

SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Soham Town Council held at the Pavilion, Soham, on Monday 10 February 2020.

Present: C Warner (Chairperson), P Lane, D Woricker, G Dyer, G Woodbridge, P Leonard, H Ross & Mesdames R Aitchison, E Johnston, A Pallett, A Curtis & A Woricker.

In Attendance County Cllr B Hunt, District Cllrs Bovingdon, A Jones & V Charlesworth

01/20 PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

A resident made representation regarding the lack of a bus stop/shelter outside Tesco's Ely which he had brought up at a previous Soham Town Council meeting and requested that one should be placed there¹. The resident also made representation regarding climate change and the climate emergency/impact that is being faced by everyone in light of the overwhelming scientific evidence welcoming all Cllrs from every Local Authority to ensure that positive actions are taken on this matter². DCllr Bovingdon noted that there is an environmental strategy consultation currently being undertaken by the District Council and that practical recommendation(s) will be implemented by a new Dept effective April 2020.

02/20 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

CCllr Hunt was invited by the Chairman to present his report on Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) activities and matters affecting Soham or more generally namely:

- A1123 is scheduled to be closed to traffic overnight around 23 or 24 April 2020
- Highways England will be circulating questions regarding any affects the A14 construction may have had on the Soham town, which he encouraged the town council to complete.
- CCC has declared a Climate Emergency and CCllr Hunt indicated his strong support for CO2 reduction measures overall but cautioned with a personal opinion that the civil unrest and activism that is currently being undertaken in Cambridge is unacceptable when it puts public safety and livelihoods at risk.
- an extra £11 million into the County's schools budget for next year.
- That there will be no CCC run lottery.
- CC Libraries are now being used as 'community hubs' for services with it, unlike other similar Authorities investing rather than divesting in these buildings but also not reducing library access in provision of more mobile libraries/rural outreach services.
- recycling -CCC will continue not to charge local residents for taking their domestic waste to registered sites currently but will continue to control out-of-county domestic and commercial use (domestic vans being limited to 12 tips visits a year) perhaps with electronic tagging to number plate recognition.
- Potholes continue to be repaired at roughly 1,000 per week. CCllr Hunt continued to press that residents should report these and other road faults via CCC website.

¹ As this matter resides outside parish boundary, request needs to be to Ely City Council

² Soham Town Council to approve a working draft of Climate Emergency Statement under 09/20

- Cllr Hunt indicated that Kings Parade in Cambridge will continue to be closed closed to traffic during the day until further notice as response to potential threats/act(s) of terrorism.
- Histon Rd will be converted to a bus-way to encourage greater use of public transport in Cambridge citing that annually over 4.5 million passengers use this public service
- CCC Archives at Ely are now open and CCllr Hunt encouraged residents to visit the information there on around seven miles of shelving.
- CCllr Hunt commented that it now most urgent that Staploe Rotary Club contact him to ensure that it/the town High St receives its annual Christmas tree donation from CCC as this group has not fulfilled the obligations and necessary re-planting programme requirements to continue to receive one each year.

The Chairman acknowledged CCllr Hunt's contribution and then invited DCllr Bovingdon to present report on East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) matters affecting Soham or more generally namely:

- DCllr Bovingdon noted that he would be undertaking a bus, walk and cycle consultations & survey and would encourage as many residents as possible to participate to inform any neighbourhood planning³.
- DCllr Bovingdon noted that there would be a consultation relating to provision of additional supplementary planning documents (SPD'S) to augment the Local Plan 2015 concerning elements of natural environment and sustainable building requirements.

Thereafter DCllr Charlesworth noted:

- Under LHI bid that she had spearheaded concerning safety measures on Clay St, although well received but due to the high costs of the overall scheme (£40-50K) was too costly for CCC to support without a substantial percentage being provided by the town council. DCllr Charlesworth suggested that another application this year (21-22 scheme) with the town council providing a much higher contribution than the mandatory minimum (10%) might ensure its success. The Clerk commented that this matter should have been brought up during the budgeting season for all town and parish councils (Sept-Nov) as the budget had already been set for this type of grant/funding.

03/20

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received by Cllr Gipp and duly authorised by the membership. The Clerk indicating that DCllr Dan Schumann had apologised as currently he was paternity leave the membership sent their hearty congratulations to him and his partner on the birth of their first child.

