

## SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Soham Town Council held at the Pavilion, Soham, on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Present: C Warner (Chairman), G Dyer, P Lane, D Woricker, & Mesdames R Aitchison,, E Johnston & A Pallett

In Attendance County Cllr Mark Goldsack, District Cllrs V Charlesworth, I Bovingdon & A Jones.

72/19 PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

There were no requests or representations made by members of the public on matters or to any items listed on the agenda.

73/19 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

CCllr Goldsack updated those present on Cambridgeshire County Council related matters affecting Soham and/or more generally namely:

- Road re-lining High St. CCllr Goldsack indicated that the previously approved 'patch and repair' works had, after those queries and comments from the Clerk at the recent town (residents) meeting, now to been reviewed and he was happy to report they have been revised in upgrade to full redress/ relining repair from Sand St commencing at Tanners Lane and continuing onto the High St. Cllr Goldsack noted that there is currently no start date for these works but has been assured that when it does take place it will be a thorough and comprehensive re-lining exercise. CCllr Goldsack noted his intention to keep the membership informed/updated on this matter via the Clerk's Office.
- Road (traffic) highway review. CCC Highways will be reviewing traffic flow on Clay Street / Gardeners Lane / Station Road / Mereside & Fountain Lane in terms of general congestion and in relation to heavy load/wide traffic flow and better town-wide management. Members agreed this review would be most welcome but should not be limited to traffic numbers and to flow but include data regarding air quality, noise pollution as well as vibrational and structural (seismic) damage to nearby roadside properties. CCllr Goldsack requested that residents should contact him with their input and concerns as well as suggestions for improving managing or solving aspects of traffic flow volume and congestion (parking) issues on affected roads.
- CCC's 'report a fault' web page. CCllr Goldsack reminded all residents & councillors that any highways fault needs to be reported on the CCC website under 'report that fault' which is not solely for pothole issues but for other road and public thoroughfare matters such as overgrown verges, obstructions on footpaths etc. CCllr Goldsack stated that unless these issues are reported correctly to CCC and a logged reference number is generated it is impossible for him to chase on the specific issues with the relevant Dept/Officer.

- Man-Shed & Nellie the Tuk-Tuk. CCllr Goldsack thanked the Chairman for attending the opening of the Man-Shed initiative on Saturday and was pleased to report that 'Nellie the Tuk-Tuk' had, following a successful campaign to raise £4K, been purchased and was now being operated by volunteers in the town. CCllr Goldsack indicated that more drivers/volunteers were needed to provide an effective town-wide service to residents. The Clerk questioned whether Nellie was fitted with doors as some elderly residents had raised safety (and comfort) concerns. CCllr Goldsack indicated that there were no passenger (retaining) doors on the vehicle.
- Local Highways Improvement (LHI 2019)-.CCllr Goldsack updated members on the status of the successful bid by The Shade Primary School for road/speed reduction measures/island crossing/repainting of double yellow lines at Kingfisher and he thanked Soham Town Council for its financial contribution to enable this project to proceed.

The Chairman thanked CCllr Goldsack for his attendance and invited District Cllr Jones to present his report on East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) matters affecting Soham or more generally namely:

- ECDC Planning Committee. DCllr Jones noted he was now a member of the Planning Committee that determines large(r) scale housing development and ones that have been brought to its attention (called in by DCllrs for determination and not automatically delegated to the Planning Officer). DCllr Jones advised that residents should contact not only the town council to highlight issues, but to register them on the planning portal and advised that he would welcome direct approaches also should residents/Cllrs have concerns related to a(ny) particular planning application.

-The Clerk noted that a recent planning application had raised concerns from the membership that ECDC Planning (and enforcement) did not appear to fully understand, comprehend or grasp those legal obligations placed on any (planning) works, encroachment, enclosure and/or any obstructions on land designated as common land. DCllr Jones indicated that he would be happy to look into this specific matter and would at the request of either resident/town Cllrs 'call in' plans that involved/were situated on/near common land.

