

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 9TH APRIL 2024 AT 7.00PM**

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

Mrs M Barrett

Mr P Beer (until 9:04pm)

Mr N Bennett

Mrs P Berry-Kilby (until 9:06pm)

Ms J Carter

Mr S Hall

Ms E Murphy

Mr A Osborne

Miss A Owen

Mr T Regester

Mr A Stohr

Mr A Welsh

Mr N Younger

In attendance: Mr C Griffin – Town Clerk

Mr P Faircloth-Mutton – Suffolk County Councillor (until 7:58pm)

Before the meeting started, the Mayor offered the council's condolences to District Councillor Laura Smith whose mother had recently passed away. The Mayor also asked all members to stand for a minute's silence in memory of Mr Ray Smith, a former Mayor of Sudbury who had recently died.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

RESOLVED

That the council approved the absence of Councillor Mr M Olyver due to his work commitments.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs J Rawlinson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Mr Beer, Ms Carter, Mr Osborne, Miss A Owen and Mr Regester declared they were Babergh District Councillors.

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

Councillor Mr Beer reminded members that he represented Great Cornard and not Sudbury on the District and County Councils.

3. DECLARATION OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

No declarations of gifts or hospitality were received.

4. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensations had been received.

5. MINUTES**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 12th March 2024 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

The Mayor decided to move item 9 next as the Police and Crime Commissioner had attended the meeting.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ON THE AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR) TRIAL

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk, Mr Tim Passmore, attended the meeting to update members on the proposal for an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system. He confirmed that ANPR systems were an important tool in fighting crime and had his full support. He believed that he could find the funding required to install the cameras but was still working to identify the funding necessary to exploit the new data that they would provide. He also gave a general update on:

- County lines drug numbers were down but remained a serious threat to young people.
- Significant investments were being made to reduce youth offending.
- Police officer numbers in Suffolk were increasing.
- Recorded crime figures in Suffolk were down.
- Work was underway to identify a suitable site for a new police station in Sudbury.
- The police cadets in Sudbury were thriving and provided valuable youth engagement.

Members asked questions on intelligence sharing with neighbouring police forces and improving road safety for cyclists with 'close pass' cameras.

RESOLVED

To thank the Police and Crime Commissioner for his presentation.

6. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Town Clerk confirmed progress on the actions from the previous minutes.

- The letter had been sent to the Oversight and Scrutiny Committee of Babergh District Council asking them to reject increased parking charges.
- The annual insurance policies had been renewed.
- The annual street lighting invoice had been paid.
- The new fire doors had been ordered and a fitting date was awaited.
- The application had been made to the rural prosperity fund for temporary street furniture for Market Hill.

RESOLVED

That the progress on these actions be noted.

7. REPORTS

a) Suffolk County Council (SCC) reports –

County Councillor Mr Philip Faircloth-Mutton summarised his report which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and asked for any questions. A copy is included at pages 246 to 247. Members raised the following point;

- There was a pothole on Waldingfield Drive that had been marked in yellow for repair but nothing had been done. Could this be chased?

County Councillor Ms Jessie Carter summarised her report which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and asked for any questions. A copy is included at pages 248 to 250. Members raised the following point;

- There were serious potholes on Great Eastern Road. This was a heavily trafficked stretch of road with many buses and heavy lorries. Could Suffolk Highway examine this area and repair the potholes?
- Could both county councillors give their views on the Suffolk devolution arrangements at a future council meeting?
- Temporary road works in Sudbury did not seem to be co-ordinated. With such a narrow road system in the town centre, could more be done to co-ordinate and deconflict these road works?

RESOLVED

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

b) Babergh District Council (BDC) report – District Councillor Miss A Owen summarised her report which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and asked for any questions. A copy is included at pages 251 to 252. Members raised the following points;

- If the Babergh District Council IT system supporting the repairs to housing had been so poor that it had to be urgently replaced, why had this not been raised as an issue before? Why had officers involved been praised for their good work if this long-standing problem had not been addressed earlier?
- Why didn't Babergh District Council redecorate each property before new tenants moved it?
- Was the District Council involved in the plans for devolution?

RESOLVED

That Councillor Miss A Owen be thanked for her report.

c) Policing report – Sgt Olly Williams, the community police sergeant for Sudbury attended the meeting, accompanied by PC John Moore, and the Mayor expressed her gratitude for having them present. Sgt Williams gave a verbal report highlighting;

- The two community police officers for Sudbury, PC John Moore and PC Deon Ramdhanie, were settling down into the new operating model.
- Anti-social behaviour and drug dealing were being addressed with the CCTV cameras providing valuable assistance in this work.

