

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Southwold, at 8.00pm on Tuesday 26th November 2013.

PRESENT: Councillor S J Tobin (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
“ Mrs S Allen
“ Mrs T E Baggott
“ Miss E A Betts
“ I R Bradbury
“ Mrs S M Doy
“ Mrs K P Flodin
“ M Ladd
“ R D Temple
“ J A Windell
“ J R Winter

Also attending: 2 media representatives, Mayors of Bungay Town Council and Beccles Town Council, Chair of Halesworth Town Council, 1 Councillor Beccles Town Council, 6 members of the public, PCSO Irvine.

BUSINESS

1. **Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tucker
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
 - a) *To receive any declarations of Personal Interest regarding the agenda.*
Cllr Doy declared a personal interest in item 5(a) and (b) Planning.
Cllr Allen declared a personal interest in item 5(a) and (b) Planning.
 - b) *To receive any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.*
There were no declarations.
 - c) *To note the decision of the Town clerk regarding requests for dispensations relating to this agenda.*
Not applicable.
 - d) *Councillors to be reminded of the requirement for them to individually update their Register of Interests as appropriate.* Noted.
3. **Minutes:** (i) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 29th October 2013 were confirmed and signed.
4. **Standing Orders:** It was proposed, seconded and,

RESOLVED: That Standing Orders be suspended for the consideration of the following item.

- (a) **To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor M Ladd:**
Cllr Ladd reported that Suffolk County Council has a budget gap of £156m to fill over the next 4 years. The first phase will be to have a public consultation to establish priorities. To date 4000 people have been surveyed and 750 responses

have been returned. MORI are completing the survey on behalf of SCC and are looking for at least 1100 responses.

The second phase will be for SCC to engage with Town and parish councils.

Cllr Ladd advised that the fencing along the A12 by Minsmere is of a temporary nature to protect birds.

Questions for Cllr Ladd: Cllr Ladd was asked how long the fencing would be around the fire station site – Cllr Ladd advised that the fire station will be demolished next year.

(b) **To receive a report from Waveney District Councillors:**

Cllr Allen advised that Ladies Walk is on schedule. Thanks were extended to the contractors for the way in which they are carrying out this work. Disruption has been minimal and the contractors are engaging with the local community.

Cllr Allen advised that people are not presently using the car park at the Harbour – the Harbour Users have put in some suggestions to WDC to encourage people to park there.

Cllr Allen advised that WDC has virtually completed its review of the budget to make the amount of savings required.

Questions for Cllr Allen – Cllr Doy commended the contractors at Ladies Walk for the works to date. Letter to be sent to David Gallagher WDC accordingly.

(c) **To receive a report from the police representative:**

PCSO Irvine advised that there had been 13 crimes since the last meeting (8 last year for the same period). The majority of the incidents relate to break ins at Beach Huts. The Beach Hut Users Association will provide the police with a list of current owners. Copy of police report attached to main minutes.

Questions to the Police:

There were no questions to the Police.

(d) **To receive comments from Southwold electors:**

A resident asked about the Tourist Information Centre, as a Change of Use planning application had been submitted for the building. Council were advised that the Southwold and Reydon Society had declined the application due to the Change of Use request to A1.

Cllr Ladd responded that he had been in discussion with the TIC for 6 months regarding possible alternative accommodation.

Meeting reopened

5. **To receive reports from Committees:**

a) *To receive the written report and recommendations of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on Tuesday 29th October 2013.*
Cllr Windell provided the written report which was accepted by all.

b) *To receive the written report and recommendations of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on Tuesday 12th November 2013.*
Cllr Windell provided the written report which was accepted by all.

6. **To receive reports from Working Groups:**

a) *To receive the written report from the meeting dated 15th November held in relation to Neighbourhood Planning.*

Working paper had been provided to councillors. Area Designation to be considered at the Town Council meeting on 10th December.

b) *To receive a verbal report from the Joint Harbour Working Group members.*
Cllr Windell advised that meetings have been scheduled into 2014. The working group is hopeful of receiving financial information in the near future.

A joint statement from the joint working group was read to the meeting.

