

## SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Soham Town Council meeting held at the Walter Gidney Pavilion with Zoom and live streaming using YouTube on Monday 12 July 2021.

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

In attendance: CCllr & DCllr D Schumann & DCllr A Jones

Cllr Johnston noted the unexpected death of Mrs Emma Hales who had been heavily involved with local community groups and activities. Soham Town Council noted its thoughts were with her family at this sad time.

### 89/21 PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

A resident made representation on behalf of Wombles, a Facebook community litter picking group requesting provision of equipment noting that this activity not only benefitted the community but offered mental health and wellbeing opportunities including potential for befriending services reducing social isolation for those taking part. The Chairman noted that she had already met with the resident concerned in the month following last month's council meeting confirming those council decisions previously taken under min 85/21A and that the issue of littering should not be solely viewed as an exercise in picking up after the fact of it being dropped but by tackling those individuals responsible for these antisocial behaviours in the first place.

A robust discussion took place highlighting many aspects of the current littering phenomenon/problem which is (widespread) in Society; insurance responsibilities and liabilities in the case of volunteer incident or accident; the unacceptable level of discarded facemasks blighting this and every town from current pandemic; that the town council as mentioned at last months meeting having previously supported a previous social group under a similar initiative but that this group had disbanded and had given over that equipment to the current group and that East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) as the Responsible Authority and having a legal Duty for refuse collections and for which the tax payer already pays under its domestic rates already provides this type of equipment under its agreement and supervision. DCllr Schumann suggested the ECDC Environment Enforcement Officer could take action and target Soham on this particular antisocial behaviour and it was agreed that he should pursue this option on behalf of the town. In addition it was agreed that the Clerk should meet with the resident to find a suitable, practicable and best way of supporting this community group's civic minded activities.

Cllr Warner noted that the lack of policing and enforcement was not solely isolated to that of littering and that other antisocial activities are not being properly addressed by relevant Statutory Bodies and Authorities. Citing dog fouling and illegal road parking and obstruction as two other routine complaints by residents made to the town council Cllr Warner noted he is now in contact with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss how the town's CCTV network can be put to more effective use in fighting these antisocial behaviours and not just be used for more serious crimes and offences.

Another resident made representation regarding last town council's meeting and the behaviour of the two representatives from This Land Ltd. Noting amongst other issues that these representatives had moved to 'join' the cllr members which was procedurally incorrect and had in doing so had their backs to the audience which he considered extremely rude. In addition the resident

noted that both these representatives and Cllr Goldsack at previous town and county council meetings when he acted as then Chairman for these matters had failed to answer several questions posed by those members of public present at these meetings.

Another resident made representation agreeing that the secretive nature of This Land Ltd particularly as the representatives from This Land Ltd made no mention of the amenity improvements promised concerning the Staploe Medical Centre which serves not only Soham but all surrounding villages did nothing for Public opinion or confidence noting that amongst other concerns the inability of This Land Ltd to demonstrate its responsibilities required under the Planning system (lack of affordable housing provision) and its fiscal solvency (under s106 contributions) at other planned housing sites and that he considered the negotiations currently involving Staploe Medical Centre and its expansion was merely a token effort and hollow gesture on the part of this company to persuade the Planning Authority to grant planning permission at the Eastern Gateway.

90/21

#### CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR UPDATES TO INCLUDE:

Cllr Johnston noted that the revised town council's website [www.soham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.soham-tc.gov.uk) is now live and has a significant amount of new content and information for both Cllr and residents' use and assistance. Please forward any comments, observations or requests for subject or content inclusion for the attention of the Clerk.

Cllr Johnston noted her Bid submission of £116K under ECDC's Welcome Back Fund to refurbish the public toilets at Fountain Lane public car park.

Cllr Woodbridge updated membership regarding the ongoing cemetery chapel repair works and a requested, due to him not being able to remain for discussions under min 103/21 (below) and so as not to delay progress that additional quotes need to be obtained to further continue improvement works (internal flooring & redecoration) to enable the Chapel to be brought back into a useable community facility.

