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## **SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Soham Town Council meeting held at the Walter Gidney Pavilion,  
Fountain Lane recreation ground, Soham on Monday 10 October 2022.

**Present:** Cllrs E Johnston, D Woricker, R Aitchison, G Dyer, K Horgan, A Jones, P Lane, A Pallett, C Warner and H Ross.  
M Francis, Assistant Town Clerk

**In attendance:** County & District Cllr M Goldsack.  
There were 10 members of the public present.

The meeting was opened at 7:15pm.

### **133/22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr P Leonard (personal). Cllr G Woodbridge (work commitments).

### **134/22 COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

### **135/22. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR UPDATES**

- a. NOTED Cllr Johnston stated that all quotations regarding the cemetery chapel works are required to go through Contract Finder.
- b. NOTED Cllr Hogan has attended Carbon Literacy training and has received a certificate, we can now use their logo, if you wish to do so on any of our literature.

NOTED Cllr Woricker has had a conversation with the developers of North Angle Solar Park and has suggested that they attend the October planning meeting. They are keen to add 2 EV Charging Points in the town and have asked for suggested areas.

NOTED Cllr Aitchison has received 350grms of wild flower seed which will cover approximately 10 m<sup>2</sup> of area on Drayton Meadows.

### **136/22. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME**

NOTED the presentation from Jo Johnson Andow was cancelled and will be rescheduled for February 2023

A resident spoke about their concerns over the withdrawal of the number 12 bus services by Stagecoach, which will impact greatly on those who

rely on the service to take them to Ely or Newmarket. They asked what our local council are doing to try and stop this from happening.

The comments were NOTED.

**137/22. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

NOTED - written report from County Cllr Goldsack. At the meeting Cllr Goldsack reported the following:-

- Congestion Charge for Cambridge – this has been proposed by The Greater Cambridge Partnership as part of their consultation.
- Bus Services – they await the outcome of the Mayor’s forced emergency review due for publication on 19th, just 11 days before the services are due to cease to see if the number 12 route will be saved
- LHI Cyprian Rust Way – The double yellow lines should be installed by December 2022

NOTED – written report from District Cllr Jones. At the meeting, Cllr Jones reported the following: -

- Bus services - After Stagecoach announced its withdrawal of the many routes throughout Cambridgeshire including the number 12 which services Soham. The Combined Authority Board for approval will meet on October 19th after a 3 week process has considered all its options.
- East Cambs Trading Scene – is yet to make a profit

**138/22. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. APPROVED unanimously - the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 26 September were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- b. NOTED - matters arising including Clerk’s Report.
- c. APPROVED unanimously - the minutes from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 26 September 2022 were approved as a true record.

**139/22. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CURRENT & WHERE NECESSARY PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MINUTES:**

- a. NOTED - Byway 113 (Soham – Wicken Cycleway) (Cllr Woricker) a grant funding application has been submitted to ECDC for match-funding. The quotes received back are much higher than originally estimated therefore Cllr Woricker has submitted a much larger grant application of £800,000 from ECDC. More information will be circulated when it becomes available.

NOTED Cllr Johnston stated that the bid can be withdrawn if the council felt it was too much of a risk.

NOTED Cllr Aitchison spoke about ECDC’s Environment and Climate Change Action Plan which includes a commitment for 2022/23 relating to EV charging points which includes 4 chargers / 8 sockets in Clay Street Car Park, Soham. New Building Regulations came into force in June 2022 requiring every new dwelling with associated parking to have an EV charging point. It also applies to new non-residential buildings; buildings undergoing a material change of use to dwellings; residential and non-residential buildings

undergoing major renovation; and mixed-use buildings that are either new, or undergoing major renovation. It also includes the possibility of considering hydrogen fuelled vehicles.

NOTED Cllr Horgan on whether to accept a pack of 50 trees will be made at the November meeting.

#### **140/22 FINANCE MATTERS**

- a. Neighbourhood planning (Working group) – Nothing new at present and the next meeting is Wednesday 12 October 7.15pm at the Pavilion.
- b. NOTED Cllr Horgan asked why Anglian Water's invoice has increased by 250%, why Thalia bin collections were different prices for the recreation ground & cemetery  
NOTED all queries would be looked into and reported back at November's meeting.  
APPROVED unanimously Receipts & Payments 6 September – 5 October as listed at the end of the agenda.
- c. APPROVED by majority to obtain 3 quotes for Laptop and Height Adjustable Monitor
- d. APPROVED unanimously Grant Application Soham Community Association (LGA 1972, s.137) - £500.
- e. NOTED Quote for cemetery chapel works will now be listed on Contract Finder as shown 135/22a
- f. NOTED for all councillors to begin consideration for Budget & Precept 2023-24

#### **141/22 GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

- a. APPROVED unanimously – Model Financial Regulation (2019).
- b. APPROVED unanimously – Dignity at Work Policy (2022)

#### **142/22 RECREATION GROUND/PAVILION/TOWN MATTERS**

- a. NOTED – Cllr Horgan Seen to be Green competition for local businesses. For all councillors to read documents linked with this initiative and to approve at November meeting.
- b. APPROVED unanimously pending wayleave information to complete proposed rectification works for CCTV.
- c. APPROVED unanimously to charge a refundable deposit of £50 and rationalisation of water charges so that tenant pay water per plot and not per tenant commencing October 2023.
- d. APPROVED unanimously for Cllr Warner to obtain 3 quotes for a grass topper and report back to the November meeting.
- e. APPROVED unanimously the placement of planters on High Street as all permissions from relevant parties is now in place with a budget of up to £2,000.
- f. APPROVED unanimously to write a letter to CCC with a vote of no confidence in This Land Ltd as only the following two conclusions can be deduced from this inactivity:  
That the County Council is not as distanced from This Land Limited as they would have you believe and are in fact complicit with their activities.  
OR that the council is inept and indeed cannot control this loose cannon due to the absence of adequate checks and balances.

Either way, these are the facts as to why we are proposing a vote of No Confidence in the current administration and their handling of This Land Limited of whom they are the 100% shareholder.

APPROVED unanimously that the finance queries raised by Cllr Warner are sent from this Council to the CCC Section 151 Officer and the Leader of CCC Lucy Nethsingha.

g. APPROVED unanimously to write a strongly worded letter to the Mayor of the Combined Authority, Lucy Frazer MP and CCC stating our objection to the proposed removal of Soham's bus service and how it will effect all it's residents.

**143/22            MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 14 November 2022, Walter Gidney Pavilion @ 7.15pm

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm.