

**SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, SUDBURY, ON TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Mrs J Osborne - Mayor of Sudbury, in the CHAIR.

Mrs M Barrett	Mr A Osborne
Mr P Beer	Mr T Register
Mr N Bennett	Mr A Stohr
Ms J Carter	Mr A Welsh
Mr S Hall	Mr N Younger
Ms E Murphy	

In attendance: Mr C Griffin Town Clerk  
Mrs J Budd Deputy Town Clerk  
Mr P Faircloth-Mutton Suffolk County Councillor  
Ms L Smith Babergh District Councillor

1 **APOLOGIES**

**Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P Berry-Kilby, Mr M Olyver and Miss A Owen.**

**Councillor Ms J Rawlinson was absent, but no apologies had been received.**

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Councillors Mr Beer, Ms Carter, Mr Osborne, and Mr Register declared they were Babergh District Councillors and therefore had an interest in item 10.**

**Councillors Mr Beer and Ms Carter declared that they were Suffolk County Councillors.**

3 **DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

**No declarations of gifts or hospitality were made.**

4 **REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

**No requests for dispensation had been received.**

5 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record.**

6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Town Clerk advised that:

- The fixed assets register had been updated to remove the items written off.
- The grant to Sudbury and District Citizens Advice had been paid.
- The floral contract had been agreed and signed.
- The cemetery fence was currently being installed.
- The invoice for the restoration of the cemetery gates had been paid.

**RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

7 REPORTS

a) Suffolk County Council (SCC) reports

A copy of County Councillor Faircloth-Mutton's report is shown at minute page XXX.

Members were also advised that:

- Suffolk County Council had sent their congratulations to Sudbury on being named Suffolk Town of the year.

The following points were also raised:

- A van advertising scrap metal appears to frequently be parked near the junction by the health centre. Could Suffolk County Council investigate this matter? This would need to be dealt with by the Police.
- Suffolk County Council to be congratulated on adopting a motion which champions the local farming community and its produce.

A copy of County Councillor Ms J Carter's report is shown at minute page XXX. Councillor Carter summarised her report.

The following points were also raised:

- Concern was raised over the ANPR data showing the excessive speed of drivers along Newton Road. It was suggested that a crashed car could be placed in the area around the old Delphi site to show what could happen when speeding. Cllr Carter advised that she had raised this idea before but without much support. She would now raise it again as there was new data showing how serious the speeding was.
- With regards to the additional funding for signage, Cllr Carter advised that she was going to enquire whether the adaption of an existing sign could be covered within this additional funding, however she still had funds within her highway budget which could be used to adapt signs should this be required.

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillors Mr Faircloth-Mutton and Ms Carter be thanked for their reports.**

- b) Babergh District Council (BDC) report – A copy of Councillor A Osborne’s District Council report is shown at minute page XXX. Councillor Osborne summarised his report.

The following points were also raised:

- Girling Street car park had not been litter picked for at least 4 weeks. Babergh councillors believed that many resources had been focusing their time in the Springlands area, therefore this may have had a negative effect on other services.
- Members asked if there was a more general problem within Babergh District Council’s Public Realm Department. All District Councillors were encouraged to investigate.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Mr A Osborne be thanked for his report.**

- c) Policing report – The Town Clerk read a brief report from Inspector Hollands. A copy of this is shown at minute page XXX. The Town Clerk also read out the crime figures from the Suffolk Constabulary website for Sudbury alone. Members were very disturbed by these figures, especially around the Minden Road area of town. Inspector Hollands had offered to hold another meeting with three councillors to discuss issues in Sudbury and this had been arranged for the end of the month.

Members discussed the problems within the Minden Road area, and it was agreed that Councillor Ms Carter, as Cabinet Member for Housing at Babergh District Council, will discuss the problems with Babergh.

The following points were also raised:

- Welcomed the news that nitrous oxide ‘laughing gas’ was now a Class 3 drug making possession and sale for recreational purposes a criminal offence.
- CCTV contract – The Town Clerk advised that the CCTV contract was coming up for renewal. The contract was between Babergh District Council and West Suffolk Council; however, the Town Council would be asked to contribute. Once confirmed costings had been received, members would have to discuss the matter and approve any expenditure.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

- d) Mayor’s Announcements – A list of the mayor’s announcements is at page XXX. She also attended the 2-minute silence on Saturday and Sudbury’s annual Remembrance Parade and service on Sunday.
- e) Public Forum – No members of public were present.

8 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

**Planning, Development & Highways on 9<sup>th</sup> October** - The Chairman advised that the committee had recommended approval of some reserve matters relating to phase 3 of the Chilton Woods development, however members were disappointed with the lack of solar panels throughout the development. They also requested some advice on the permitted sound level for air source heat pumps to help them make decisions. A detailed report was given by County Councillor Ms Carter on the former Uplands Middle School site at the top of York Road.

**It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.**

**Planning, Development & Highways on 23<sup>rd</sup> October** - The Chairman recommended noting the minutes.

**It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.**

**Planning, Development & Highways on 6<sup>th</sup> November** - The Chairman advised that they had refused the application for the dwelling on land at the junction of Friars Street and Church Street. Members felt that the Construction Management Plan did not pay enough attention to the risk to children crossing the road to school and to other pedestrians. The height of the wall could cause a blind spot. The design of the dwelling was not in keeping with the buildings around it and did not contribute to the historical content of the conservation area. Members approved the application for the new café and toilets in Belle Vue but recommended that measures be taken to ensure that the air source heat pump was protected from vandalism.

