

SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Soham Town Council meeting held at the Walter Gidney Pavilion Fountain Lane recreation ground Soham Monday 11 April 2022.

Present: Cllr E Johnston (Chairperson), P Lane, K Horgan, D Woricker, C Warner, P Leonard & Mesdames R Aitchison & A Pallett

In attendance: DCllr A Jones & I Bovingdon

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

47/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR VERBAL UPDATES (maximum 5 minutes per group) TO INCLUDE:

NOTED Interim Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) contracted from 1 April until beginning of June 2022 with an option to extend if required. Need to look at an interview panel for the new post with a suggestion of Chair, Vice-Chair and all Lead Councillors.

NOTED Cllr Johnston is unable to fore fill her civic Mayoral duty as an invited guest of our French twinning town of Andrézieux-Bouthéon on 13, 14 & 15 May 2022, she asked if any other councillors would like to attend on her behalf.

NOTED Cllr Leonard provided an update on the High Street trees. He is hoping planting will commence on 19 April with the 5 trees being planted between A Tasca & The Venue and 1 tree at Brook Dam turning, that should be visible from the High Street.

48/22 PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

NOTED a resident made representation regarding the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership and their suggested congestion charge for Cambridge. They asked if Soham Town Council would follow ECDC example and write a letter strongly objecting to this.

NOTED that the council would list it on May's agenda for discussion and debate.

49/22 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

The Chairman thanked CCllr/DCllr Goldsack (who was not present) and DCllr Jones and East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) representatives, for providing their respective written reports affecting Soham or more generally. Noting these monthly summary reports had previously been circulated by email to all town council members and for residents' convenience had been reproduced on the town councils website at <https://www.soham-tc.gov.uk/county-district-cllr-reports/> (March 2022).

Confirming the above the Chairman asked members if they had any queries or questions for those CCllr or DCllrs present.

NOTED Cllr Warner concerns that East Cambs Street Scene, a trading arm of ECDC, is being loaned more public purse money.

NOTED Cllr Warner felt that ECDC had not supported the town regarding the Broad Piece development (Persimmon).

APPROVED that the Soham Town Council write a strongly worded letter to ECDC planning department stating Soham Town Council's disappointment regarding ECDC lack of support with this proposed development at appeal.

NOTED Cllr Warner concerns regarding the lack of affordable homes delivered across the district (47) and felt it was an utter disgrace.

NOTED that a resident sent emails concerning ECDC lack of support regarding flooding issues on proposed Broad Piece development and they received three different responses. DCllr Jones stated he would look into and follow up for May's meeting.

NOTED Cllr Horgan stated that the Planning Inspectorate had placed 29 conditions on the proposed Broad Piece development and ECDC should ensure that these matters are implemented.

NOTED DCllr Bovingdon supported ECDC planning department regarding refusal of the Broad Piece site but ECDC were challenged regarding their 5 year housing supply as several of those have not come forward.

NOTED DCllr Bovingdon stated that a Neighbourhood Plan would have some control regarding future development.

NOTED DCllr Bovingdon confirmed an outbreak of bird flu in the Ely area.

NOTED a resident suggested that Soham Town Council invite ECDC planning committee members to one of the town's meetings so that the council can complain directly to those decision makers.

NOTED Cllr Johnston corrected an error in CCllr/DCllr Goldsack's report regarding the Kingfisher football ground lease to Soham Town Rangers Youth. This is being amended to a yearly lease to allow the club to move to another venue if needed and not tying them into a lengthy lease going forward together.

IN SESSION AND AS LISTED ON THE AGENDA

50/22

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr G Woodbridge & CCllr/DCllr Goldsack and duly noted by the membership. Cllr A Woricker & H Ross were noted as absent.

51/22

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST TO ITEMS ON AGENDA

Declarations of Interest were noted for Cllr D Woricker & K Horgan regarding agenda item 56/22 The Mens Shed.

52/22

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th MARCH 2022

APPROVED the minutes of the meeting of the 14 March 2022 as printed and attached herein being true records of proceedings were duly signed as being such by the Chairman.

53/22

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 that the town wide survey is now complete with 212 surveys returned, 50% strongly agreed with the questions.

NOTED first draft design code has been submitted and comments are required. At the meeting on 13 April it will be redrafted and submitted to Soham Town Council for approval, once approval received it can be used as a guide for future developments in Soham & Barway.

B) Jubilee '22 Committee-attached

NOTED badges for primary school children have been ordered and a very generous, anonymous resident has purchased some for residents who wish to purchase, any monies made by the sale of these will be donated to EACH.

NOTED events are progressing and a programme will be available nearer to the date.

NOTED Drayton Meadows will be the venue for a small tree planting ceremony on Friday 3 June, with 7 native trees being planted (5 oaks, 1 cherry, 1 holly). APPROVED for groundsmen to clear a suitable path to allow invited dignitaries to access the area. Proposed Cllr Pallett, seconded Cllr Horgan, unanimous vote.