Terms of Reference – it was suggested that at some stage the terms of Reference for the Working group may need to be revisited.

c) *To receive report and recommendations from Highways, Footpaths and Police Working group meeting dated 7th November 2013.*

Cllr Tobin presented the report as provided to councillors.

Recommendations:

Other Matters - It is recommended that the Leisure and Environment Working Group, together with Cllr Bradbury, look into the cost and placement of fingerpost signage around the town

It was RESOLVED by all to approve the recommendations of the working group as above.

7. **To receive update from Town Mayor of events attended/ matters to report including;**

Formal handover of the Town Plan – 31st October 2013

East Coast Hospice Land Opening – 8th November 2013

Southwold Allotment Holders' Association AGM – 13th November 2013

Southwold & Reydon Society Lunch – 14th November 2013

Official Opening of Reydon & Southwold Fire Station – 18th November 2013

Halesworth Campus Introduction – 19th November 2013

St Edmunds Day Service – 21st November 2013

Forthcoming Events:

Christmas Lights Switch On – 6th December 2013

WDC Christmas Carol Service – 15th December 2013

8. **Mayoral Civic Charity/Organisations**

Southwold Sailors Reading Room

Southwold and Reydon Corps of Drums

9. **To receive reports from the Town Council representatives on other bodies/organisations, of meetings attended:**

a) *Town Plan Steering Group –Town council* –Cllr Windell thanked the steering group for the formal receipt of the Plan. Several of the issues highlighted have been distributed to the relevant working groups to consider, and the whole council will consider the document once councillors have had the chance to study the report and recommendations.

Cllr Allen advised that she had referred to the Town Plan at a recent LDF meeting.

- b) *Christmas Lights Event* – Cllr Ladd advised that over 30 shops/ hotels will be open on the evening.
Thanks were extended to Adnams, Chamber of Trade, and STC amongst others for assisting with the event – letters of thank you to be sent.
Cllr Ladd advised that no formal separate accounts were kept of the event as it was being financially supported by Adnams with extra assistance by donations from other members of the community.

10. **Camp Site, Ferry Road** – To receive written report from meeting dated 6th November 2013 regarding land referred to by STC as ‘Camp Site, Ferry Road’.
It was agreed by all to note the Report as circulated.

10. **Financial Matters**

- a) To receive the Accounts for Payment for November 2013 (*circulated to members*).
It was RESOLVED by all to approve the Accounts for Payment for November 2013.
- b) To confirm the Budget for 2014/15 – (*as already received by members*).
It was RESOLVED by all to approve the Budget for 2014/15 as circulated to members.

11. **Correspondence:** to note the items as detailed in the general correspondence file together with;
- a) Details of Town Council meeting dates 2014 (*as circulated*)
b) Details of Town Council Councillor Surgery dates 2014 (*as circulated*)
c) Sizewell Stakeholders Group – (*correspondence already circulated to members*).
d) Letter from Southwold Arts Festival - requests to be considered by Leisure and Environment working group as per previous minutes.

12. **Urgent Business:** to act upon any matter of a non-financial urgency, within the meaning of the Standing Orders, which may be brought to the attention of the Town Council with the consent of the Town Mayor previously obtained.
- a) *Police and Crime Commissioner* Tim Passmore will be holding a police drop in surgery for councillors on Wednesday 27th Nov from 2pm – 3pm at the Town Hall.
b) *RDC* – Cllr Temple advised that the intention is for the RDC to split into 2 charities – one for Reydon and one for Southwold. Southwold will retain the existing entity for the William Goddell pavilion. Cllr Temple is likely to be the Chair of the Southwold charity.

13. **Exclusion of Public and Press:** Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following;

- a) To receive the confidential minutes of the Southwold Town Council meeting of 29th October 2013.
It was RESOLVED by all to approve the confidential minutes of 29.10.13

b) To receive the confidential report and recommendations of the Landlords Working Group meeting of 12th November 2013 including subsequent report.
It was RESOLVED to approve the recommendations numbered 7) and 6) in the report.
It was RESOLVED to refuse the recommendation numbered 5) in the report.
Further information was requested re recommendation 3) in the report.

c) To receive a confidential verbal report from the Harbour Working Group.
Information received.

14. **To confirm date of next Town Council Meeting:** Tuesday 10th December 2013

_____ TOWN MAYOR 10th December 2013