

SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Soham Town Council held at the Pavilion, Soham, on Monday 11 June 2018.

Present: Councillor Aitchison (Chairman), P Lane, C Palmer, G Fisher, D Woricker, G Ginn, T Hinsley, H Ross and Mesdames C Horman, E Johnston & A Pallett

In Attendance District Cllrs C Sennitt, I Bovingdon, D Schumann; County Cllr P Raynes

95/18

PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Inspector Paul Rogerson, Southern Partnerships Manager Cambridgeshire Constabulary, made his introduction to those present and noted his intention to attend the next Full Council Meeting (July 2018) to discuss the current strategy regarding local policing policy both for the District and specifically for the town of Soham. Insp. Rogerson stated his hope that he will be able to engage with residents via an open consultation event (tba) on local (policing) matters but at the meeting did indicate that the recent restructuring of the service had made it possible for 100 more Officers to be made available within the area.

A resident made representation regarding the Eastern Gateway Development project noting that Officers (employees) of Cambridge County Council (CCC) act in the capacity of Board members on This Land Ltd. The resident also noted that one of those appointees had recently resigned their position as consequence of them leaving their employment with CCC. The resident went on to indicate that the town council minutes from the previous meeting seemed to suggest that as yet This Land Ltd had not made /appeared reticent to make formal contact/meeting with Soham Town Council in regards to its land (allotments) holding within this development allocation. County Cllr Raynes responded that the company's (sole) shareholder was indeed CCC and appointments of Officers (Finance & Legal) to the Board of Directors to This Land Ltd was to protect it and consequently the ratepayer. County Cllr Raynes indicated that recruitment for a replacement both within CCC and to the Board of Directors was being actively pursued.

The resident then probed those District Cllrs present for comment on the recent legal challenge and subsequent overturn at Appeal by the Developers for 100 dwelling development at Fordham and the impact of the Inspector's summation that the Districts' 5 year land supply and therefore the validity of its Local Plan (now in its examination stage 1) was deficient/questionable. The resident further cited the recent refusal by its own (ECDC) Planning Committee, and despite the recommendations from its Planning Officers' recommendation to approve, the Blackberry Lane development in Soham (circa 160 houses, 103/18). Although the resident was pleased that such action appears to now be being now taken given the overdevelopment and housing spread taking place and proposed in Soham, her concern was to the likelihood that these Developers would too challenge and subsequently win approval on Appeal. Cllr Bovington responded that he was disturbed by the Planning Committee's decision to refuse this (or any) developments that had

been identified in the Local Plan that would further undermine the validity of the Districts Local Plan (and 5 year land supply) and would be seeking investigation into the matter.

A resident made representation regarding the possibility of setting up a Soham community (led) radio service. Having recently moved to the area the resident had already made contact with the Neighbourhood Cares Team who suggested approaching the Town Council for further (direct) support. The resident anticipates that the proposed service would engage with and be inclusive of programme and content for all age groups (demographics) interests experiences and musical tastes. Cllr Aitchison queried what resource requirements would be needed which appeared initially to be access to (free) accommodation where a physical music library could be housed/archived/set up. Cllrs Aitchison and Johnston suggested the resident contact Dr Carin Taylor, Executive Head of The Staploe Education Trust with Cllr Johnston indicating that she would contact Dr Taylor on behalf of the resident to establish community interest and involvement of the students.

96/18

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

CCllr Raynes provided a summary of County Council activities and having noting his previous extensive report regarding ongoing matters made highlight on only the following matters:

- **Fire (and rescue Service) Authority.** The Fire Authority has decided to mount a legal challenge to the proposal that this service should fall under the authority of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire.
- **CCC Highways.** County Cllr Raynes noted the advance advisory that the Isleham -Prickwillow Road through will be closed for 2-3 weeks in August to enable it to be completely rebuilt and that he anticipates that those affected businesses and residents will be contacted.