- Young people climbing onto the roofs in the town centre had been spoken to and warned about the dangers.
- Residents had engaged with officers in the gazebo on market days and raised their concerns over speeding.

Members raised the following points;

- What could be done to get the owner to take responsibility for the Delphi site? This was beginning to affect other adjacent properties. The District Council had tried to contact the owner but this had proved difficult.

RESOLVED

That Sgt Williams be thanked for his report.

d) Mayor's Announcements – These had been circulated before the meeting and there were no questions. A copy is included at page 253.

RESOLVED

That the Mayor be thanked for her report.

e) Public Forum – A member of the public raised the following points on the engagement and consultation over the scheme to pedestrianise Market Hill during the summer months:

- Who had put together the questionnaire with the QR code in the Town Council's Information Centre?
- What was this survey intended to achieve and why had it been pulled after the QR code was published on a social media platform?

The Mayor confirmed that this was an on-site survey that had been put together by the Town Council working in collaboration with Suffolk Highways and that it was intended to gather the views of actual visitors to Market Hill. The QR code was intended to allow these visitors to complete the survey after their visit and had not been designed as an online survey to gather the views of people who had not visited Market Hill.

The Mayor pointed out that the data coming back from the Town Council's survey would not always agree with the Chamber of Commerce survey as the questions being asked were different.

A resident asked what could be done about damage to cars from potholes? What could be done to repair the potholes and how could motorists be compensated for the damage to their vehicles? This was an issue for the County Council and motorists should report potholes using the Suffolk Highways website tool. If vehicles were damaged by potholes that had been reported and marked, claims for compensation could be made to Suffolk Highways.

A resident asked why the Town Council were so keen to have an ANPR system round Sudbury? Would these cameras cause too much intrusion into the public's privacy?

8. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Planning, development and Highways on the 11th and 25th March 2024 – The Chairman recommended noting the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

Leisure and Environment on the 26th March 2024 – The Chairman reminded members that Party in the Park would have to be held on Market Hill and North Street as Belle Vue Park would be closed for building work in 2024 and recommended noting the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

Finance on the 2nd April 2024 – The Chairman recommended noting the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

HR on the 13th March 2024 – The Chairman recommended delaying her report on these minutes until the Private and Confidential section at the end of the meeting.

10. TO REVIEW THE BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANS FOR INCREASED PARKING CHARGES IN SUDBURY AND AGREE THE NEXT STEPS.

Members were briefed on the meeting of the Babergh District Council Cabinet the previous day which had approved the increased parking charges for Sudbury car parks. The proposal to keep even the first hour free of charge was voted down and the scheme had been approved by six votes to two. Cllr J Carter, the only Sudbury member on the Cabinet, had spoken strongly in favour of retaining free parking in Sudbury and had voted against the increased charges.

There had been some discussion at the Cabinet meeting of additional exemptions and rebates, especially for visits to medical services or school drop-off, but there were no specifics about how these might be implemented in Sudbury.

There had also been discussion of whether a community interest company (CIC) run by the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce could provide a better alternative for running the public car parks.

There was concern that the correct process for bringing in increased parking charges in Sudbury had not been followed, so that this decision had been ‘called in’ and could be referred to the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED

That the council would discuss the option of a community interest company (CIC) with the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce.

That the council would discuss options for exemptions and rebates of parking charges with Babergh District Council.

At the end of this item, the Mayor remarked that she would consider convening an extraordinary meeting of the council once the referral to the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been resolved.

RESOLVED

That the meeting be extended until 9:30pm to allow all business to be completed.

11. TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE THAT THE COUNCIL ADOPT THE FOLLOWING POLICY ON SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTIAL PARKING SCHEME:

The Chair of the Planning, Development and Highways Committee explained the rationale behind the proposed policy below and emphasised that the Town Council were not responsible for residents’ parking schemes.

A resident of Queen’s Road attended the meeting and raised the issue of people using streets close to the town centre to avoid charges in the car parks. As parking charges increased, there would be more congestion for residents on the street close to the centre.