Cllr Johnston noted Cllr Woodbridge's request and directed that any additional works above current agreed repairs needed to be listed at next (September) meeting for consideration along with all budgets required for the next financial year.

Cllr Woodbridge made thanks to the town council for its decision, taken some time ago and under professional recommendations, not to clean the town's War Memorial which had saved it from unnecessary and unsympathetic cleaning that has in his opinion spoilt a number of these socially historic monuments in other parishes.

91/21

#### COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The Chairman invited DCllr Jones to present his written report which had been previously circulated to the membership on East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) matters affecting Soham or more generally:

- DCllr Jones noted that in this written report he had noted that COVID-19 cases Nationally and locally continue to rise sharply, largely due to the delta variant, with an expectation of a third wave of infections peaking in early August. The proposed lifting of social restrictions on Monday 19 July makes the probability of rising cases more likely. Health professionals continue to express concerns at significant rises in numbers of cases in 18-30's in Cambridge, along with low levels of vaccination uptake. A team is working with the City Council and universities on this. In East Cambridgeshire rates are also rising but remain below regional and national averages. There are further

opportunities for walk-in clinics for those needing their first or second doses and will be announced by the local Clinical Commissioning Group. The walk-in clinics are designed to help drive up vaccination rates ahead of the planned national easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions on July 19<sup>th</sup>. DCllr Jones noted that appointments can still be booked at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). Mobile rapid testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot tests as well as kits to take away and complete at home. Secondary school pupils need to take lateral flow tests twice a week, as testing rates have fallen but young people continue to be carriers of the disease even though they may not be aware. More information about accessing rapid testing can be found online. DCllr Jones urged residents to check the District Council's public health information messages about COVID which are updated regularly<sup>1</sup>.

- Work is progressing on the opportunity to build 8- independent living flats on land at the Princess of Wales Hospital as part of its expansion 16 of which will be owned by Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust as part of the hospital's ward enabling further integration of community health and social care. There has been some residents' concerns as well as transport issues arising from the scheme and the Council's Adults & Health Committee Chairman Lorna Dupre stressed that the new development needed to be a 'good neighbour'. A number District Cllrs also want to see more electric vehicle charging points at this site, with more community transport (buses) to serve it, and better walking and cycling connections to, within, and from the site with changes to highways layouts to accommodate the increased use of the site from this and other developments in the immediate area.

- On the matter of the Eastern Gateway DCllr Jones noted that the Planning Officer Barbara Greengrass has informed him that the application still has many issues and will not be coming to Planning Committee for a number of months yet. With regards to the question raised at last months meeting to s106 agreements DCllr Jones noted and contrary to the responses given at last months full council meeting that this particular aspect had not been discussed.

- DCllr Jones noted that the closing date for applications to the Welcome Back Fund (WBF) providing councils across England a share of £56 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support the safe return of public to high streets and to help 'build back better' from the pandemic was Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The aim of the Welcome Back Fund (WBF) is to help councils boost tourism, improve green spaces and provide more outdoor seating areas, markets and food stall pop-ups – giving people more, safer options to reunite with friends and relatives.

- The District Council's Children & Young People Committee has agreed in principle to provide supermarket vouchers over the summer holidays for families entitled to free school meals and is requesting The Strategy & Resources Committee to support and fund the financial difference between Government funding and the cost of ensuring all eligible families have their needs met (up to £537K).

- The Highways & Transport Committee has now approved the prioritised Local Highway Improvement Bids for this year (see correspondence) with DCllr Jones provided for information the timescales and deadlines for this

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<sup>1</sup>[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting);

<https://twitter.com/CambsCC>; <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-overview>

years Local Highway Improvement schemes for delivery 2022/23<sup>2</sup> allowing the autumn and winter period for feasibility, design and cost assessments to be ready for those approved and funded schemes to be delivered from 1 April 2022.

