

SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Soham Town Council meeting held at the Walter Gidney Pavilion Fountain Lane recreation ground Soham Monday 13 June 2022.

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

In attendance: DCllr A Jones & DCllr I Bovingdon

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

80/22 PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

NOTED a resident made a request to the council that on Armed Forces Day (25 June 2022) the flag is flown.

81/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR VERBAL UPDATES (maximum 5 minutes per group) TO INCLUDE:

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Pallett, seconded by Cllr Horgan and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve an amendment to the footnotes on all agendas

Action: Cllr Johnston to revise footnotes.

NOTED request by resident that Soham Town Council look into an option to purchase Barclays Bank.

NOTED this had been considered as a Heritage & Tourism Centre but it has not been budgeted for.

NOTED invitation from Lucy Fraser MP to visit the House of Commons.

NOTED that councillors would like to attend and would suit all if after 17 July 2022. Cllr Johnston will liaise to arrange convenient date and time.

NOTED Soham Town Council condolences to Ely City Councillor Mike Rouse's family regarding his passing.

NOTED chapel issues still ongoing.

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Woodbridge, seconded by Cllr Lane and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote for a legal letter to be issued to the scaffold contractor with amendment regarding any damage caused by their removal will incur further costs charged to them.

Action: Assistant Clerk to amend and post recorded delivery

NOTED Residents across Cambridgeshire, who have reached state pension age, can now apply for support to help ease the rising cost of living.

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Aitchison, seconded by Cllr Warner and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to contact CCC for further information

(<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund>)

82/22 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/> (June 2022).

NOTED Cllr Warner questioned DCllr Jones regarding enforcement of an issue with the drainage pipes on the Hopkins Homes site at Cherrytree Lane and information regarding the Soham Lodge Care Home. DCllr Jones will confirm with ECDC Enforcement team and report back.

NOTED Cllr Ross requested confirmation from ECDC planning department regarding who would be responsible in overseeing any large scale developments in Soham (including the Eastern Gateway) as the officer responsible is unavailable at this time.

IN SESSION AND AS LISTED ON THE AGENDA

83/22

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Leonard & CCllr M Goldsack.

84/22

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST TO ITEMS ON AGENDA

Declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda: None
Requests to Speak: None required
To receive requests for dispensations: None
Grant of dispensations: None

85/22

TOWN COUNCIL MATTERS INCLUDING CLLR VACANCY (NORTH WARD X 1 SOUTH WARD X 1) PLEASE NOTE THAT CLLR APPOINTMENTS TAKE PLACE UNDER EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of a matter likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during item 80/21 would be disclosure of exempt information of Category 2 of Part I Schedule 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (EXEMPT INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2006)

- Mr. Alec Jones 63 Kingfisher Way Soham CB7 5GP (North Ward)
- Mr. Glenn Dyer 37 Qua Fen Common Soham CB7 5DQ (South Ward)

In closed session and following questioning by members their applications for vacancies proceeded collectively and by way of ballot of the existing membership. After the count was declared by the Assistant Clerk to the membership, candidates together with the public and press were readmitted to the meeting at which point the Chairman thanked them for their attendance and the following was recorded:

APPROVED unanimously that Mr Alec Jones (North Ward) & Mr Glen Dyer (South Ward) be co-opted as town Cllrs to Soham Town Council.

86/22

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2022 & EOM 26th MAY 2022

APPROVED the minutes of the meeting of the 9th May 2022 as printed and attached herein being true records of proceedings were duly signed as being such by the Chairman.

NOTED EOM Minutes 26 May 2022 were not available for approval, to be re-listed at July's meeting.

87/22

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 revised Design Code received early last week with a further meeting on Wednesday 15th June to finalise.

NOTED a vote of thanks to all on the Jubilee Committee, it was a great success.

APPROVED a letter of thanks be sent to all involved

Action: Cllr Aitchison to liaise with Assistant Clerk

B) Tree Planting Scheme

After a brief discussion it was **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve a tree planting scheme for 2023-2024 budget. This will include a commemoration tree in remembrance of the late Mr. Colin Fordham.