04/20

CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR UPDATES

Cllr Warner noted that he had had an extremely busy New Year period attending a number of events/meetings including:

- the Ely South Integrated Neighbourhood Launch Event 15th January 2020 held at the Soham Village College showcasing those services and initiatives in building resistance/resilience in rural communities
- meeting with CC Highways engineers where it was agreed that the whole of the High St in Soham would be properly relined.

³ Post meeting note: meeting to be at Pavilion Fountain Lane 16th March 2020 7PM-9PM

- along with Cllrs Aitchison & Pallett he had met with Anglian Water, Environment Agency, ECDC planners & Internal Drainage Board regarding foul and surface water insufficiencies in Soham and that he and the Clerk will be meeting with Harley Evans from Anglia Water on 20 February 2020 to discuss the practical and logistic (timings) to improvements

-as a result of breach of planning conditions resulting in the non- transfer and destruction of the Great Crested newts identified at 25 Mereside development (16/01804/FUM) Cllr Warner was pleased to announce that Cllr Curtis would be taking on an active role of Ecological Champion for the town council on matters where clearly there is a disjoin between the planning and enforcement Depts at ECDC.

Cllr Warner reminded all Cllrs that he had circulated a list of proposed amenity and infrastructure improvements that needed to be spearheaded by members to ensure that they were progressed noting that Cllr Lane had volunteered to act as the councils' monthly correspondence list reader and, subject to approval of the climate emergency statement its Carbon Expert/Champion. Mr George Ginn, former town Cllr present at the meeting, was invited to join any working party/group established to spearhead local climate (change) matters. Cllr A Woricker was noted as being delegated Cllr for Youth Strategies for the town council whilst Cllr Johnston would in addition to being Vice Chairman would assume role of managing and spearheading town council's asset [Commercialisation] management.

05/20

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of Interests (DPI's) made by members to items on the agenda declared to the Proper Officer prior to or at the time of the meeting

A matter arising identified under 10/20 (matters arising from minutes of last months and previous standing committee meeting minutes) was briefly discussed (Ambulance Station FP 06/20) at which point both Cllr Aitchison and Lane declared a potential DPI and left the meeting. The Clerk determining that the matter included exemptions reflecting its commercially and contractually sensitive nature recommended to and it was duly approved by the membership that the issue would be formally listed at the next monthly council meeting under a notice of Exclusion of the Public and Press.

06/20

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2019

RESOLVED and APPROVED that the minutes of the meeting on the 19 December 2019 as printed and attached herein as being a true record of proceedings which were duly signed as such by the Chairman.

07/20

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

A) Neighbourhood Plan(ning) – Working Group Updates

NOTED Cllr Aitchison registered disappointment at the low numbers of residents attending the public meeting held on 18 January 2020 showcasing the work and progress to date. The next meeting is 19 February 7pm at the pavilion where decision relating to what needs to achieved including any professional appointments, their costs and further grant applications to assist in those specific project areas requiring expert/technical input. Cllrs Leonard and Curtis will also be organising a business meeting for shop owners in Soham (date to be confirmed).

At 8:14pm The Chairman under a Notice of Exclusion instructed the Public and Press to withdraw to consider and make decision (Approvals) regarding 07/20 B) Land (and property) acquisition and immediately afterwards 08/20 Town Cllr vacancies (North and South Wards).

B) Land (and property) acquisition (Cllr Johnson 139/19C, 151/19B)

APPROVED currently to concentrate on additional cemetery land provision and to progress potential purchases of prospective land parcels (3, 9 and 20+ acres) at south end of town as identified by consultants Weldon Beesly.

08/20

TOWN CLLR VACANCY (NORTH & SOUTH WARD)

NOTED currently (one) Cllr (South Ward) and (one) Cllr (North Ward) vacancy at Soham Town Council.

NOTED interview of prospective candidate and after request for him to temporary withdraw to enable ballot of membership present to proceed.

APPROVED by majority not to co-opt Mr James Wood 3 Fountain Lane Soham CB7 5ED

The Chairman invited the candidate back to the meeting took the opportunity to thank him for attending but that in this instance his application had not been successful.

At 8:27pm members of Public and Press were invited back to the meeting and thereafter:

09/20

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) Finance & Policy - 9 December 2019
- b) Finance & Policy - 27 January 2020
- c) Planning - 16 December 2019
- d) Planning - 27 January 2020

10/20

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM LAST MONTHS' AND PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (to be specified at time of meeting) – to include:

i.) Chapel – update & likely projection of unexpected expenditure/costs in year (FP 70/19C, CA 13/19B, 153/19ii)

NOTED Clerks concern regarding the ongoing expenditure relating to the Chapel issues

APPROVED unanimously that repair and reinstatement works must continue irrespective of costs incurred and that financial provision for replacement of general funds had been made by members in the 202-21 budget

ii) Ratification of those (any) comments to planning applications received over Christmas and New Year Period by Chairman Planning Committee & Chairman Soham Town Council (153/19ii NONE NOTED)

iii) Street lighting (Soham Town Council stock) assessment (FP 90/19)

NOTED Cllr D Woricker Chair of Community Amenities updated members on progress of this cost and CO2 reduction initiative.

iv) Ambulance Station (FP 06/20)-see procedure and approvals adopted under 05/20

v) Draft Climate emergency statement (FP 05/20)

NOTED without comment adoption of draft Emergency Climate Statement by Soham Town Council to act as working template to public consultations, activities etc (Cllr Lane delegated as Chair of working party).

vi) Grass cutting 2020 (FP 05/20)

NOTED Clerk's comment regarding possible (negative) perception of this annual activity not occurring, that CCC that owns these land areas had been apprised of the committee's decision in advance of the full council meeting.

APPROVED Finance & Policy recommendation not to undertake verge cutting on behalf of CCC in town this current growing year and that Cllr Curtis would look into possibility of sowing meadow flowers.

vii) Planning (PL 06/20e 19/01600/ESHYB Soham Eastern Gateway Site Pratt Street Soham).

NOTED Cllr Ross's continued concerns relating to the detrimental impact this high housing density development will have on both Qua and East Fen common.

11/20

INCOME & PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS MADE, STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020 RESPECTIVELY AND RECEIPT OF NET INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT (END DEC Q3 2019) WITH PROJECTED YEAR END OUT TURN

NOTED income & RESOLVED approval of those payments made to 31 December 2019 and 31ST January 2020 totalling £97758.24 & £491974.37 (inc vat) respectively and as attached to the council minutes as appendices.

NOTED & APPROVED budgetary balances as stated at 31 December 2019 & 31st January 2020 respectively.

ACKNOWLEDGED the expected deficit in out-turn to 31ST March 2020 as highlighted in out turn to end Dec 2019 (see approval under 10/20 i).

NOTED that due to timing of Finance & Policy Committee now coinciding with the Planning Committee meetings (last Monday in month), the review and recommendations will no longer appear in their minutes for subsequent full council approvals.

12/20

REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY FUNDING/SUPPORT.

a) COGWHEEL TRUST (attached, requested amount £2000, previous successful application to STC made November 2017 for £1500)

APPROVED unanimously and due those to financial constraints placed by unexpected expenditures in year on town council finances not able to provide grant monies to this organisation noting that the amount requested was substantive and received late in current financial year.

b) VE75 COMMEMORATIONS 8 – 12th MAY 2020 (for more information please refer to www.veday75.org/get-involved, letter from Chair planning committee)

APPROVED that any contribution provided by Soham Town Council must not generate any further costs and be free of charge.

APPROVED by majority (Chairman having casting vote) contribution to be free hire and use of Pavilion and recreation ground on evening Friday 8th May 2020 to enable RBL Soham branch to act as its designated volunteers under its public liability insurances premise and music licences and penalty relating to breach of byelaw to dogs on recreation ground to provide caretaking, security and car parking duties along with a free music concert and afterwards lighting of the floor standing fire/pit

NOTED that any donations in appreciation will be under the care of RBL Soham Branch for distribution to charities within the community.

APPROVED additional £50 of photocopying services at town council Office to for advertising and promotional purposes and suggestion that ECDC also provide a very competitive reprographic and printing service.

c) Financial awards/Grants - procedures in general - deadlines for submissions in year (Cllr Woodbridge).

NOTED Town Councils Grant Award Application Policy does not specify a date in year as deadline for submissions and currently operates on a 'first come first served' basis.

APPROVED not to set any prescribed (artificial) date by which all applications will need to be submitted by as many organisations/community groups will not know their requirements (well) in advance of that financial need.

13/20

CORRESPONDENCE –NOTED ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES-any notes/approvals appear *italicised* and in **BOLD**.

