

**SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM**

Committee members present: Mr N Bennett – the chair.  
Mr S Hall  
Mr A Osborne  
Mr T Regester  
Mr A Stohr  
Mr N Younger

Officers in attendance: Mr C Griffin – Town Clerk

1. **SUBSTITUTES AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Ms J Carter and Miss A Owen.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mr A Osborne and Mr T Regester declared that they were Babergh District Councillors.  
Mr T Regester declared a non-pecuniary interest item 8.

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 previous meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.**

6. **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Town Clerk updated members on actions from previous meetings.

7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

DC/25/00204 **Proposal:** Householder Application – Remove existing rear landing window, increase size of opening and install a glazed door. (Retention of).  
**Location:** 55 Melford Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 1JS

**RESOLVED – To recommend refusal on the grounds of loss of public amenity.**

- **Members noted that there was no statement of the intended use in the application form.**
- **Members assumed that its intended use was as a balcony as there was no provision for fire escape.**
- **When a similar rear balcony had been proposed for the Bay Horse, 3 buildings along, this had initially been refused on the grounds that it would allow views into neighbouring properties. Members considered that similar standards should apply to this application.**

DC/24/05461 **Proposal:** Planning Application – Demolition of existing school buildings and redevelopment to provide a new educational teaching block, separate new sports hall block and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), reconfiguration of car parking arrangements and outdoor playground areas, provision of new landscaping and all associated works.  
**Location:** Ormiston Sudbury Academy, Tudor Road, Sudbury, CO10 1NW

**RESOLVED – To continue to recommend approval, subject to the same three holding objections below;**

- **That the holding objections raised by Sport England have been satisfactorily resolved.**
- **That the holding objections raised by the Environmental Protection Officer have been satisfactorily resolved.**
- **That the issues raised by the Phoenix Family Hub have been resolved.**

**with the addition of;**

- **That members note and support the conclusions of the Suffolk Police ‘Design Out Crime’ response on boundary fencing and roof access.**
- **That members note and support the recommendations of the public rights of way (PROW) team that;**
  - **Fencing and hedging should be a minimum of 2m back from the edge of the path.**
  - **That any gates must open inwards so as not to obstruct the path.**
  - **That the footpath be upgraded to allow cycling.**
  - **That a section 106 contribution be made to fund this improvement.**

NAB

**DEVELOPMENT**

**8. TO NOTE THE BATTERY BOX PROPOSAL FROM BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Members noted the email from Babergh District Council (BDC) consulting them on a proposal to install three battery boxes in the Sudbury area. These would be located on BDC land on a 30 year term with a rent of £1,000 per annum (with annual CPI reviews) or an upfront payment of £10,000.

BDC had provided a briefing paper which had been circulated explaining what a battery box was. A battery box imported and stored electricity from the local electricity network when demand for electricity was low or when there were high levels of renewable energy available. It then exported that electricity back to the electricity network when required in periods of high demand.

BDC stated that, in addition to this consultation, there would be separate planning applications submitted for each site proposed to host a battery box. If an application were to be approved, the applicant, AMP, would pay for the construction of the battery box and then pay rent to Babergh for occupying the council's land as a tenant.

**RESOLVED**

**That members did not support the proposal to have battery boxes in Sudbury at this stage. They were prepared to be convinced in the future, but first they would like more information on the following areas;**

- **What battery chemistry was proposed for these battery boxes?**
- **Were there any examples of this particular type of battery box installed by APM in England?**
- **Did these battery boxes use 100% renewable energy?**
- **Why were these battery boxes needed at these particular 3 locations in Sudbury?**

**HIGHWAYS**

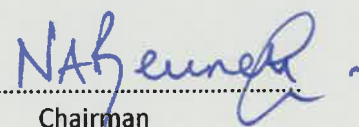
**9. TO DISCUSS THE HIGHWAYS LIST**

Members discussed the following points;

- The drain at the side of the road in East Street, outside the entrance to the Weavers Tap, was blocked and caused serious flooding when there was heavy rain. The Town Clerk reported this on the Suffolk Highways reporting tool as ref: 507203.
- A hole had appeared in the road on Girling Street where there had previously been road works. Member were concerned that the repairs had not been completed to a satisfactory standard. This had already been reported three times on the Suffolk Highways reporting tool as refs: 506694 on 7 February 2025, 506795 on 8 February 2025 and 507171 on 10 February 2025.
- Member were concerned about the general standard of repairs to the roads in Sudbury as problems often re-occurred in the same places.

The meeting closed at 7:22 pm.

Signed .....



Chairman