- That the area for the scheme would need to be sufficient size and clearly defined.
- That the residents understood that they would need to pay about £100 per vehicle every year if they were a part of the scheme.
- That a parking permit would not guarantee them a parking place near their home or anywhere else.
- That more than two thirds of the residents of the area had given their written support to the proposed scheme.
- That Sudbury Town Council were not responsible for residents’ parking schemes and were only in a position to consider offering support.

RESOLVED

That the policy recommended by the Planning, Development and Highways Committee on support for residential parking schemes be adopted.

12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE HR COMMITTEE (CONFIDENTIAL)

A copy of the Chair of the HR Committee’s report is at Annex A (minute page 254).

RESOLVED

To note the confidential report at Annex A.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9:21pm.

Chairman

County Councillor's Report to Sudbury Town Council Meeting 9 April 2024

98% of pupils receive a place at one of their preferred Secondary Schools on National Offer Day

- This year parents and carers of 98% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred schools and 93% were offered a place at their first preference school.
- Suffolk County Council received 7,867 applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to transfer to in September 2024.
- Families who applied online can log in to the online service from today to see the school their child has been offered. They will also have received an email to confirm this offer, unless they have indicated that they do not wish to. Letters have been sent to parents who made a paper application.

New Suffolk campaign urges drivers to switch their engines off and reduce idling

- A new campaign urging Suffolk's drivers to switch off their engines when parked has launched. The campaign against Idling particularly focuses on turning off engines outside schools to protect children's growing lungs from unnecessary pollution.
- Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of pollution because their height puts them closer to exhaust fumes, they breathe more rapidly than adults and so absorb more pollutants and because their developing organs are more easily damaged.
- Children living in highly polluted areas are four times more likely to have reduced lung function in adulthood, improving air quality for children has been shown to halt and reverse this effect.
- Research shows that idling engines produce up to twice the amount of exhaust emissions compared to when a vehicle is moving. In a survey carried out in Suffolk at the end of 2022, 35% of respondents said they never switch their engine off when parked or stationary.

Empowering Suffolk's Future: Have your say on proposed devolution deal for Suffolk

People across Suffolk are being asked for their views on a proposed, in principle, devolution deal that would hand Suffolk greater decision-making powers and control of more than half a billion pounds of public funding, following Suffolk County Council and the Government signing an in-principle deal to transfer certain powers and funding from London to Suffolk.

Residents and businesses can now share their views about important aspects of the deal, including:

- Control of a new investment fund worth £480m over the next thirty years
- Local control of the Adult Education Budget each year (worth £9.4m in 2025/26)
- £5.8m one-off funding to prepare brownfield sites for development
- Multi-year transport funding plus an additional £500,000 over two years to finalise Suffolk's Local Transport Plan.

If agreed, the proposed deal would also mean that, for the first time, the leader of Suffolk County Council would be directly elected by the people of Suffolk – rather than by county councillors. Once every four years, residents would vote to elect both their local county councillor (as they do now) and the leader of the county council.

Philip Faircloth-Mutton

April 2024

DRAFT

**SCC Report for April 2024 to Sudbury Town Council -
From Jessie Carter (SCC Councillor)**

Date: 12/04/2024

Email: jessie.carter@suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 07955 434411

Ballingdon Street

After a long wait the TRO change in Ballingdon street has been finalised and the double yellow lines have been removed outside of the old dairy.

SID Middleton Road

Funding for a SID along Middleton Road has been allocated, where it will replace a 30mph sign and will be able to catch traffic coming into and leaving Middleton Road.

Highways Members Portal

Highways have launch a new Members Portal, providing information on a range of highways topics to enable councillors to best serve your local community.

The portal has been in development by the new highways contractor, Milestone Infrastructure, since the start of the contract as part of its continued commitment to improving communications and customer experience.

Features of the portal include dashboards for the following highways areas:

- Reactive works ordered under the [Highways Maintenance Operational Plan](#)
- Cyclical works such as cyclical gully cleansing and verge cutting
- Planned schemes, including road resurfacing and footway works

The portal also provides links to important information, such as our social media channels and [One.Network](#) which gives up to date details of roadworks, including road closures, across Suffolk.

Energy Developments

At Council on 21 March, the council debated the impact of the various Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) planned for the county and voted that its strategic vision for the county would be to prioritise offshore rather than onshore coordination of schemes, undergrounding of cables rather than pylons, and protection of best quality agricultural land from solar development. NSIP energy projects are approved by the Secretary of State rather than local councils, which only act as statutory consultees. Councils can and do formally object or support proposed projects in the region, however, as East Suffolk have done with the recent Sea Link proposals affecting Friston and the nearby coast.