- Cambridgeshire County Council is currently consulting on its Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP, consultation closes 13<sup>th</sup> July)<sup>3</sup>. The Department for Transport has recommended that all Local Authorities should develop LCWIPs with those with plans more likely to have successful Bids from future funding. The LCWIP will cover the whole County and focus on each District to highlight priority routes for cycling using census (population) data to identify where funding could have the greatest effect. If funding becomes available to progress any of the routes within the Plan further feasibility work will be required which will include local consultation and engagement

- The Planning Inspector for the draft Cambridge's hire & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Local Plan has determined it to be 'sound', provided it includes his main modifications. The County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee has agreed due to this positive report to recommend adoption of the Plan to the Full Council on 20 July but it should be stressed that as a joint plan it will only take effect if Peterborough Council also agrees to adopt the Plan.

-Cambridgeshire County Council has launched a consultation on plans for the recycling centre at Milton as current permissions expires in 2026,, The proposal is to enhance and expand the existing facility whilst 'future proofing' it to meet the needs of the local growing population. The consultation<sup>4</sup> closes 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

-The next deadline to apply to CCC's Innovate & Cultivate Fund is 1st August. The fund supports projects that strengthen communities community groups and charities to reduce pressure on it own County Council services. The fund is open to voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises in and outside Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. This round is for applications for 'Cultivate' projects (£2,000 - £15,000) which build community support networks for vulnerable people. 'Innovate' grants (£15,000-£50,000) are currently suspended. The Council has advice for seven different off -the-peg project ideas to help people remain independent and active in their community, to encourage volunteering, and reduce pressure costs on Council services. On the website<sup>5</sup> guidance on how to apply for a start-up grant for projects such as mobile warden schemes, community youth workers, digital inclusion, timebanking, good neighbourhood schemes, dementia friendly communities, Mens Sheds. More information and application forms may be found at Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) website <http://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>

- DCllr Jones noted that The Boundary Commission for England has published proposals for new parliamentary constituencies, which is open for public consultation (deadline Monday 2 August). This is the first stage of the Review

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<sup>2</sup>Bids submissions Monday 30 June 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021; Feasibility studies undertaken: August to October 2021; Panel meetings: December —January 2021/22; Report to committee including prioritised list for approval: March 2022

<sup>3</sup> <https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/ccc-local-cycling-and-walking-Infrastructure-plan-consultation-2021>

<sup>4</sup> [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/milton](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/milton)

<sup>5</sup> <https://data.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/dataset/cultivate-project-ideas>

which will conclude in 2023. For the East of England, the proposals would mean three more MPs, and the effect of this is to create an additional 'St Neots' parliamentary seat in Cambridgeshire. The proposed new 'East Cambridgeshire' constituency would include the whole of the District (including Sutton and Little Downham wards and Littleport which are currently in North East Cambridgeshire) and add to this the two South Cambridgeshire wards of Cottenham Milton & Waterbeach.

-DCllr Jones noted that the County Council's Adults & Health Committee has committed to renew its programme of awareness about healthy weight. In 2018/19 62.8 per cent of people nationally were overweight or obese. In comparison East Cambridgeshire figures were slightly lower than that at 58.8 per cent. The cost of obesity to the NHS each year is estimated to be between £5.1b and £27b whilst the cost of malnutrition in England in 2011/12 (10 years ago) was £19.6 b amounting to more than 15% of total public expenditure on health and social care. About half of expenditure is related to older people, and the other half to younger adults and children.

The Chairman thanked DCllr Jones for his most informative and comprehensive contribution and then invited CCllr/DCllr Schumann to present his report jointly on ECDC and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) matters affecting Soham or more generally namely:

- CCllr Schumann noted that DCllr Jones had covered much of his own County Council's report in his summary provided to members earlier.

-CCllr Schumann noted that he had won the seat for Soham, Wicken and Haddenham which covered a large electoral constituency replacing Mr Bill Hunt (retired) at the recent Local Elections. In addition Mr Schumann also represents as Soham North District Cllr having been elected to Vice Chairman of this Council and the new Audit Committee with the aim of making the District Councils' work more accountable and its processes more transparent to the general public. Noting the significant call on his time for these appointments he nevertheless indicated an intention to attend as many town council meetings as possible and would always be contactable via normal official avenues.