**It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.**

**Leisure and Environment on the 31<sup>st</sup> October** – The Vice Chairman advised that they had discussed ‘preaching’ on the market, the approval of expenditure for a Construction, Design & Management Consultant relating to the town Hall refurbishment, the expenditure on Remembrance Sunday, the use of the town coat of arms, the purchase of a water filling station and the future locations of polling stations and wards.

**It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.**

**Finance on the 7<sup>th</sup> November** – The Chairman advised that the estate of the late Mr Weir had now been settled and the Town Council have received an additional £17, 226.98. The current second draft of the budget for financial year 2024-2025 included a 5% increase to Council Tax, however this would still require over £44,000 to be taken from reserves to balance. No changes had been recommended to the salary budget before the outcome of the re-structuring project.

**It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.**

9. COMMUNITY WARDEN VANS

Members were requested to approve the expenditure of up to £15,000, excluding VAT, per annum on a new 3-year lease for 2 diesel vans for the Community Wardens. Detailed costings are shown at minute page XXX.

**RESOLVED**

**That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.111, members approved expenditure of up to £15,000 excluding VAT, per annum on a new 3-year lease for 2 vans for the Community Wardens.**

**EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)**

**RESOLVED**

That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2), the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in item 10 as the publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

10. BELLE VUE PARK

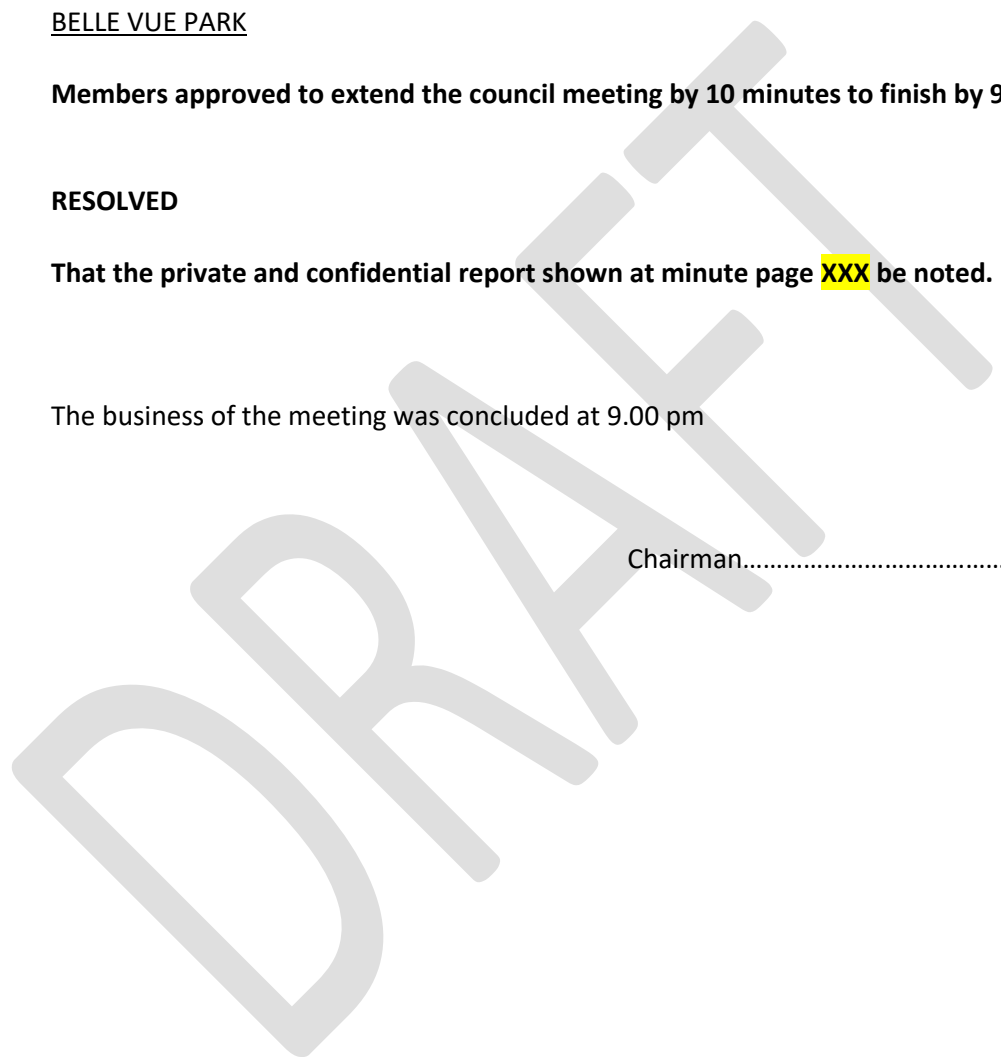
Members approved to extend the council meeting by 10 minutes to finish by 9.10pm.

**RESOLVED**

That the private and confidential report shown at minute page **XXX** be noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.00 pm

Chairman.....



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