Cllr Aitchison then invited DCllr Sennitt to provide a summary of District Council activities. Reading from notes DCllr Sennitt reported the following:

- **(Soham) Day Centre:** DCllr Sennitt indicated £420 has been recently raised by providing teas and coffees at the recent Carnival and it is hoped that more funds might be raised at the upcoming RBL (Soham branch) car boot sale in June (recreation ground) and that these monies will go towards the necessary public liability insurance for the proposed group. DCllr Sennitt noted she is liaising with Millbrooke management team regarding providing suitable accommodation for a day centre and that this project is progressing well.
- **Sports & Leisure Facilities:** It is clear to DCllrs that with the opening of the new Hive leisure facility in Ely Soham resident have access to relatively poor levels of sports and leisure facilities. Consequently the DCllrs are actively seeking solutions to this issue with stakeholders and interested Parties including the town council.
- **Local Policing:** DCllrs have raised serious concerns regarding the level of attendance/presence and service provided by the Police to Soham via a number of email exchanges with the Crime Commissioner for this area (95/18).
- **Soham Village College:** DCllr Sennitt informed those present that DCllr Goldsack had been in discussion with the Principal at SVC regarding the

college's recent planning application to fence off and thereby restrict public access to their school field, mainly as consequence of dog walkers not picking up their after their dogs (dog fouling issues).

- **Soham High St /Street scene:** There is currently a district-wide consultation on introducing a public space protection order (PSPO) for dog fouling on all public land. Town Cllrs noted this initiative but without effective (policing) enforcement it would be of little practical value. DCllr Sennitt is looking at a litter & recycling strategy with other DCllrs which will generate a (simple) flow chart on the ECDC website regarding how and who to report resident concerns regarding bin emptying/cleansing/flytipping issues in the area.

97/18

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

NOTED apologies were received from Cllrs Warner & Chapman.
NOTED Cllr Woodbridge was recorded as absent.

98/18

CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR UPDATES

After some debate primarily centring on a date and time clash of the meetings with the England vs Tunisia match (FIFA World Cup 2018) the Chairman confirmed that the next Cemetery & Allotment (C&A) and Community Amenities (CA) Committee meetings would take place Monday 18 June 2018 at 7pm and 7:45pm respectively (Pavilion). Prior to the meetings and at 6pm C&A members would undertake their annual walk-about at the cemetery Fordham Rd (weather permitting).

The Chairman noted that the next Planning Committee meeting would be held on Wednesday 27 June 1pm at the Pavilion.

Cllr Aitchison noted that earlier in the afternoon she had presented former Cllr Peggy Gibbon with a Pride of Soham Award under her her Chairman's discretion (103/18)

99/18

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NOTED Cllrs Fisher & Ross declared disclosable interests (DPI) to 111/18 (Eastern Gateway Development).

With no dispensations applied for or agreed with the Proper Officer prior to the meeting it remained the responsibility of each Cllr who had declared DPI's¹ and where items were known to be discussed would act to recuse themselves prior to debate of those items and matters.

100/18

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2018

RESOLVED and APPROVED that the minutes of the meeting on the 14 May 2018 as printed and attached to these minutes were a true record of proceedings which were duly signed by the Chairman.

101/18

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

The Shade Common (84/18)

¹ Failure to comply with the rules is a criminal offence and may be punished by a fine of up to £5,000 and/or disqualification for up to 5 years.

NOTED & APPROVED no further action can be taken currently on pursuing possibility of re-registration any land element of the Shade common until the Commons Act 2006 comes into force (transposed) in Cambridge (Cambridgeshire Registration Authority (CRA) is currently not one of the 9 pioneer areas currently operating under this Statute, which repeals and replaces the previous Commons Registration Act 1965)

NOTED Clerk has applied to NALC Legal for an opinion concerning a potential complaint of maladministration to the purchase of the Shade common by CCC.

New Play Equipment (90/18)

NOTED Official opening for this play area will be held Saturday 16 June at 10:30am.

NOTED with DISSAPOINTMENT that vandalism damage has already been caused to the new play equipment and to the surrounding area (zip wire).

Planning (PL39/18)

(17/00893/FUM Blackberry Lane Development)

NOTED Chairman of committee, Cllr Pallett was in attendance at the District Council's Planning meeting and considered their assessment in refusing the current design as being reasonable given the overdevelopment (increased) number of houses, noise from A142 (see comments above 95/18)

102/18

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following committees as printed and recommendations contained, unless otherwise specified under matters arising (below) be adopted.

Finance & Policy	-	14 May 2018
Planning	-	30 May 2018

103/18

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

NOTED and RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVED Cllr Aitchison's decision under Chairman's discretion with presenting a Pride in Soham Award to former Cllr Gibbon for her long service unpaid contribution to the town council and community of Soham since 1991 (and before that that of note of her husband Derek as Clerk to the town council).

NOTED Cllr Aitchison read out the nomination particulars provided by Cllr Woodbridge in a previous email to the Office (as distributed to the Finance & Policy Committee, Cllr Woodbridge not in attendance at meeting to present).