- CCllr/DCllr Schumann noted the recent planning authority outline planning approval for the expansion of the Princess of Wales Hospital Ely.

- CCllr/DCllr Schumann noted that ECDC have previously declared a climate emergency work now begins on implementing an environment strategy that includes £1m expenditure for energy efficiencies throughout the councils operations, 100K on improvements to its main offices with emphasis on tree (orchard) planting, managing grass cutting operations better (carbon sequestration) and creating wildlife havens as part of the planning process to new developments

-Cllr Warner queried whether CCC's climate (CO<sub>2</sub> reduction) plans now included replacing those less energy efficient nickel metal hydride bulbs that were installed in its most recent and extensive street lighting works and rationalisation exercise in 2017 (PFI with Balfour Beatty) with energy efficient LED's which he noted were available at that time and indeed the town council own lighting stock has already changed to. CCllr Schumann responded that ECDC has no direct control of the street lighting having been transferred its stock over to CCC/Balfour Beatty. However he was aware that CCC has allocated £16m for environmental improvements but that he was unsure of the specific projects and expenditures involved and that he would look into this.

-Noted Clerk's comments that Soham Town Council has undertaken its own carbon footprint study to its activities (under its own Climate Emergency Statement) and the full report is expected imminently but confirmed that not only the LED changeover had significantly reduced the councils CO emissions

but the the Pavilion, with exception of a few recommendations wrt insulation was considered represented the largest CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Report to be circulated and listed at next council meeting).

-Cllr Ross made comment on the content and extent of ECDC's Environmental (impact) Plan received this June given that ECDC had declared a Climate Emergency in October 2019. Cllr Ross expressed his concerns that the recognition and importance of declaring climate emergency statements by both ECDC were incompatible and in direct juxtaposition to their actions. Noting the push for large scale housing developments and the apparent disregard for their sustainability in rural areas resulting in loss of arable, grass and agricultural lands offering carbon sequestration capacity and capability were at odds to their declared 'green' aspiration and carbon neutral credentials. Citing the specific example of encouraging the Eastern Gateway development in a town where there is already a lack of amenity capacity or provision (water, sewage) for existing residents, where car use will be obligatory given there is no direct access to the High St/town centre and not insisting that the heating systems in these properties have solar panels/ground heat source pumps as standard was both bizarre and illogical to the spirit of these climate ambitions. Cllr Ross urged those in elected positions including the Leaders of these Councils to be true to their words in this report and "it (this council) acknowledges its responsibility to the environment as precious inheritance for which we act as caretakers for the next generation".

- CCllr/DCllr Shumann noted that ECDC has supported local business with grants received from Central Government distributing around £2.5 million with 82% of local business being successful in their applications.

- CCllr/DCllr Shumann noted that ECDC as the Authority responsible for (Duty) for refuse is being more proactive in their fight against fly tipping across the District and has issued fixed penalties of £3,300. CCllr/DCllr Shumann encouraged all residents to report fly tipping on-line <https://eastcambs.gov.uk> or telephoning the council offices on 01353 665555.

- CCllr/DCllr Shumann noted that his/DCllr Bovingtons successful Bid of £200K from Combined Authority's Soham Market Town Plan Fund has provided £85K to the town centre recovery (painting replacing bus shelters, bins and relining), £95K to improve and extend the free wi-fi for the town (full delivery date expected September) with £20K on an evidence-based study to look at how best to spend the further £800K (Metro Dynamics). CCllr/DCllr Shumann noted that currently there is a projected slight underspend of £25 - £27K from this grant and suggested that these monies might be re-allocated to help with the refurbishment of Soham's public toilets (Fountain Lane).

-Cllr Woodbridge queried whether the new High St bus stops had or would have real time information (RTI) installed which had been popular additions to those bus stops further along Fordham Rd. CCllr/DCllr Shumann responded that he would look into this addition and where there was a budget available would put pressure on for their installation.