NOTED cemetery walk about arranged for Monday 27th June 2022 at 6.30pm and sites for new trees at the cemetery could be looked at then.

NOTED Cllr Leonard has successfully secured further funding for Phase I of the High Street trees.

C) Flowerbeds

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Woricker, seconded by Cllr Johnston and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve that Soham Town Forum plant one flowerbed with lavender (by Cherry Tree bus stop) and the others to incorporate into our tree planting scheme.

D) Christmas Lights

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Woodbridge, seconded by Cllr Johnston and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that we continue with Blanchere, we install 4 more commando units and increase the budget to £12K.

88/22

PREVIOUS MONTH'S STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

APPROVED the minutes of the planning meeting of the 30th May 2022 as printed and attached herein being true records of proceedings were duly signed as being such by the Chairman.

NOTED EOM Planning Minutes regarding Single Issue Review Local Plan 2015 were not available in time for meeting

APPROVED the minutes of the Community Amenities meeting of the 5th May 2022 as printed and attached herein being true records of proceedings were duly signed as being such by the Chairman

89/22

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/requesting further council approvals):

A) ROSPA Reports – Cllr A Pallett

NOTED & **APPROVED** Cllr Pallett to lead on reports with decisions on long term strategy being reported back to full council.

B) Back Hall

Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Woricker, seconded by Cllr Aitchison and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve to reinstate the Working Party, for Cllr Warner to engage with local community groups to find out what they feel we should provide and report back at July's meeting.

C) Project Manager

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Woricker, seconded by Cllr Warner and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that our current Land Agent is asked if he would project manage Byway 113 (Soham – Wicken Cycle path)

D) Biodiversity

NOTED to be deferred to July's meeting

90/22

TO RECEIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2022 AND THEREAFTER TO APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS /INFORMATION FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER (RFO) IN REGARDS TO THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2022

A) AGAR 31 March 2022

NOTED Interim RFO asked if all councillors could read pages 8 -14 of the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance guide

91/22 INCOME & PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS MADE (FP 22/20), STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 31 MAY 2022.

NOTED AND APPROVED payments 5 April 2022 – 3 May 2022

92/22 COMMUNITY SUPPORT INCLUDING FINANCIAL REQUESTS

A) Soham Library Summer Reading Challenge 2022 – Representative from STC to attend award ceremony in September

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Woricker, seconded by Cllr Ross and **RESOLVED** by a majority vote to approve that Soham Town Council award them £500. Cllr Horgan objected due to amount not being specified on the Grant Application.

93/22 RECREATION GROUND / PAVILION MATTERS:

A) Dogs on recreation ground

Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Aitchison and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to contact Maggie Camps (Legal Officer ECDC) and the Dog Warden to see what action can be taken

Action: Cllr Johnston to make contact with ECDC officers

B) Toilet capacity at large events

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Warner and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that due to the miss use of the toilets at public events they will no longer be included in the hire, organisations will need to provide portable toilets.

94/22 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:

a. ECDC - May newsletter

b. National Allotment Society - A joint meeting of the Eastern region and the Essex County Body Saturday 11th June 2022 commencing at 10.30am

c. Hedgehog Highway Project

d. Mental Health awareness week Summary of information – Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership

e. 2022 Surface Dressing Program Update

f. NALC Newsletter

g. Arthurs Shed Re-opening June 22

h. Licensing: Pavement Licence application - The Venue Soham

i. Licensing: Pavement Licence application - A Tasca Soham

j. NALC Chief Exec Bulletin

k. 2022 Micro Asphalt Phase 1 and Gripfibre Program Update

l. TTRO - Proposed closure The Cotes, Soham 24/08-26/08/22.

m. Emergency TTRO 22/633 Byway 19 Soham 25/05-31/05/22

NOTED Cllr Warner comment regarding works on new development at Barcham Trees and the impact it may have on the A142

95/22 MONTHLY PAPERS/BIBIOGRAPHY/ PERIODICALS/ BULLETINS (LIST TO APPEAR IN MINUTES ONLY)

- ICCM Journal Summer 2022

96/22

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Full Council Meeting Monday 11th July 2022 7.15pm @ Walter Gidney Pavilion

The meeting ended at 9.33pm.