Libraries Consultation

On Tuesday 25 March, Cabinet reviewed the results of the recent consultation about the Suffolk library service, which is due to go out to procurement in the summer. Broadly, the members of the public who responded to the survey agreed with what libraries currently provided, including community and digital services, and the mobile library and home

library services for people who were housebound. Recent pop-up libraries in village halls did not score highly in the consultation and it is unlikely these will form part of the service in future. It is also likely that mobile libraries will run from smaller vehicles in future. The successful bidder for the new libraries contract is likely to be announced in November, with the new contract starting from June 2025.

New Suffolk Business Board

At Cabinet on Tuesday 25 March the future of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was discussed. Since 2012, government funding for economic growth in the county would awarded via the New Anglia LEP, but the government has recently ruled that LEPs must now be integrated into county councils. The New Anglia LEP was established by SCC and Norfolk County Council jointly, but it will be divided between the two. Suffolk County Council will be establishing a new Business Board made up of local business owners, representatives from councils and other organizations to take over LEP functions such as deciding how future government funding for growth should be used, to undertake mentoring of small businesses and building skills in the workforce. The council has been advertising for local business owners interested to be part of the new Board in the last few months, and the transition from the LEP to the new arrangements is due to complete in August 2024.

Update on SEND Investment

Cabinet on 27 February also reviewed the new £4.4m investment in SEND services at the council will be spent on how the new funding will be used to increase capacity and recruit to extra roles in the SEND service, particularly around clearing the backlog of EHCPs and annual reviews. Since the poor SEND inspection report was published, the council has worked with health to create a priority action plan which was submitted to Ofsted/CQC on 7 March. This plan addresses two priority actions from the report (working better together to improve systems and outcomes for children and young people, and to improve quality and timeliness of EHCPs and annual reviews) and three areas for improvement (using performance data and information to plan and commission SEND services, engaging and communicating with children, young people and their families to reduce dissatisfaction, and working with providers of services for social, emotional and mental health and neurodiverse conditions to improve outcomes in these areas for children with SEND).

There has also been a recent announcement that Suffolk County Council is set to receive an additional £10.9million to create new specialist school places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in the county.

You can read the priority action plan here: <https://www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk/asset-library/suffolk-priority-action-and-improvement-plan-final.pdf>

Water Management in Suffolk

At Scrutiny Committee we heard how despite the wet winter this year, East Anglia is considered a Serious Water Stressed Area by the Environment Agency. By 2050, the demand will be 2538Ml/d (mega litres per day) but the amount available will be only 1700Ml/d. This will affect water bill prices - and limit economic growth in the region, as although housing developments are always guaranteed a water supply, this is not the

case for commercial/industrial developments. The report included plans to preserve water or generate new supplies, including reducing water company leaks, two new reservoirs in South Lincolnshire and the Cambridgeshire fens, plus a small new reservoir in North Suffolk, and an increase in water transferred around the region. The councillors were very concerned about the likelihood of water becoming scarce in the county in the near future, especially as the public seemed unaware. They talked about how the profile of this issue could be raised to prevent people using too much water. It was noted that Essex and Suffolk Water had already declared a moratorium for new industrial/commercial connections to the supply in the Hartismere area of mid Suffolk.

Public Consultation on Suffolk Devolution

Following an extensive informal engagement period throughout January, February and early March, Suffolk County Council's formal consultation for the proposed Suffolk Devolution Deal was launched on 18 March. The consultation and associated materials have been informed by feedback received during the engagement sessions the council held with staff, local businesses, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organizations, county, district and borough and town and parish councillors. The public consultation will run for 10 weeks (closing on 26 May) and has been designed with the help of advice from the Consultation Institute. Once the consultation has completed, the analysed results will be presented in detail to Cabinet in summer 2024.

To read about the proposals and fill out the public consultation survey, please visit:
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution>

BABERGH DISTRICT REPORT – Cllr A Owen

Car parking overview and scrutiny

Members debated the item on the following issues.

- :•The equality impact assessment.
- Whether due consideration had been given to the rural setting of the District and the reliance on cars to travel
- ;•Sustainable travel goals.
- Provisions of a free parking period;
- Potential pre-determination from members of the Cabinet.
- The process followed when undertaking the car parking petition at Full Council in February 2024
- ;•The current budget deficit.
- Efforts to achieve full cost recovery.
- ;•Potential impact on local businesses and the high street.
- The overall reduction in proposed all-day tariffs.
- ;•Recognising the public as community stakeholders.
- Babergh's Parking Strategy 2022-42.

The Lead Officer for Overview and Scrutiny put forward the following recommendations based on questions and debate from Members:

- That the Director for Operations and Climate Change takes on board the comments made by the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- .•That Officers provide more detailed clarification on the amendments made to the information and proposals set out in the Cabinet report as a result of the consultation process
- .•That Officers be requested to set out in the report to Cabinet a proposed range of tariffs that include a free parking period of 1 hour and its associated costs
- .
- That Officers further explore with Suffolk County Council the possibility of introducing on-street resident parking permits across the District, that more information on this type of scheme be included in the report to Cabinet, and investigate implementing an appropriate policy.
- That Officers review whether a rebate system could be implemented in Hadleigh, Sudbury, and Lavenham in car parks serving doctors surgeries and medical centres.
- That the Director for Operations and Climate Change continues to consider and create shared value for residents by enhancing the councils offer for non-contact, long term

parking permits using intelligent parking control processes such that residents are recognised as community stakeholders

- .•That Officers include more information and context about the rural setting of the districts, the current reliance on car use to travel, and the accessible parking provisions needed to adequately meet this need
- .•That the Monitoring Officer be asked to investigate allegations of pre-determination raised by the Overview and Scrutiny committee in regard to members of the Cabinet
- .•That Officers give further consideration to the issues raised concerning school pick-ups and drop-off as well as carers and medical staff visiting patients.
- That Officers are encouraged to retain the cash and card system for paying parking permits to avoid moving to a cashless system
- .•That Cabinet are made aware of the committee's concerns regarding the process followed during the handling of the parking petition considered by full council on the 20th Feb

Results from Cabinet 8 April will follow.

Belle Vue Park Schedule

Electric upgrade to park (3 phase connection)-feb
Order units early **march**
Procure operator by end of **march**
Groundworks and demolition phase **may-June**
Deliver instal and connection -**June**

They are hoping to open by late **June/early July**

Mayor's Announcements for April Full Council

Early in March I attended the Suffolk Justice Service in Bury St Edmunds. Very proud to represent Sudbury at such a prestigious event.

Also early in March it was great to be interviewed on Radio Suffolk to talk about my time as Mayor of Sudbury.

ON the 22nd of March I chaired the Council's Annual Meeting. It was an extremely positive meeting with lots of smiles and happy people.

On the Saturday I had the honour unveiling the Memorial Plaque on the library in memory of our great and late Lord Andrew Philips.

On the same day I opened our 2024 Sudbury on Show. ST Peters was full to the brim and feedback from this event has been extremely positive.

Later in March I attended the AFC match between themselves and St Ives. Unfortunately they lost but it was a good match. However, my reason for being invited was to launch the Diabetes UK Awareness Event where people could go and chat to the Diabetes UK team or simply take away some leaflets. Awareness events such as this will help those living in the local community who have diabetes, know someone who has diabetes or are at risk of developing diabetes.

On the 24th March I attended the Suffolk Police Cadets Annual Parade, and to inspect the Sudbury Unit. Great to see so many young enthusiastic young people. Was also a double for me as our Granddaughter was on parade with the Woodbridge Unit.

On Good Friday I was privileged to start the Sudbury Fun Run. Great event with over five hundred contestants most of them stayed after the event to shop or have a coffee or lunch. Great for the economy and also for promoting health and wellbeing.

Straight after the run I speedily went to the Rowing Club to help them celebrate their 150th year and to also raise the flag for the start of their regatta season.

Also in March I attended the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert. It was a wonderful evening with fantastic music and St Peters was full.

At the end of March I was thrilled to invite representatives from my two chosen charities, The Kernos Centre and the Chritopher Centre, at which I presented them each with a cheque for £1000.00.

Last Sunday I attended Tea with the Mayor of Stowmarket. Great opportunity to network.

I have other events to attend during my Mayoral year, including:

- Ascension Day Gifts Ceremony
- Cattle Turning onto the water meadows Ceremony.
- Sudbury Choral Society Spring Concert
- Sudbury District Scouts St Georges Day Parade and Service.