- Cllr Warner queried the status of the Town Council's Bid (Wicken-Soham cycle route). CCllr/DCllr Shumann responded that the Bid was still live and progressing but as one of many other worthy community applications made for Funding more monies would be required.

- CCllr/DCllr Shumann noted the lack of progress regarding the Staploe Medical Centre's relocation/expansion as part of the Eastern Gateway development proposals, despite his continuing efforts to encourage meetings between This Land, the CCG, representatives of District and County Councils and medical Partners. CCllr/DCllr Shumann suggested the current impasse

was due to the business plan being put forward by the NHS/This Land Ltd had not been acceptable to the Drs who are not only clinical but financial partners in this Practice. CCllr/DCllr Shumann noted that the budget proposal would see NHS providing £1m with This Land Ltd proposing a contribution of between £8-10m into the proposed budget but this was still not considered acceptable or sufficient to the long term sustainability by the Partners.  
-Cllr Ross's thanked for DCllr Schumann's for his continuing efforts in regards to advocating for Staploe Medical Centre but he could not see how the Eastern Gateway development could possible continue to progress under planning without this fundamental issue and demonstration to resident benefit being resolved.

*At 8:11pm Cllr Woodbridge left the meeting.*

92/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr A Pallett, A Woricker & C Simoes and duly noted by the membership with Cllr S Prior being recorded as absent. Apologies were received from CCllr M Goldsack.

93/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST TO ITEMS ON AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest recorded by those members present.

94/21 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2021 (ATTACHED)

APPROVED that the minutes of the meeting on the 14 June 2021 and as printed and attached herein as being a true record of proceedings which were duly signed as being such by the Chairman.

95/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CURRENT & WHERE NECESSARY PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MINUTES (matters not listed on the agenda specifically below BUT to include):

A) Lead Cllr (team leader) appointments -delivery of projects (81/21A)  
CONFIRMED Cllr A Pallet (Planning Lead) Cllr G Dyer, (Allotment Lead) Cllr C Warner (Community Amenities Lead) & Cllr E Johnston as Chairman (automatic appointment Finance & Policy Lead).

NOTED that all cemetery issues will continue to be dealt with either under normal business of the Clerks' office or where not to be listed as agenda items for full council consideration at monthly meetings.

NOTED the content of the letter from Mr Seaward Jonas Carter in response to the Clerks email summarising those questions posed by Cllrs and members of the public at last months meeting.

NOTED Cllr Warner's comments that the letter was dismissive of both the town council's and public's concerns and that he will be meeting with the Leader of CCC regarding the Eastern Gateway proposal/This Land Ltd requesting the town council's Authority to represent it and advocating on this important matter.

NOTED Cllr Ross's concerns that the financial accounting statements remain outstanding and overdue for This Land Ltd.

NOTED Cllr Johnston's objections over the blasé response given by Mr Seaward regarding the common lands either side of the proposed Eastern Gateway development and her concern that the owner of these private lands remains to be involved in any negotiations for their protection and safeguarding.

NOTED Cllr Warner's comments and concerns over the length of time these discussions and negotiations, notwithstanding the legal changes have taken place (over 10 years).

APPROVED that Cllr Warner may act in representation to Soham Town Council to gather information and report back to full council on all matters relating to the progress of the proposed Eastern Gateway development.

B) High St Improvements (Cllr Leonard report 81/21C)

NOTED Cllr Leonard's verbal update concerning introduction of specimen trees in High St and that the trial pits had shown only two areas where planting was not suitable and that revised positions were being investigated

NOTED Cllr Leonard's request to council members to support him in completing a LHI bid to install a (proper) disabled bay on the High St opposite of and in place of current unauthorised 'disabled' parking outside, the Post Office and in place on this hard standing paved area outside the Post Office for two large planters to be installed (by ECDC Parks and Recreation services) preventing use of this area for speculative parking purposes (pedestrian safety considerations).

