PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL minute page 147.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 8:05pm.

Chairman.....

Action Plan – 14th March 2023

11. PERENNIAL PLANTING SCHEME

Planting has started.

12. TREE WORKS

Ongoing – A contractor has been selected.

13. COMMUNITY WARDENS VAN LEASE

New lease was accepted for a year.

14. WRITING OFF OF ASSETS

These items have been written off in the Asset Register

17. PARTY IN THE PARK/KINGS CORONATION

The Leisure and Environment committee approved 'Picnic in the Park' for the kings Coronation. Plans are well underway.

Due to another meeting, I am unable to join this evening.

I do not have a large number of matters to report other than the following:

- Churchfield Road, Chilton: Although not within the Town's jurisdiction, many residents within Sudbury work on the Industrial Estate at Chilton. I recently met with Highways Officers to discuss possible solutions to the ongoing HGV parking along Churchfield Road. A series of onsite solutions are now being reviewed by the Highways Team, as well as potential long term ones, such as recommending the Delphi site as a potential place for parking (as identified by Cllr J. Owen at an earlier meeting, which I voiced to officers). I will keep you posted on developments.
- The West Suffolk County Archive is to move to Western Way in Bury St Edmund's, which will enable us to better present artefacts and items within our archive, as well as creating a new facility for use. This will allow our residents to enjoy facilities similar to those in the eastern half of Suffolk at the Hold in Ipswich. If anyone wishes to view the press story, they may do so here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/west-suffolk-archives-branch-to-move-to-western-way-in-bury-st-edmunds> .

Look forward to seeing you all in April.

Many thanks,

Philip

Philip Faircloth-Mutton

Deputy Cabinet Member for Transformation

Suffolk County Councillor - Sudbury East & Waldingfield Division

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From: tcresswell629@btinternet.com
Date: 9 Mar 2023 12:38
Subject: District Council report
To: Jodie Council Has <jodie.budd@sudbury-tc.gov.uk>
Cc:

Dear All

Babergh Budget

Babergh District Council has agreed its budget for 2023/ 24

The Council believes they have provided a balanced budget despite the pressures of global events ie covid and the war in the Ukraine. Inflation and interest rates.

It is estimated that the net cost of running services will raise by 20 %. Savings and investment are helping to balance the books.

Come this April we will see a 2.9% increase to the District Councils share of the council tax cllr Ward says in band D the equivalent of £5.30 a Yr although from my point of view it is more as suffolk county Council and the police will also take more mine personally has gone up forty seven pounds a Yr in total.

New Service aims to turn more than 1,000 empty houses into homes.

Houses4Homes encourages owners of residential properties to come forward for advice in turning into turning their property into a home for another family.

Rough Sleeping

Suffolk public sector leaders are targeting to end rough sleeping by 2027 in the county.

It was discussed on the 17th of February and seventy five thousand pounds was put to one side to further develop proposals and one hundred thousand pounds to support young people leaving local authority care ,who are at greater risk of homelessness.

Belle Vue House

Anybody with a interest in Belle Vue House have up to noon on the 13th of March 2023 to submit a bid to Babergh District Council on an informal tender basis.

Elections & voting Thursday 4th of May

Voter ID The UK government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID

At the local and parish elections national awareness will be made through all the available Council channels.

Webinar by the electoral commission

Is hosting a pre- election Webinar on Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 12pm - 1pm for candidates and agents taking part.

Regards Cllr Trevor Cresswell

Sudbury Town Council Report - Insp Ben Hollands

During the 1st quarter of the year, I have set Sudbury's local policing priorities based on threat, harm and risk as follows –

1. County lines drugs dealing.
2. Theft of ford transits van.
3. High visibility patrols within the rural community's both during the day and night to offer reassurance an to detect and deter rural crime.
4. Targeting offences / offending and crime prevention work to reduce Catalytic Converter thefts.

On the 23/02/23 there was a robbery where a male was threatened with a knife and his car was stolen by two offenders and tracked towards London. It is suspected that this is linked to County Lines drug supply which remains a local priority. The offence occurred mid-afternoon within Sudbury town centre and the investigation is ongoing.

County Lines intensification week ran 27th Feb to 3rd March and Sudbury Police delivered this for West Suffolk. This produced some positive results within Sudbury.

Sudbury police and police cadets have been conducting crime prevention patrols in Long Melford to identifying where members of the public have left valuable items on show within parked vehicles. Crime prevention advice was then offered to the owners of the vehicles. Due to the success of this operation, I am looking to deliver this within Sudbury town.

The tragic murder of a young person in Haverhill has shocked our local community and schools. Sudbury Police have been assisting with the community impact, reassurance patrols and engagement within local schools in Sudbury.

Neighbourhood policing week of action ran during January which highlights all the partnership work, community engagement and enforcement the Constabulary conducts to keep our neighbourhoods safe. Sudbury's community engagement officers had an increased presence online, showcasing all the unseen work we do within the Sudbury community.

We continue to get both standard and medium risk ASB reporting within Sudbury, and there are no current high-risk cases. We continue to work closely with Babergh Council in partnership to resolve issue where we can.

I have recently reviewed Sudbury's night-time economy policing plans to ensure we are safeguarding vulnerable people, reducing violence and ASB, with a particular focus on violence towards woman and girls. The overriding intention of these plans is to ensure people feel safe to enjoy Sudbury's night-time economy.

Suffolk County Policing Command operating model is currently being reviewed to ensure we have the correct resources in the right place to deal with our ever-changing demand picture whilst ensure we deliver real neighbourhood policing. The new model is due to be implemented in in Oct 2023 with individual officers having a responsibility for a geographical area (beat). There review teams are still working through the details of what this will look like.

I have offered the opportunity to the town clerk to informally meet with the myself on a 3 monthly basis. I would like to invite 3 councillors to also attend so we can chat through any issues or concerns each of us have and how we can support one another. This could be the same 3 councillors or a different group at each meeting. This would have to be during office hours, and I would welcome any feedback if this was something of interest.

I would like to thank the Town Council with their continued support.