-Cllr Pallett questioned whether there was any update in regards to the request made by DCllrs to get the arrangements regarding CIL amounts for developments in Soham increased and to be commensurate with that charged for developments in Ely and Littleport. DCllr Bovingdon indicated that unfortunately this could not be revised as it was legally set/bound in the current 2015 Local Plan but that, with the withdrawal of the new/emergent plan, there remained the scope to reintroduce such a request<sup>1</sup> t and that current DCllrs would continue to apply pressure for this rate/levy rise.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to motion and approval of ECDC full council

74/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Woodbridge and Chapman and duly authorised by the membership. Apologies were also received from DCllr Schumann whilst Cllr Ross was recorded as being absent.

75/19 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR UPDATES

Cllr Warner commented on his recent visit to the opening event for Soham Man Shed reporting that he was very impressed with this group and thanking CCllr Goldsack for all his hard work, when an elected district Cllr to Soham, in setting up/spearheading this initiative which will benefit residents.

The Clerk reminded those present that the cemetery entrance Fordham Rd would be closed both to pedestrians and vehicle access from Tuesday 11 June until Friday 14 June for the fitting of the new automated gates which it is hoped will offer better flexibility for visitors with extended evening opening times and over Christmas closure/statutory/bank holidays.

The Chairman noted that the next scheduled planning committee meeting would be one week earlier on Monday 24 June due to the following week's Bank holiday whilst the next Neighbourhood Planning working group would be on Wednesday 26 June commencing at 1pm and 7.30pm respectively at the Pavilion. All residents were cordially invited to attend but encouraged in the case of the neighbourhood planning working group to become (active) members.

76/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of Interests (DPI's) <sup>2</sup> to items on the agenda declared to the Proper Officer<sup>3</sup> by members prior to or at the time of the meeting.

77/19 TOWN CLLR VACANCY (SOUTH & CENTRAL WARDS)

Under a notice of Exclusion of Public and Press the following prospective applicants were interviewed separately for the current town Cllr vacancies (3 South, 2 Central Ward respectively):

- Mrs Angie Curtis 10 Adelaide Close Soham CB7 5JF
- Mr Peter Leonard The Manor House 39 High Street Soham CB7 5HA
- Mr Colin Gipp 25 Sand Street Soham CB7 5AA

In closed session and following questioning by members their applications for vacancies proceeded collectively and by way of ballot of the existing membership. After the count was declared by the Clerk to the membership, candidates together with the public and press were readmitted to the meeting at which point the Chairman thanked them for their attendance and the following was recorded:

APPROVED unanimously that Mrs Angie Curtis (Central Ward), Mr Peter Leonard (Central Ward) and Mr Colin Gipp (South Ward) be co-opted as town Cllrs to Soham Town Council.

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<sup>2</sup> Where a Cllr member has a DPI and where no dispensations has been applied for or agreed with the Proper Officer prior to a meeting it remains the responsibility of that member to take the necessary actions to recuse themselves from the meeting and prior to debate and or council decisions to those items and matters. Failure to comply with the rules of DPI declaration is a criminal offence and may be punished by a *fine* of up to £5,000 and/or disqualification for up to 5 years.

<sup>3</sup> Delegated to Clerk Soham Town Council

NOTED upon signing their Declaration of Acceptances in the presence of the Clerk the newly appointed Councillors were made welcome and invited to join the meeting by the Chairman.

NOTED the two remaining South Ward vacancies will continued to be advertised in the usual manner on council noticeboards/website.

78/19

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2019

RESOLVED and APPROVED that the minutes of the meeting on the 13 May 2019 as printed and attached were a true record of proceedings and duly signed as such by the Chairman.

79/19

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CURRENT & WHERE NECESSARY PREVIOUS MINUTES (matters not listed on the agenda specifically below to include):

**Adizone (64/19B & previous approvals)**

NOTED matter had been considered by Finance & Policy Committee at its meeting earlier in the evening

APPROVED to spend up to £4K on a suitable container to be used to store gym equipment at Kingfisher site.

**Request for financial support (68/19)**

NOTED letter in thanks from Royal British Legion regarding Town Council's financial and insurance related support to ensure that the annual Remembrance Day (Sunday) Parade continues.

**Town Signs (143/18 COM 17/18)<sup>4</sup>**

NOTED WITH DISSAPOINTMENT that whilst the new town signs are now completed to an extremely high standard of design/colour the dimension/weight of the signs relative to the height/size of the proposed oak posts means there will be stability issues in poor/extreme weather conditions. APPROVED request that the benefactor, who has agreed to undertake the installation works, provides suitable schematics/drawings in revision to address this stability problem with likely costs-both matters to be relisted for further council consideration at a subsequent meeting.