NOTED Cllr Leonard's offer to provide upkeep and maintenance of these planters including seasonal planting for a period of 5 years.

APPROVED unanimously, in support to Cllr Leonard making an LHI application for a proper disabled bay in the street opposite the Post Office and, in a vote of thanks to Cllr Leonard for his financial contribution to underpin this proposal.

C) Hard standing area outside extension Pavilion (update to note only 74.21)

NOTED this matter would be now be addressed by Cllr Warner as the appointed lead Cllr in Community Amenities matters (See A above)

*At 8:45pm and with permission of the membership the Chairman requested variation of the Agenda and for 95/21 D Land evaluations (56/21 Cllr Johnston) previously approved engagement of Fisher German for Land Portfolio works up to land planning permission(s) (56/21A 61/21A) to be considered under exclusion of the Public and Press after 104/21 Thereafter and with permission of the membership the Chairman resumed the Order of the Agenda:*

E) 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 Natalie Blaken had produced two very informative draft reports (circulated to all Cllrs) on current planning policies and deprivation & demographics statistics in Soham parish (missing out on affordable housing) which will support the NP submission.

NOTED Cllr Aitchison and members of the working party will be outside the CO-OP on Saturday 17 July 2021 and also take a stall at the Pumpkin Fair later in the year to further publicise the neighbourhood plan and gain further community responses to the two questionnaires that are currently on-line (107 responses for the green spaces survey).

F) Any other pertinent matters (Cllrs must specify at the meeting the minute number(s) to which they wish to refer)

No additional matters were highlighted by Cllrs for further discussion.

96/21

#### PREVIOUS MONTH'S STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

i) Planning - 28th June 2021

*attached please note due to structural changes this will be the last Committee meeting with corresponding minutes until further notice, residents can still make comment on all planning applications on ECDC on-line Planning portal <https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/planning/current-planning-applications> )*

A) E/11/00995/OUM - Land to rear of 23-49 Fordham Road, agreement dated 20/05/2013 s106 developer contributions (bus shelter maintenance)



APPROVED unanimously not to adopt the maintenance of this bus stop as requested by CCC.

B) *NEW FORMAT 2021*. 20/01077/FUM Conversion of Barn A & B into 11 residential dwellings to include parking and amenity space. Great Hasse Farm Hasse Rd Soham Amendment additional information received includes the submission of a PEA (Preliminary Ecological Assessment) NOTED & APPROVED comments made by members under new framework- Outside the development envelope as shown in the 2015 Local Plan and in an unsustainable site. The membership at this meeting in addition to these comments noted their concerns at the loss of agricultural buildings.

97/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST AND PREVIOUS MONTHS STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES (*to be specified at time of meeting-members are reminded they must indicate the official minute reference to which they are referring*):

NOTED no matters were raised by members for further consideration to any previous approvals made.

98/21 INCOME & PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS MADE (FP 22/20) & STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 30th JUNE 2021 including net income and expenditure (Q1).

A) NOTED income & RESOLVED approval of those payments made to 30 June 2021 totalling £17009.43 (inc. vat) respectively and as attached to the council minutes as appendices.

NOTED without comment statement of budget balances to month end with previous months approvals for virements and net income and expenditure for Q1 2021.

B) CCLA Fund application - suitability questionnaire (Financial circumstances) update and any further approvals (Cllr Dyer)

NOTED the email provided by Mr Paul Roberts, Arlingclose indicating that any funds placed in the CCLA portfolio should be considered as 'spent' and the capital invested non returnable in the short to medium term (5-10 years).

NOTED that a £300K investment (and subsequently entire loss of the councils general funds) would be overly ambitious at this time.

APPROVED unanimously to rescind its previous approval under 84/21 B and to retain currently all funds in accessible accounts but to reconsider this matter and any investment after the budgeting season and towards the end of the financial year.

NOTED the Clerk's comments that the costs of obtaining the suitability report and irrespective of the decision now taken remained legitimately owed and payable.

