

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, SUDBURY, ON TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.00PM**

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

Mr P Beer	Ms J Rawlinson
Mr N Bennett	Mr T Regester
Ms J Carter	Mr A Stohr
Mr S Hall	Mr A Welsh
Ms E Murphy	Mr N Younger
Mr A Osborne	

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

One member of the public was also present.

1 **APOLOGIES**

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

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

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

Councillors Mr and Mrs Osborne and Ms Carter declared an interest in item 8 (Finance Minutes item 7.5) and item 10.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

No declarations were received.

4 **REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

No requests for dispensation had been received.

5 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12th September 2023 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Town Clerk advised that the Belle Vue working group had met. Members would be briefed later in the agenda. The Cemetery gates had now been restored and re-hung.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7 REPORTS

a) Suffolk County Council (SCC) reports

County Councillor P Faircloth-Mutton started by offering his condolences to the families caught up in the conflict in Israel and the Gaza Strip.

A copy of County Councillor Faircloth-Mutton's report is shown at minute page 611. Members were also advised that:

- A grit bin for Landsdown Road has been approved. It was hoped a second one could be installed in Windermere Road.
- Suffolk County Council had agreed to refund the 2nd licence fee for the installation of the Christmas Lights.
- The traffic order for Churchfield Road was waiting to be signed off. This should be done by early November.

The following points were also raised:

- A member felt that the County Council hadn't confirmed its view on the proposal to make Harp Close Road one-way. Councillor Faircloth-Mutton advised that a consultation a few years ago to remove some parking along part of this road was objected by residents, therefore the County would not undertake a further consultation. As this road was not deemed high risk, any consultations, traffic management orders etc would need to be funded by the town Council.
- Drain cleaning in Girling Street had not been completed effectively as surface water was still apparent after heavy rain.

A copy of County Councillor Ms J Carter's report is shown at minute page 612. Councillor Carter summarised her report. No questions were asked.

RESOLVED

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

b) Babergh District Council (BDC) report – A copy of Councillor Ms J Carter's District Council report is shown at minute page 614. Councillor Carter summarised her report and thanked everyone who has been involved with the arrangement of the Moving Cinema visiting Sudbury.

The following points were also raised:

- Members asked that the Community Survey mentioned in Councillor Carter's report ought to also be available in paper form for residents to collect and complete.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ms Carter be thanked for her report.

- c) Policing report – The Town Clerk read a brief report from Inspector Hollands. A copy of this is shown at minute page 616.

The following points were also raised:

- That Inspector Hollands be asked to provide the location of crimes in the Town so that Councillors could advise their constituents to be cautious.
- That an increased physical police presence in town is requested again.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

- d) Mayor's Announcements – A list of the mayor's announcements is at pages 617. She thanked members for attending the Civic Service for which had received a lot of wonderful comments. Thanks also went to all those who attended the charity dinner. Just over £700 had been raised.

The mayor had also joined a meeting with James Cartlidge MP and various charities to discuss access to funding.

- e) Public Forum – There was one member of the public who attended the meeting and asked questions to the councillors.
- **The gentleman was concerned over possible proposals to build on part of the former Uplands Middle School site, especially regarding the loss of green space and parking. A consultation had been held at the end of August, however very few residents of the surrounding area were made aware of it. Councillor Carter advised that various options were being considered including module buildings to reduce construction traffic. Councillors Carter and Faircloth-Mutton were asked to investigate whether the consultation event could be held again, to ensure all residents were aware and could express their views.**

8 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Planning, Development & Highways on 11th September - The Chairman advised that the committee had recommended refusal of an application for 4 single dwellings and 5 two-storey dwellings at High Bank Cottage, off Melford Road. This was based on the holding objection from Suffolk County Council highways and that the bat mitigation measures would need to be enforced. The committee also recommended refusal of the development of 2 two storey dwellings in Landsdown Road. This was because two storey buildings did not fit with the street scene and would have a negative impact on the local amenity. The committee also recommended refusal of the application to fell a Copper Beech tree so as to

allow time to see if it could recover before any final decision to fell it. The committee did approve the renovation of a 'historical asset' into a B & B.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

Planning and Development on 25th September - The Chairman recommended noting the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

Policy and Resources on the 19th September - The Vice Chairman advised that members had begun to discuss the new business plan.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

Leisure and Environment on the 26th September – The Vice Chairman supported the request from a fellow councillor for the presentation on the Business Engagement and Data collection plan for Market Hill be forwarded onto all members.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

Finance on the 3rd October – The Chairman advised that most items would be discussed further down this agenda. He did point out that at the November meeting members would focus on the budget.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

9. WRITING OFF FIXED ASSETS

The Finance Committee recommended that full council agree to write off the items listed on page 618 to a total value of £247,400.32 from the fixed asset register.