**A) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN(ING) – WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

APPROVED that the designated area would include all land to the parish boundaries (not just the urban settlement areas) in the application to ECDC which subject to its formal acceptance would commence the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Soham.

APPROVED that although Soham Town Council would be the lead Body on applications and grant submissions that for routine matters, addressee and contact point would be Cllr Aitchison who would act as the nominated and delegated Cllr for the council in this matter.

APPROVED currently not to take or endorse any decision to engage external consultant(s) and/or apply for central government funding until a meeting with Richard Kay could be arranged/meeting with Sutton Parish Council.

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<sup>4</sup> matters related to town signs was highlighted by Cllr Johnston at end of the meeting after 86/19

80/19

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

a) Planning - 20 May 2019

*(As no Finance & Policy committee meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 due to the legal requirements/timings of the 2019 Local Elections there were no minutes to approve)*

81 /19

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM LAST MONTHS' AND PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES –

**Planning (PL05/19)**

NOTED recent number of (pre) pre-planning requests have been received from Planning Officers under 'private and confidential' cover requesting some 'comment' from Soham Town Council but requesting that due to the confidential nature the matter, including any enclosed information/disclosures, should not be listed formally or discussed with the membership in the presence of the public or press.

NOTED DCllr Bovingdon comment that he was unaware of this (new) practice.

APPROVED that this new practice was unacceptable as it disenfranchised the public.

APPROVED Clerk to inform ECDC Planning Department/Planning Manager of the memberships' concerns regarding these speculative requests by Officers at the pre(pre) planning application stages indicating that should any similar requests be received that they will be returned by the Office without comment or further reference to either the Planning committee or full council.

82/19

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS MADE IN MAY 2019,  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS HELD AND BUDGET BALANCES AT 31<sup>ST</sup>  
May 2019

NOTED income and APPROVED payments made to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 totalling £ 44456.50 (inc vat) respectively and as attached to the council minutes as appendices.

NOTED & APPROVED monthly statement of balances and where appropriate those financial adjustments (virement) to the council's budgets, to its reserves and provisions and to ring fenced monies as held by and approved by full council.

APPROVED virement of £3000 from current 'insurance' budget to cover proposed footpath repairs/redress closed churchyard.

83/19

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL/COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**A) Lodestar Magazine**

NOTED request for financial support/assistance by Priest in Charge to support the publication of the Lodestar (church) magazine

APPROVED that a Grant Application form needs to be completed to enable matter to be considered properly at a subsequent meeting.

NOTED Cllr Aitchison's comment that the Chairman should contact the Priest in Charge to suggest whether the Lodestar magazine might be amalgamated with Soham Community Association's Jigsaw bi-monthly newsletter which is

produced free of charge to the community from income generated from paid for advertisements.

84/19 CORRESPONDENCE –NOTED ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE RECORDED  
(*italicised* and in **Bold**) IN THE MINUTES.

- Modern Day Slavery Training Ely at Ely Cathedral in the Etheldreda Room on 21st June, 2019. It will start at 10am
- Appeal against refusal of Energy from Waste facility at Waterbeach – Appeal update. Levitt's Field Waterbeach Waste Management Park Ely Road Waterbeach S/0072/17/CW
- Email of thanks to Soham Town Council Staff (St Andrews Church-item to be noted/recorded in minutes for the Annual Town Meeting held recently)
- Walk for Parkinson's - Wandlebury Country Park - 28th September 2019
- Cambridgeshire Matters – Newsletter May 2019
- CAPALC Bulletin - May 2019/ NALC Chief Executive Bulletin - 24/05/19
- CCC Highways Roadworks & events report 1st - 15th June 2019

85/19 MONTHLY PAPERS/BIBIOGRAPHY/PERIODICALS/BULLETINS (LIST TO APPEAR IN MINUTES ONLY)

The Journal

ECDC Chairman's chat

Andrezieux Boutheon

ICMM Summer 2019 magazine

Circulated to all Cllrs via email

No 229 June 2019 (copy provided to Cllr Pallett)

86/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Soham Town Council will be held on 8 July 2019 commencing at 7:15pm (Finance and Policy Committee meeting from 6:30pm, prior to that evening's full council meeting in council offices).