99/21 COMMUNITY SUPPORT INCLUDING FINANCIAL REQUESTS

A) Grant awarding Policy 2021-22

APPROVED reinstatement of Soham Town Council's Grant Awarding Policy for this coming financial year but to cap the maximum amount that can be applied for by any groups/charities etc to £500.

B) Soham Gardening Club (annual insurance £192.31) s137

APPROVED payment in recompense to the Club for this year's insurance premium under the understanding that next year this will not be an automatic approval but based on demonstration of its community worth and benefit.

100/21 CORRESPONDENCE –TO BE 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):

- RBL Touchpoint Editions no 63 9th June 2021; no 64 23rd June 2021
- IHMC March incident report; IHMC April Incident Report
- Highway Events Diary - Events Diary - July 21
- Holiday Activity and Food Programme - Summer Holidays
- Letter from Lucy Frazer regarding The Great British Spring Clean
- Newsletter to Parish Councils from Councillor Anna Bailey, Leader of Council
- Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management Member Newsletter 9th June 2021; Member newsletter 23rd June 2021; Member Newsletter 28th June 2021
- The Combined Authority Update: Issue 1 & Issue 2
- TTRO Roadworks 21-633 Mereside & Julius Lane, Soham 15, 16th July 2021
- Reach (East Cambridgeshire) Neighbourhood Plan - pre-submission consultation (REGULATION 14)
- Pre-Submission Consultation on the Draft Isleham Neighbourhood Plan (1st September 2021)
- Network Rail/Murphy - Soham station residents notifications 21 June 2021
- INVITATION: Virtual roundtable meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 5th July – East Cambs area

**NOTED Cllr Warner had attended this virtual meeting and had arranged further exploratory discussions with the Police and Crime Commissioner (see public comment time min 89/21)**

- Application for a street trading consent - @ Barnsbury - Barnsbury Furniture Store Car Park 9A The Shade Soham CB7 5DE

**NOTED unanimously that Soham Town Council does not support this due to a fast food outlet being opposite a local primary school.**

- Street Trading Consent Consultation - Magic Ices - Mobile Ice Cream Vendor
- Jigsaw Magazine + message from Soham Town Council + HAY
- **Local Highway Improvement 2021/2 assessment**

101/21 MONTHLY PAPERS/BIBIOGRAPHY/PERIODICALS/BULLETINS (LIST TO APPEAR IN MINUTES ONLY)  
None

102/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING  
• Soham Annual Review Tuesday 27th July 2021 commencing 7pm (please note this is not a Soham Town Council meeting)  
• Summer recess (no scheduled meetings August with exception of any requirement to convene EOM)  
• Next Soham Town Council meeting Monday 13th September 2021

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

**At 9:45pm under NOTICE OF EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC** That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of matter 103/21 Chapel repairs 2021 & 104/21 Land Acquisition which is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that where members of the public were present during the item there would be disclosure of exempt information of Category 1, 3 and 5 (commercially sensitive including legal privileged considerations) under Part I Schedule 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (EXEMPT INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2006)

**The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and after 5 minute recess:**

- 103 /21      CHAPEL REPAIRS (73/21)  
NOTED repairs remain ongoing (update received from Cllr Woodbridge under min 91/21.
- 104/21      LAND ACQUISITION UPDATES (56/1A, 61/21A)  
NOTED with a voted of thanks verbal update from Cllr Johnston on status of current land purchase (subject to contract)  
APPROVED any further acquisitions (currently 3 potential options) to remain under delegation and discretion of Cllr Johnston supported by the Clerk and the appointed Land Agent subject to and limited to current available = budget allocation approved by full council for this activity.
- 95/21      D) Land evaluations (56/21 Cllr Johnston) previously approved engagement of Fisher German for Land Portfolio works up to land planning permission(s) (56/21A 61/21A)  
APPROVED not to pursue the aspect of undertaking any land valuations at this time which by definition would be subject to change/ fluctuate and as consequence be of limited use in any future capital disposal exercises (market assessments) until such time as a proper and allied capital acquisition or expenditure programme had been formally agreed by the full council.