NOTED Finance & Policy Committee's recommendation to award Pride of Soham to nominee.

NOTED wording as previously approved by Finance & Policy Committee at the previous meeting for consideration.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY under such considerations to decline to award Mr Callum Jessiman a Pride in Soham Award.

APPROVED draft Grant Award Policy to be implemented with immediate effect (109/18).

APPROVED Health & Safety Manual Policy to be implemented with immediate effect

- 104/18 TOWN COUNCIL MATTERS
NOTED vacancy arising upon former Cllr Peggy Gibbon's retirement which may now (after 5pm 6th June 2018) be filled by the process of co-option
NOTED where the vacancy remains unfilled prospective candidates should make written representation to the Clerk by end of each month to enable candidates (names and addresses) to be listed on the next full council agenda for them to be interviewed at the following full council monthly meeting (applications by way of letter/CV indicating qualifications/any transferable skills for the attention of the Clerk).
- 105/18 PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS MADE IN MAY & STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31ST MAY 2018
NOTED the agent, Cheffins Ltd taking over in regards to commons management effective 1st July 2018 until further notice attended a Commons Management course organised by the Office (to be reimbursed).
APPROVED schedule of payments to 31st May 2018 totalling £32456.60 (inc. vat) respectively and as attached to the council minutes as appendices.
NOTED & APPROVED changes to monthly budgetary income and expenditure accounts (for Cllr review at meeting).
- 106/18 AUDIT COMMISSION ANNUAL RETURN (AGAR) FORM FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2018.
i) APPROVED Independent Internal Auditors (IIA) report (financial review) performed by Mr Trevor Bowd and in light of his report:
RECONFIRMED APPROVAL to para 2 and 6 Section 1 of annual return.
ii) APPROVED income and expenditure, balances carried forward and assessment of asset (values) figures (1-9) in Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement for Soham Town Council for the year ending 31 March 2018.
iii) NOTED Annual financial review prepared by RFO
iv) CONFIRMED receipt of new Independent Internal Auditors (IIA- Canalbs Ltd) interim 6 month report (highlighting policy & procedure matters) and
CONFIRMED annual appointment of Canalbs Ltd as IIA to Soham Town Council for 2018- 2019 (year ending 31 March 2019)
- 107/18 CORRESPONDENCE – TO BE NOTED UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED (*italicised Bold*) IN THE MINUTES.
NOTED CCC Application Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Bay, Weatheralls Close, Soham
NOTED Choosing Party for the next season of 'The Library Presents....Arts Alive' – Soham Library & the upcoming Soham Library Engagement 11th June 2018 commencing 6:30pm
NOTED Cllrs had opportunity to provide comments by email (event coincides with the council meeting)
NOTED CCC Highway Events diary - May 2018

NOTED TTRO APPLICATION Electrical installation 39 Clay Street, Soham (8-14th August 2018)

NOTED TTRO APPLICATION Electrical installation 56-78 Centre Road, Soham (4-8 June 2018)

NOTED CCC Roadworks & Events Bulletin 16th - 31st May 2018

NOTED TTRO 18/385 – Water connection 14-18 Churchgate Street, Soham (3 June 2nd December)

NOTED East Cambridgeshire Local Plan Examination - Hearing Statements Deadline 23rd May 2018

NOTED with continued thanks to Cllrs Aitchison, Warner, Johnston and resident Mrs Janet Metcalfe who will attend and make representation on local plan matters on behalf of the town council

NOTED ECDC Planning Validation update

NOTED Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan Preliminary Draft Consultation - 16 May 2018 to 26 June 2018

NOTED CCC-Local Highway Improvement funding 2019/20 application deadline 31st July 2018

NOTED summary report from County Cllr Raynes regarding resident representations and approaches for potential highway improvements (with estimated costs)

NOTED letters of support (parenthesis) received by Office in respect of

- speed reduction measures to Barcham Road (10)***
- speed reduction measures to Hasse Road (1)***
- speed reduction measures to PTA The Shade School for Kingfisher Road (0)***
- Extending the 20mph zone on Townsend/Hall Street (0)***
- Highway measures to highlight presence of overhead weighbridge (sp?) Fountain Public House (1)***
- Additional street lamp (Broad Piece-Cllr Pallett***

APPROVED residents should spearhead all applications/ bids under this (minor highways) Scheme including application forms and data generation in support of their requests.

NOTED in reference to overhead weighbridge issues County Cllr Raynes indicated that a resolution for this issue was in hand by CCC Highways.

