

## SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Soham Town Council meeting held at the Walter Gidney Pavilion Fountain Lane recreation ground Soham Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Present: Cllr E Johnston (Chairperson), P Lane, A Jones, C Warner, H Ross, G Dyer & Mesdames R Aitchison & A Pallett

In attendance: DCllr A Jones

NOTED: Before the meeting commenced, the Chairman asked, in the absence of our Assistant Clerk, that Councillor Aitchison take the minutes of the meeting with notes also taken by the Chair. AGREED.

*The meeting commenced at 7:15pm*

### 102/22 PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

NOTED a resident made a request to the council to consider a tree being supplied (courtesy of Barcham Trees of approx. 12-14cms diameter and 3-4 m tall) and planted by The Pumpkin Fair Committee on the Recreation Ground on 24<sup>th</sup> September, as part of the Platinum Jubilee Queens Canopy. It was also envisaged that a trail/game be produced based around a map of the current recreation ground trees, their species and possible ages. They will provide a virtual plaque. Future themes for the Fair will be related to Prince William's Earth Shot Prize.

### 103/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR VERBAL UPDATES (maximum 5 minutes per group) TO INCLUDE:

NOTED that STC have no plans to remove the football pitch at Kingfisher Drive or any clubs from using it. The lease has been amended from 5 years to 1 year to allow flexibility to the clubs and not tie them into a longer lease and costs if they wish to terminate in the future.

NOTED: The locking down of the toilet facilities and other rooms in the Pavilion during the Beer Festival resulted in no damage. Further discussions on this matter are due to be placed as an agenda item at September's meeting.

NOTED: Congratulations made to former council colleague on the safe arrival of baby.

NOTED: Councillor Aitchison reported on a training course she attended about reducing our carbon footprint. She has offered to share website details which allows everyone to calculate their personal carbon footprint.

### 104/22 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

The Chairman thanked District Councillor A Jones for his report which was circulated to all STC councillors before the deadline.

NOTED: There were no queries relating to his report but he pointed out that it appears (allegedly) that the Combined Authority (CPCA) may well be taken over by Central Government. Cllr Warner asked that we send a letter to the Combined Authority to ask them to confirm the c. £340K funding to us for the Wicken -Soham cycleway. PROPOSED: R Aitchison, SECONDED by H Ross and was unanimously APPROVED.

*IN SESSION AND AS LISTED ON THE AGENDA*

- 105/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
Apologies were received from Councillor's D Woricker, P Leonard, G Woodbridge and K Horgan.
- 106/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST TO ITEMS ON AGENDA  
NOTED There were no declaration of Interests (DPI's) to items on the agenda
- 107/22 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022 & EOM 26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022  
a) APPROVED unanimously the minutes of the meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 as printed and attached herein being true records of proceedings were duly signed as being such by the Chairman. NOTED: For a response to our letter sent regarding flood risks/drainage etc for the Shade (Persimmon site) to be acknowledged by ECDC. The chair will contact.  
b) NOTED.  
c) APPROVED by majority the minutes of F and P on 26<sup>th</sup> May – PROPOSED Cllr Warner, SECONDED Cllr Lane. NOTED: Cllrs Dyer and Jones were not in post at the time so they abstained.  
d) APPROVED by majority the minutes of EOM 26<sup>th</sup> May. PROPOSED Cllr Pallett, SECONDED Cllr Aitchison. NOTED: Cllrs Dyer and Jones were not in post at the time so they abstained.  
e) APPROVED by majority the minutes of EOM Planning meeting 6<sup>th</sup> June. PROPOSED Cllr Pallett, SECONDED Cllr Warner.  
f) APPROVED unanimously the minutes from the Planning meeting 27<sup>th</sup> June. PROPOSED Cllr Pallett, SECONDED Cllr Warner.  
g) APPROVED the minutes of EOM Full Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June. PROPOSED Cllr Aitchison, SECONDED Cllr Warner. NOTED: Cllr Pallett non attendance at the meeting.
- 108/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CURRENT & WHERE NECESSARY PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MINUTES (*where not specified by prior notice and listed on this agenda no decisions or approvals may be legally taken*):  
A) Neighbourhood planning (Working Group) - Any approvals to be made by Soham Town Council as Lead Body [Town and Country Planning Act 1990 s61F(1), (2)] including aspects of designation of neighbourhood area, appointment of consultant, grant application AOB.  
NOTED: Cllr Aitchison reported that the second draft of the Design Guide has been received and our consultant and the group are currently reviewing it. Also a list of draft policies is being prepared.  
B) Cemetery Chapel  
NOTED: Cllr Warner pointed out that because things had not gone as hoped, we now needed to put this behind us and get some quotes to get the job finished as soon as possible. PROPOSED to get quotes: Cllr Lane, SECONDED: by Cllr Warner. APPROVED unanimously.  
  
NOTED: The Chair reminded that we have chosen to go back to committees and only three councillors came to the cemetery walk.  
NOTED: The Chair told us that it is the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of William Case Morris on 19th September. As we will be having visitors from Argentina to view his grave and that of his mother, we need to make sure that these are properly looked after. His mother's grave needs some attention. A proposal was made to repair Sarah Morris headstone back to an upright position in readiness.

PROPOSED: Cllr Warner, SECONDED by Cllr Ross. APPROVED unanimously.

C) NOTED: The need for a Project manager on Chapel works and Cycleway 113.

109/22

PREVIOUS MONTH'S STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

A) Cllr Pallett thanked the Vice Chair for chairing the Planning meeting in June. She explained that there will be no planning meeting in July so that individual councillors should make comments directly to ECDC.

NOTED: The pdf file provided to do this will need to be converted to word document. Cllr Jones said he could provide this for us.