-Wellers Hedley-Legal News for Town, Parish & Community Councils - Winter 2019/2020

-Eastern Region Invite to AGM (18TH January 2020)

-Wicken Fen Community Liaison Forum minutes

NOTED some confusion in minutes relating to the extent and progress made by Soham Town Council to link Wicken with Soham via cycleway

-Traffic Management Training Opportunity

NOTED currently Soham Town Council pays traffic management company to undertake traffic control at annual Remembrance Day parade.

-Soham Museum Dec Newsletter

-CBWIN Further Update re. Waterbeach Incinerator Public Inquiry

-CCC Roadworks & events report 16th - 31st December 2019 1st - 15th January 2020 1st - 15th February 2020

-CCC PR0607 - Prohibition of Waiting & Speed Cushions, Kingfisher Drive, Soham

NOTED matter related to successful LHI bid (speed reduction measure at school financially supported by Soham Town Council.

NOTED timings of bid and actual work are chronologically separate (often occurring two separate financial years, re DCllr Charlesworth comments under 02/20)

-Proposed road closure - Northfield Road, Soham 11/03 - 13/03/2020.

Proposed road closure - The Cotes, Soham 30/03 - 01/04/2020. TTRO 20/051 East Fen Drove, Soham The Cotes, Soham.

-Barcham Trees - The Big Barn Conference June 17th June 2020

NOTED Cllr and Mr Aitchison's request to attend

-ECDC NEWS: Waste collections set to change for homeowners on private and unadopted roads – request to include Soham

Noted Cllr's concern that there appears to be an inconsistent approach by ECDC to this matter as some but not all commons are affected, planning conditions allow for some residential roads in these new developments to be of an adoptable standard by CCC Highways but not for the purposes of rubbish collection by these lorries (Celandine).

APPROVED DCllr Jones to confirm status of situation and to report to either Office or at next full council meeting

-CCC IHMC December Incident Report January's Highway Events Diary, Roadworks & events report 16th - 31st January 2020, February's Highway Events Diary

-A Rural/Market Towns Group of the Rural Services Network - Soham.

Approved Soham town to join

-Invitation to Ely South Integrated Neighbourhood Launch Event 15th January 2020 Pavilion

-Invitation Public meeting organised by County Cllr Goldsack ASB Soham Tuesday 21st January 2020 7pm Pavilion Soham.

Noted public meeting well attended and minutes transcribed and issued onto social media platform by CCllr Goldsack.

Noted CCllr Goldsack's thanks to the town council and staff

-Welcome to The (ECDC) Link - connecting communities and the council

-Buckingham Palace Garden Party - 27th May 2020 -DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS 17TH JANUARY 2020 + Royal Garden Party 2019 nomination Results

-CAPALC Incorporation Proposal EGM 19:00 on Monday 2 March at the Millennium Pavilion, Somersham

Approval confirmed under FP 05/20.

-ECDC TTRO Northfield Road, Soham 11/03/20 to 13/03/20

-East Cambridgeshire Parish Council Conference 2020 (Littleport Leisure, Camel Road, Littleport, Ely CB6 1EW, on 2nd March 2020, from 10 am until 4pm.

Cllrs Curtis and Warner to attend

-Wicken Fen Solar Park Invitation to Cllrs Tuesday 4th February 2020 Wicken Village Hall Pond Green Wicken CB7 5XR 1:30pm to 2pm, and public from 2pm to 8pm

Noted matter considered at January 2020 Planning Committee meeting and recorded in the minutes

NOTED A14 Impact on county road network-Contact details for information

-Expressions of Interest for projects for inclusion on the ECDC CIL Infrastructure List (Deadline 2nd March 2020)

NOTED CCllr Hunts request for feedback (under 02/20)

-Cambridgeshire Self Sufficiency Group 11th annual Potato Day Saturday February 1st from 10.30am until 1pm. All Saints Church , Market Place Huntingdon, PE29 3NR.

-Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) launches the Great British Spring Clean 2020 March to 13 April for more information www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean

-East Cambridgeshire Youth Strategy - Parish Council Engagement request

NOTED Cllr A Woricker to act as delegated town Cllr in matters relating to Youth strategies (04/20)

14/20

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

Clerk and Councils Direct

Magazine January 2020 Issue 127

The Clerks magazine

January 2020 Vol 51 no 1

ICCM journal

Winter 2019/20

Andrezieux-Boutheon Magazine

No 236 February 2020

15/20

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next full council meeting scheduled Monday 9 March 2020 commencing at 7:15pm.

Finance & Policy Committee meeting scheduled Monday 24th February 2020, 9am