RESOLVED

That the Full Council approve the write off of the items listed on page 618 to a total value of £247,400.32 from the fixed asset register.

10. GRANT AID

As the Chairman of the meeting had declared an interest in this item and, as the Vice Chairman was absent, the chairman of the finance committee, Councillor Bennett, chaired this item.

The finance committee recommended to full council that they approve a grant of £8,500 to Sudbury and District Citizens Advice, and to approve an overspend in the grants budget of £2,693.88 which will come from the general reserve.

RESOLVED

That, using the general power of competence under the Localism Act 2011, ss.1-8, members agreed to provide a grant of £8,500 to Sudbury and District Citizens Advice.

That members approved the overspend in the grants budget of £2,693.88 which will come from general reserve.

11. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Town Clerk advised that he had been working with Babergh District Council to rebalance the number of voters required to elect a town councillor in each local ward. The biggest discrepancies were in Sudbury South where 1,295 voters elected 3 councillors (435 voters per councillor) and Sudbury Southwest where 2,005 voters elected only 2 councillors (1,003 voters per councillor). The recommendation had been to change this to 2 councillors for Sudbury South and 3 councillors for Sudbury Southwest. This would give 648 and 668 voters per councillor respectively.

Babergh's Community Governance Review working group had accepted these changes and recommended that they come into effect for the elections in 2027. There would be no change to those members currently elected. A report detailing the changes and recommendations will be presented to the full Babergh District Council for their approval in late October.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk's report is noted.

12. SALC CLIMATE FORUM

Suffolk Association of Local Councils had arranged an online Climate forum to take place in January 2024.

Members were requested to name two councillors to attend.

RESOLVED

That Councillors J Carter and T Register attend the online climate forum.

13. FLORAL CONTRACT

The Town Centre Manager had presented the Leisure and Environment Committee with three options for the floral schedule, two of which had been de-scoped to fit within the current budget of £20,600. A copy of the schedule is shown at minute page 619. Members discussed the relative merits of the different types of floral display and the balance between beds on the roundabouts outside town and the planters and troughs in the town centre. With a fixed budget, a choice had to be made as to which types of floral display had the greatest impact on the quality of life in Sudbury.

RESOLVED

That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.144, members approve expenditure of up to £20,600 excluding VAT per annum on option 2 for the floral schedule. This will be contracted for the next 3-year period.

14. CEMETERY FENCE

At the Leisure and Environment meeting in July, members discussed problems with the hedge surrounding the cemetery. This had been cut back to its correct size and tidied up.

This identified that the 125-metre-long stretch that ran parallel with a public footpath and the 'new cemetery' had been badly damaged by ivy and debris from the pine trees. Once the damaged areas were cleared, large gaps were left in the hedge enabling people to enter the cemetery.

The damaged sections of the hedge would be cut back in early the autumn so that it was ready for the new fence to be installed. The new fence would then protect the re-growth of new hedge in the gaps from saplings. Detailed costings are shown at minute page 620.

RESOLVED

That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.214(2), members approve expenditure of £9,595 excluding VAT on the new fence in the cemetery. The Cemetery EMR 362 had £5,100 allocated for fencing repairs, the additional £4,495 would be offset from cemetery income. Any shortfall would come from neighbourhood CIL or the general reserve.

15. CEMETERY GATES

Members were requested to approve payment of an invoice for £5,400 excluding VAT to Mr G Locke for the refurbishment of the cemetery gates. This was £800 greater than the amount approved by the Leisure and Environment Committee in May 2022 as significant additional damage had been identified once the paint had been stripped off. These gates had now been re-installed on the re-built brick pier.

RESOLVED

That, under the power of the Local Government Act 1972, s.214(2), members approve the payment of the Geoff Lock Ironwork invoice for £5,400 excluding VAT.

Members approved to extend the council meeting by 15 minutes to finish by 9:15pm.

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 16 as the publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

16. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members approved to extend the council meeting by a further 5 minutes to finish by 9:20pm.

RESOLVED

That the private and confidential report shown at minute page 621 be noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.19 pm

Chairman.....