NOTED: Comments for Brook Street hotel, to Cllr Pallett by 16 July for summarizing and forward to ECDC.

NOTED: Next Planning meeting 22 August 1pm when Persimmon will attend to discuss their development on Broadpiece. Cllr Pallett also mentioned the letter which was sent to ECDC from TC regarding our views on the Single Issue Review of the Local Plan 2015

B) NOTED: The Chair pointed out that it has become obvious that there are a lot of HR matters which need to be reviewed and overhauled and we hope to get some help with this for £149/month. This work would update all policies and contracts. PROPOSED to do this by Cllr Johnston, SECONDED: by Cllr Lane and APPROVED unanimously.

110/22

FINANCE MATTERS

A) NOTED: A query about the LHI for the Shade. It was thought we had paid for this already. ACTION: Cllr Johnston to check and email everyone. PROPOSED: Cllr Johnston, SECONDED: Cllr Warner. APPROVED unanimously.

B) Gardening Friend Insurance: PROPOSED by Cllr Pallett and SECONDED by Cllr Dyer APPROVED unanimously. NOTED: Gardening Friends - Now have about 14 members who make great use of the allotment garden.

C) Security door controllers (card used by councillors) PROPOSED by Cllr Aitchison, SECONDED by Cllr Dyer APPROVED unanimously.

D) NOTED: The piece of land adjacent to the cemetery but sited within the Cherry Tree development is now ready to be transferred to us as a cemetery extension. The boundary fence will need to be moved. There are costs to getting the transfer done legally. APPROVED payments as given/provided

E) Mobile phone card payments PROPOSED by Cllr Ross and SECONDED by Cllr Johnston. APPROVED unanimously. NOTED: Cost of mobile amount not stated but cheapest that can do the job will be purchased under £40)

F) There are a number of faulty safety lights in the building. Proposed that these be repaired asap by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Warner. Approved unanimously.

G) NOTED: Chair has said that because of holidays the usual rotation of bank signatories will remain until August with herself Cllr Johnston and Cllr Aitchison. PROPOSED by Cllr Pallett, SECONDED by Cllr Lane and APPROVED unanimously.

111/22

RECREATION GROUND/PAVILION/TOWN MATTERS

- A) Joining the Energy Efficiency Association EEA. ECDC are already members. An information providing organisation which may be useful and free to councils.  
NOTED: STC agreed to join if it is and remains free. PROPOSED: by Cllr Johnston, SECONDED: by Cllr Pallet, APPROVED unanimously.
- B) Pumpkin Fair Committee (see 102/22 under Public Comment Time).  
NOTED: Cllr Aitchison suggested that as we have recently lost a large beech tree at the back of the scout hut. However the committee may wish to put it in a more prominent place.  
NOTED: Cllr Aitchison and her husband are happy to liaise and if needed to help with children's competition.  
NOTED: Also part of our tree replacement programme on the Recreation Ground.
- C) Pos+Ability clock donation to be hung on the wall of the large hall.  
NOTED: This was proposed to be accepted but that we want to see the clock before it is hung.
- D) Dogs on the Recreation Ground.  
NOTED: There is still a problem with this. Recommendations on how we enforce and proceed was previously circulated with all information to councillors by Cllr Johnston
- E) CCTV  
NOTED: Cllr Warner gave a briefing and a report was tabled and has been circulated to all councillors.  
NOTED: This has been budgeted for but needs to be approved at next meeting.
- F) Adizone outdoor gym equipment. NOTED: That as there will be no use by the public, that it remains on the recreation ground.
- G) SVC/Football Clubs/Association support letter.  
PROPOSED: by Cllr Johnston, SECONDED: by Cllr Dyer and  
APPROVED: unanimously.  
NOTED: this is a letter of support only with no financial input from the council.

113/22

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERTAIION

NONE

114/22

CORRESPONDENCE –NOTED ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE

INDICATED (*italicised* and in **bold**) IN THE MINUTES. (matters in bold or as highlighted in **red BOLD on the agenda** considered to be more relevant to Soham) Unless otherwise indicated all correspondence emailed/circulated to Cllrs as being received:

NOTED Highway Events Diary - June 2022

b) **CCC – Highways Flooding Locations**

NOTED: Several areas in the town do suffer from flooding. Cllr Warner pointed out that in some areas although the ditches are kept reasonably clear, sometimes to size of underground pipes are not sufficient or not kept clear of silt which can cause flooding. PROPOSED: We write to County Council Highways to remind them about the Regal Drive/ Fordham Road difficulties which have still not been properly dealt with.

NOTED Residents Letter Spencer Drove Construction Works  
NOTED Local Highways - 2022 Surface Dressing program Update  
NOTED CCC Transport Strategy Stakeholder Engagement Survey 2022  
NOTED CAPALC June Bulletin  
NOTED CAPALC Training Summer 2022  
NOTED TMC (formerly IHMC) Incident Report - May 2022  
NOTED Summer Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme  
NOTED NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin  
NOTED CCC 2022 Gripfibre Surface Treatment Program Update  
NOTED Cambridge Maths School: Consultation  
NOTED Proposed TTRO - Great Fen Road (C141), Soham 13/09/22 to  
15/09/22  
NOTED June 2022 Cambridgeshire Matters newsletter  
NOTED The National Allotment Week 2022 Bug Survey

115/22 MONTHLY PAPERS/BIBIOGRAPHY/ PERIODICALS/ BULLETINS (LIST TO  
APPEAR IN MINUTES ONLY)  
NONE

116/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING  
• Full Council Meeting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 7.15pm @ Walter Gidney  
Pavilion  
NOTE: There is no full council meeting in August due to summer recess.

*The meeting ended at 20.43pm*