

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY 28TH JULY 2025 AT 7.30PM

Present: Mr A Stohr – Deputy Mayor of Sudbury, in the CHAIR
Mr N Bennett Ms E Murphy
Ms J Carter Miss A Owen
Mr J Collier Mr T Regester
Mr S Hall Mr N Younger
Mr J Jeagar

In attendance: Mr C Griffin – Town Clerk
Mrs D Deeks – Administration Manager and RFO

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

RESOLVED

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M Barrett, Mr K Graham, Mr A Osborne, Mrs J Osborne and Mr A Welsh.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Ms J Carter, Miss A Owen and Mr T Regester declared that they were also Babergh District Councillors.

Councillor Ms J Carter declared that she was also a Suffolk County Councillor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

No declarations of gifts or hospitality were made.

4. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensations had been received.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 8th July 2025 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

6. TO SELECT THE SUCCESSFUL BID FOR THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTRACT AND TO AUTHORISE THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO £75,000 OVER 3 YEARS

Members discussed the bids for the Christmas lights contract that had been distributed before the meeting.

The Town Clerk reminded members that the budget for the current financial year contained £26,670 for Christmas Lights and decoration, but that up to £3,000 of this would be required to provide the 2 Christmas trees that were not part of this contract.

RESOLVED

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

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 6 as the publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted as it would be necessary to discuss the confidential information provided by each contractor.

RESOLVED

That the bid from Gala Lights be accepted subject to the addition of lights over the 3 upper windows of the Town Hall in a similar design to the previous year.

That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s144, expenditure of up to £88,000 over the 3 Christmas periods, 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28, be authorised for a 3-year contact with Gala Lights.

That £6,000 be allocated from the general reserve to cover the additional cost of the contract in the current financial year. Funding for future years would have to be allocated in the budget.

That the Business Manager work with Gala Lights to agree the best mix of warm white and cool white lights across the town.

That the Business Manager contact the Sudbury Arts Centre to discuss the options for the contractor to fit some lights to St Peter's Church in future years, if additional funding was included in the budget for these years.

That the Council buy a large wreath to fit to the front doors of the Town Hall over the Christmas period.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 8:46 pm.

Chairman