C) Chapel update (Cllr Woodbridge)

NOTED still a section of scaffolding not removed and works are still not completed.

APPROVED to request legal advice and letter to be sent requesting removal of scaffolding. Proposed Cllr Aitchison, seconded Cllr Horgan, by majority. Cllr Warner abstained

NOTED quotes are being obtained for cemetery wall and completion works on the chapel

D) Loft Insulation update (08/22 1A) Cllr Horgan

NOTED insulation completed in this years budget

APPROVED for press release to be placed on Soham Town Council website. Proposed Cllr Aitchison seconded Cllr Warner, unanimous vote.

E) HR Committee

NOTED committee now in place with Cllr D Woricker, Aitchison and Warner as members.

NOTED Cllr Horgan's request - Terms of Reference, Cllr Johnston will circulate to all members.

F) Christmas Light Contractor (3 quotes)

APPROVED not to have lights on the recreation ground as quoted by LITE.

APPROVED to use Blanchere on a 3 year hire of new product and lights only.

APPROVED Cllr D Woricker will engage with them.

54/22

PREVIOUS MONTH'S STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

APPROVED the minutes of the planning meeting of the 28 March 2022 as printed and attached herein being true records of proceedings were duly signed as being such by the Chairman.

55/22

INCOME & PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS MADE (FP 22/20), STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2022.

NOTED income & RESOLVED TO APPROVE those payments made to 31 March 2022 (inc. vat) as attached to these minutes NOTED AS APPROVED and without comment the monthly financial reports consisting current monthly actual net (income and expenditure) budget statement with financial movements including any virement(s) which had previously circulated to members via email and are attached to these council minutes as appendices and additionally reproduced on the councils website <https://www.soham-tc.gov.uk/soham-town-council/accounts/monthly-accounts/>

NOTED AND APPROVED payments 1 – 4 April 2022

APPROVED for interim RFO to complete a Full Council Audit. Proposed Cllr Johnston, seconded Cllr Aitchison, unanimous vote

APPROVED for Finance Software Package – Rialtas Omega. Proposed Cllr Warner, seconded Cllr Horgan, unanimous vote.

56/22

COMMUNITY SUPPORT INCLUDING FINANCIAL (LHI) REQUESTS

APPROVED to support Engage (£100, s137) Cambridgeshire County Council

NOTED Footpath 58 Weatherall's allotments – to ascertain the cost to repair the access road into the site. Proposed Cllr Horgan, seconded Cllr Pallett, unanimous vote

APPROVED to not give permission for use of the recreation ground at weekends and school holidays for a mobile coffee unit. Proposed Cllr Lane, seconded Cllr Leonard by majority.

APPROVED to support the Mens Shed – (Grant £500, s137) to replace planters around the war memorial.

NOTED Cllr Leonard's request regarding the Men's Shed offer of watering the new trees being planted on the High Street. Cllr Johnston will go back to them to check that the offer still stands.

APPROVED for Avanti to be our supplier for the road closures for the Remembrance Parade and provide a copy of their public liability insurance.

NOTED the service this year will be at 11:00hrs

57/22

CYCLE PATH BYWAY 113

APPROVED to engage our Land Agent to help with project management of the scheme along with delegated councillors. Proposed Cllr Johnston, seconded Cllr Pallett, unanimous vote.

NOTED Cllr Aitchison's request that the route be well signed posted from both Soham and Wicken.

58/22

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:

- Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation
- Working in partnership with Anglian Water to help your vulnerable parishioners
- Health & Safety Advisor Spring 2022 Newsletter
- Police Surgery commencing Monday 4 April 9am – 12 noon Pavilion
- ECDC press release: SUNNICA
- East Cambridgeshire Parish Council Conference The Maltings Ely Tuesday 3rd May 2022 11am until 14:45pm.
- Funded Pond Conservation Project
- Cambridgeshire Matters March 2022 Newsletter
- Proposed TTRO: Hasse Road, Soham 23/05/2022-03/06/2022
- CAPALC Bulletin
- Cambridgeshire's celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 23 June 2022 July Racecourse Newmarket
- RSN Rural Market Town Group – Newsletter April 2022
- East Cambs Local Community News
- Proposed TTRO: 22-380 Blockmoor Road, Soham - emergency road closure
- Community Support for Ukrainian Refugees

59/22

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

- ICCM Journal Spring 2022

46/22

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Annual meeting of Soham Town Council - 9th May 2022 7.15pm
- Annual town meeting (meeting for residents) - 16th May 2022 (commencing 7.00pm in the Pavilion)

(the above meetings will be conducted face-to-face but are still subject to cancellation due to any further COVID restrictions imposed by Central Government - date and venue confirmed at the time of agenda publication).

The meeting ended at 8.51pm.