APPROVED matters to be considered by upcoming Committee meetings for any recommendations for funding by the town council to be brought to its next (July) full council meeting

NOTED and APPROVED PREFERENCE for double yellow lines to not be on the opposite side of Ten Bell Lane for the current MHI bid (speed reduction measures Pratt St Ten Bell Lane) BUT

CONFIRMED that any decision regarding the placement of yellow lines in and around this junction should be primarily by the residents affected and those more knowledgeable in traffic management issues.

NOTED Publication of Fordham Neighbourhood Plan
 NOTED Volunteer Opportunity (service user forum) CPFT
 NOTED Update from Lloyds Banking Group (Closure branch Soham High Street)
APPROVED Clerk to write letter to Lloyds Bank PLC stating Town Council's disappointment regarding closures which detrimentally affect viability of market towns such as Soham
 NOTED Orchards East Heritage Lottery Fund project
 NOTED TTRO New amenity connection works 29-49 Clay St 8 August 2018-7 February 2018.
 NOTED CCC Roadworks & Events Bulletin 1st - 15th June 2018
 NOTED CCC Highway Events Diary - June 2018
 NOTED Neighbourhood Cares Wed 6 June | 12 - 1.30pm | Community Lunch and much more
 NOTED Update from CCG Governing Body 24 May and CCG Accountable Officer Role
 NOTED Open letter CBwin (lobbying group) IMPORTANT New information re. Amey giant Cambridge incinerator for your councillors
NOTED introduction of a large scale incinerator plant will have some (detrimental) effect on the air (pollution) and soil quality (land contamination) in the area of Soham
NOTED Cllr Horman as delegated lead Cllr in this matter will keep Town Council updated with any further reports
NOTED Cllr Hormans assessment that currently information coming from this group appears more of an emotional content than providing actual facts and figures on which to base rational assessment and decision.

108/18	<u>MONTHLY PAPERS/BIBIOGRAPHY/PERIODICAL/BULLETINS (LIST TO APPEAR IN MINUTES ONLY-COPIES DISPOSED OF 3 MONTHS POST LISTING IN MINUTES)</u>	
	ECDC Chairman's Chat	weekly email communication circulated to town Cllrs
	LAPU	Landscape & amenity product Update (June 2018)
	Andrezieux-Boutheon	- No 218 May 2018 & June 2018
	Clerks & Councils Direct	-May 2018 Issue 117
	The Clerk Magazine	- May 2018 vol 49 no 3

At 9:12pm The Chairman under a Notice of Exclusion instructed the Public and Press to withdraw to consider and make decision (Approvals) under min 109/18 Request for financial support and min 110/18 Commons Management 2018

109/18	<u>REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Pos+Ability (Stroke Rehabilitation group) –s137.</u>
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NOTED that grant applications now require submission of information from the Requester that may be of a personal, sensitive and/or commercial nature and as consequence:

APPROVED that whilst outcomes will continue to be reported in the official record (minutes) where commercially sensitive and or personal information is provided, discussions concerning decisions to award financial support will proceed with exclusion of the Public and Press

NOTED Finance & Policy's committee's previous decision not to provide further (financial) support to this group given they benefit by 50% reduction in Pavilion hire costs which also includes free storage facilities which is not offered to other groups.

NOTED Finance & Policy members suggestion of some level of support under s137 power.

APPROVED not to provide further financial support to this community group as application indicated that few Soham residents attend the group currently.

110/18 COMMONS MANAGEMENT 2018 – CONTRACT

APPROVED Clerk to issue a letter of support to the solicitor acting in regards Right of long use (easement by prescription) over Broad Piece Common (CL 31 currently this common has been included in the negotiations).

NOTED Cllr Ross's request for Qua & East Fen Common to be topped prior to transfer of management activities to Cheffins Ltd (effective 1st July 2018).

At 9:35pm having declared a DPI to min 111/18 Eastern Gateway Cllrs Ross and Fisher left the meeting

111/18 EASTERN GATEWAY – LANDOWNER AGREEMENT

ACKNOWLEDGED letter and content including request for privacy² received from Savills PLC acting as land agent to Soham Town Council in land sale.

APPROVED letter be issued to Rebecca Saunt (ECDC Planning Manager)

112/18 AMBULANCE STATION – SALE

NOTED there were no updates to report to those recorded in previous minutes

113/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 9 July 2018 7.15pm

² Exempt for public disclosure under FOI letter and content provided to Cllr members under Cllr privilege