

SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Soham Town Council meeting held at the Walter Gidney Pavilion Fountain Lane recreation ground Soham Monday 14 March 2022.

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

In attendance: CCllr/DCllr M Goldsack & DCllr A Jones

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

33/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR VERBAL UPDATES (maximum 5 minutes per group) TO INCLUDE:

Cllr Johnston noted an update from Cllr Leonard regarding the High Street trees, these should hopefully be in place by the end of March/beginning of April.

NOTED that a planter beside the bus stop outside the old one stop shop/former TSB bank building needs to be moved. Councillors to decide where to at our next meeting and advise ECDC.

34/22 PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

NOTED a resident asked if the Town council would be holding it's Annual town meeting (meeting for residents) this year. The Chairman confirmed this would be going ahead.

35/22 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

The Chairman thanked CCllr/DCllr Goldsack and DCllr Jones as Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) 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 Ross concerns that CIL payments are still half that of the rest of the district, could ECDC revisit this.

NOTED Cllr Horgan felt it would be useful for Soham Town Council to view the process that ECDC use to make this decision.

NOTED DCllr Jones said he would look into this on behalf of the council and report back with more information.

NOTED CCllr/DCllr Goldsack understanding was the CIL was put in place in 2014, ready for the 2015 Local Plan.

IN SESSION AND AS LISTED ON THE AGENDA

36/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Woricker, P Leonard & C Warner and duly noted by the membership.

37/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST TO ITEMS ON AGENDA

Declarations of Interest were noted for Cllr Woodbridge regarding agenda item 42/22a & Cllr Lane regarding any discussions relating to Soham sports centre.

38/22

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th FEBRUARY 2022

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

39/22

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 resident survey has been distributed to households in Soham and is also available on line.

NOTED the public event is being held this Saturday 19 March 10am – 4pm at the Pavilion

B) Jubilee '22 Committee-attached

NOTED that it is progressing well with several events secured.

NOTED Thursday 2 June 'It's a Knockout' type event, fairground rides, food stalls culminating in the beacon lighting at 9.45pm

NOTED Friday 3 June small event planting 7 native trees possibly on Drayton Meadows, this will not be a public event but are looking at holding a public event in October or November 2022. Deputy Lieutenant Lady De Ramsey will be attending.

NOTED Saturday 4 June from 6pm on the recreation ground there will be a bar and a large screen TV televising the Jubilee concert.

NOTED from 1 April there will be a beacon trail at 7 locations around the town, this is an interactive smart phone app that allows children and adults to view items linked to the Queen's 70 year reign.

NOTED all primary school children will be given a free commemorative badge.

NOTED an anonymous donor will be purchasing some extra badges for residents who would like to purchase.

C) Drayton Meadows-dedicated wildlife area or open space/access provision (27/22)

APPROVED Drayton Meadows to stay as a wildlife and open space for residents.

NOTED that management committee should be in place to manage all our open green spaces including the commons.

APPROVED for Cllr Johnston to re-examine establishing management committee and report back to Full Council at the April meeting. Proposed Cllr Ross seconded Cllr Pallett approved by majority

D) RBL-Remembrance Sunday 2022 (25/22)

NOTED a discussion took place regarding the Remembrance parade

APPROVED for a civic budget for this yearly event on the proviso that Soham Town Council are able to insure the parade with the relevant professional organisation used for road closures. Proposed Cllr Pallett, seconded by Cllr Ross, approved by majority. Cllr Horgan felt he was unable to vote without all relevant information

E) Statue request 'Olaudah Equiano'-resident feedback (25/22)

NOTED following a survey on Facebook asking residents opinions (Yes - 24 with 19 likes, total 43. No – 87 with likes 179, total 266) the outcome for a statue was no.

F) Wildlife areas 2022 Proof of Principle works (Closed churchyard and cemetery - Fordham Road budget consideration 2022-23, 27/22)
APPROVED liaise with the Vicar/Parochial council to discuss feasibility of using part of the closed cemetery if they wish to proceed
(G) Chapel update (Cllr Woodbridge)
NOTED following a lengthy discussion regarding all works at the South Chapel.
APPROVED for council to write to current contractors to ask them to leave with immediate effect. Proposed Cllr Woodbridge, seconded Cllr Ross, unanimous.

40/22

PREVIOUS MONTH'S STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

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

41/22

INCOME & PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS MADE (FP 22/20), STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 28 FEBRUARY 2022.

NOTED income & RESOLVED TO APPROVE those payments made to 28 February 2022 (inc. vat) of £4,154.33 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/>

i) Matters requiring financial considerations

a) Emergency works Fencing Kingfisher Youth Football Ground-Clerks Emergency Powers (£360) -further approvals

APPROVED Quote of £2730.00 to replace fence. Proposed Cllr Johnston, seconded Cllr Lane, Cllr Pallett abstained, by majority.

b) CAPALC Affiliation Invitation - 1st April 2022- 31st March 2023

APPROVED CAPALC affiliation of £1364.01 2022 - 2023

c) Valuation of council assets costs (insurance recommendations 2022)

APPROVED to gather further information and present at April meeting.

9.00pm Cllr Woodbridge left the meeting

42/22

COMMUNITY SUPPORT INCLUDING FINANCIAL (LHI) REQUESTS

a) Soham Day centre (£500, s137)

APPROVED to provide grant to Soham Day Centre. Proposed Cllr Aitchison, seconded Cllr Lane, by majority.

b) Police request-facility (business unit) for police surgery

APPROVED in principle to use of the small business room at the Pavilion for police surgeries. Proposed Cllr Johnston, seconded Cllr Ross, unanimous.

c) Engage (£100, s137) Cambridgeshire County Council

NOTED before a decision can be made further information need to be obtained regarding how they are financed.

APPROVED Assistant Clerk to gather further information for April's meeting.

d) Resident request for tree with bench surround - late Mr Colin Fordham.

APPROVED for a tree and commemorative plaque to be planted in memory of the late Mr. Colin Fordham.

- e) "Busy Bees Recruitment" request to host an Easter Egg hunt and bake sale on the recreation ground (20th April 2022) in aid of EACH (East Anglian Children's Hospice)

APPROVED for Busy Bees Recruitment to have free use of the recreation ground for their charity event.

43/22

COMBINED AUTHORITY SOHAM MARKET TOWN FUND BID

- a) Byway 113 – Cycle Path Soham – Wicken-update by Chairman & further approvals

NOTED debate took place regarding bid

APPROVED for cycle bid to be submitted to the Combined Authority. Proposed Cllr Aitchison, seconded Cllr Lane, unanimous.

APPROVED in Clerk's absence for Chairman and Assistant Clerk to sign the declaration paperwork. Proposed Cllr Aitchison, seconded Cllr Ross unanimous

APPROVED in Clerk's absence for the Assistant Clerk to summons meetings and sign/action papers that may require the Clerk's signature.

Proposed Cllr Horgan, seconded Cllr Lane unanimous.

44/22

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:

- Highways Events March 2022
- ECDC Bin collection day changes set to reduce emissions and improve efficiency
- IHMC Incident Report - February 2022 + Councillor Training Flyer
- Update Chair ECDC Anna Bailey

45/22

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

- None

46/22

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Soham Town Council Monday 11 April 2022 7.15pm @ Pavilion
- Planning Monday 28 March 2022 1.00pm @ 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 9.27pm.