

## **Southwold Town Council notes – from meeting held in January 2016**

*These notes are not a substitute for the report of the Meeting that will be published in due course, as a basis for the adoption of formal minutes.*

### Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016

- Simon Tobin presented the Community Emergency Action Plan and advised that the Plan is presently being updated. The revised Plan will be presented to the Town Council within the next 2 months.
- Police Report was received for the period from 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016. There had been 16 reports of crimes covering Southwold and Reydon including: 4 public order offences, 4 burglaries including 1 dwelling burglary, 4 assaults including 1 against a police officer, 2 thefts including 1 from a retail premises, 2 criminal damage offences including 1 against a vehicle.
- The police report advised that the Suffolk Strategic Policing Review will become effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and that there will no longer be any personal attendance by Safer Neighbourhood Teams at town or parish council meetings. However councils and the public can access crime data information via the Police UK website at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).
- The police report confirms that after much lobbying from town and parish councils, including Southwold Town Council, Suffolk Police Authority has agreed that a decision regarding match funded PCSOs will be deferred to April 2017. This will enable existing match funders, including Southwold Town Council to fund a local post for a further 12 months should they wish to do so.
- WDC Cllr Ladd gave an update on the consultation about the WDC potential divestment of public conveniences. Members felt that the public conveniences in Southwold should not be closed, and that there should be discussions with WDC to try and ensure that the toilets will remain open. All present confirmed that it was important to keep the toilets open throughout the town.
- SCC Councillor Ladd gave an update on the budget position of SCC advising that the Government have stopped handouts to County and District councils and that budget cuts will therefore need to be more severe than originally considered.
- WDC Cllr Allen advised that the WDC budget for 2016/17 had not yet been signed off as there was approx. a further £400,000 of cuts required to the budget.
- A member of the public expressed their disappointment that the banning of fishing at the harbour is being enforced rigorously. A member of the public also spoke about the Agenda item concerning the annual precept, giving reasons why the precept should remain at £nil.
- Several members of the public thanked the Town Council for ensuring that the hospital site had been listed as an Asset of Community Value. Members of the public suggested that the site could be used for community initiatives such as a community kitchen, community library, and additional space for other community organisations and groups.
- Following the public session, the Town Council discussed further the listing of the hospital site. It was explained to members that should the proprietor wish to sell the site, notification would initially be made to WDC who would then notify STC. There would then be a period of 6 months for any community organisation to develop a business plan/feasibility study and put in an actual bid. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire would include questions about community assets and seek public opinion as to the best use of these.
- Council discussed the budget for 2016/17. A majority of Council agreed that a net deficit budget would need to be set for 2016/17.
- Council discussed the annual precept for Southwold for 2016/17. A majority of the Council agreed that a precept of £120,000 should be set for the financial year 2016/17. For full details of the reasons for the precept and its implications please see Southwold Town Council website on [www.southwoldtown.com](http://www.southwoldtown.com).
- The report from the Planning Committee was presented to members. The report noted the remarks of the Town Council in relation to the planning application of the previous Service Station Site on Station Road. Full details of the Town Council's response to this planning application is available to view on [www.southwoldtown.com](http://www.southwoldtown.com).
- An update on the Neighbourhood Plan was provided. A questionnaire is being drawn up which will be hand delivered to every household in Southwold to complete and return, and it is expected that this will be drawn up within the next 2 months.
- A report was provided to members about an informal meeting that had been held with Reydon PC to consider planning matters of joint interest.
- Councillors considered the harbour byelaws in relation to the public comment about fishing at the harbour. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Chief Executive of WDC to seek clarity on the situation regarding fishing at the harbour.
- Agenda items regarding the WDC Local Lettings Policy and the CCTV camera at Might's Bridge were deferred to a future meeting.
- The Mayor detailed the events that she had attended since the previous meeting which had included; Carol Concert at St Edmund's Church, Match funded PCSO meeting with Suffolk Constabulary, Southwold and Reydon Society meeting regarding entrance to town. Future Mayoral engagements include: Reydon & Southwold Pantomime, Lions Club Annual Charter Celebrations, Evensong at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.
- Council had been provided with correspondence confirming that the Aviva Women's Cycling Tour 2016 would be travelling through Suffolk and Norfolk on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and that Waveney will be the only district in Suffolk to welcome the riders on this first day of the tour.

**Mrs Lesley Beevor, Town Clerk, Southwold Town Council**