

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 14 June 2021.

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

In attendance: CCllr M Goldsack & DCllr A Jones

By invitation Mr David Lewis Acting CEO and Mr Khalid Shaban Senior Development Manager of This Land Ltd made representation updating the membership in regards to 19/01600/ESO amended/additional information, Eastern Gateway proposal (Land West Of A142 Between East Fen Common and Qua Fen Common and East Of Brewhouse Lane Soham Cambridgeshire). It was noted amongst other improvements to resident amenity proposed that there is an allocated site within the development for the GP practice and that this matter in negotiation with current (Staploe) Surgery and preparation of a design brief. The membership noted that access to High St will potentially be by an indirect connection via Brewhouse Lane whilst Kent's Lane will be (much) improved for cyclists and pedestrian traffic into and out of the town area.

Cllr Aitchison asked for further clarification on mass traffic/transport movement and it was confirmed that primary vehicular access into the development will be via the A142.

Mr Lewis confirmed that a draft Heads of Terms had been submitted to East Cambs District Council (ECDC Planning Authority) regarding S106 contributions which included financial contribution to common land upkeep and its management.

Cllr Woodbridge noted his concerns that the construction of the roundabout would cause disruption to all traffic using the A142. Mr Lewis confirmed that most of the roundabout element of works along with the major internal access roads would be completed before any housing development works would proceed (Phase 1) with his hope and expectation that this Phase would commence in 2022 subject to obtaining relevant planning permissions.

Cllr Warner's expressed dissatisfaction in the current (use and acceptance by the Planning Authority) of OUM's submitted not only by This Land Ltd but other prospective large scale housing Developers as they provide scant detail on important issues such as amenity (surface and foul water drainage, land flooding) and infrastructure (traffic management) all of which needs mitigation and required upgrades and improvements to existing.

Mr Lewis confirmed that the site would provide 20% affordable homes stating that the Planning Authority had already insisted that permission will not be granted unless this amount, as a minimum, is delivered. Mr Lewis was questioned on this figure and his promise given that previously a development by This Land Ltd in March had none due to its own financial viability assessments (calculations by the Developer submitted to the Planning Authority). Mr Lewis confirmed that 90 affordable homes would be included now at this other site by virtue of receiving Central Government funding in offset.

Mr Lewis concluded that in his opinion the proposal now offered residents not only great infrastructure but significant amenity (benefits).

Cllr Ross questioned Mr Lewis and Mr Shaban on the position of this Development given it bisects two ancient and protected commons and that at the very least he would expect any Developer to commission an environmental survey to examine not only impact on, but also to enhancing the commons rather than just mitigating the risks and that that these money obtained through s106 agreement be ring fenced. Mr Lewis confirmed that a specialist had been commissioned to undertake such study including aspects of biodiversity.

A resident made representation regarding This Land Ltd's financial status given that it had posted cumulatively in previous trading years losses of £16m and as confirmed at a previous council meeting by CCllr Goldsack another £4m of losses were anticipated against this years accounts which were not, due to changes to their accounting year end, available for public

scrutiny. Mr Lewis acknowledged his concerns but in response stated that most companies working in this area of Industry incur losses and do not expect to generate profits before 4-5 years of trading.

Mr Lewis and Mr Shaban indicated that they remained available and would continue to answer resident and members concerns' via email.

74/21

PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

The Chairman thanked Mr Lewis and Mr Shaban for attending and thereafter invited a resident to speak in Public Comment Time. She expressed her thanks to the town council (staff) and especially to Cllr Prior for their/her hard work supporting vulnerable residents during the recent pandemic (lockdowns) and both she and another resident were glad to be back attending and observing face to face town council meetings at the Pavilion.

A resident made representation regarding agenda item 85/21 (hard standing surface multi-use community area adjacent to the back extension, Pavilion). He expressed his concerns over health safety and risks when this surface was being used for basketball/ball sports and that he had, after canvassing other users via Facebook, submitted a petition (due to GDPR had not been circulated) to the Office requesting repair and upgrade. The Chairman responded that the surface was not dedicated to any particular social or recreational activity or use and that both the recent annual RoSPA survey and assessment by the town councils own Health and Safety Adviser which although had identified cracks and other surface issues (blemish) had nevertheless ascribed any risk as being 'low'. Noting that the town council would not designate this as a sports surface currently due to its multi-community uses which would act to limit or disenfranchise other users she nevertheless indicated her intention to add the request for necessary repairs to the list of outstanding projects under Community (Resident) Amenities (either committee or new structure as proposed under min 81.21A) responsible for delivery based on priority and available money including applying for external and third Party grants.

75/21

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR UPDATES TO INCLUDE:

The Chairman noted that June 2022 would mark Queen Elizabeth's II Platinum Jubilee and that celebration(s) included the possibility of holding street parties and undertaking commemorative tree planting. Cllr Johnston noted that the tree was being organised by Cllr Leonard as part of his High St Tzar role/High St improvements and she requested members and all community groups to volunteer to organise a street party in Soham.

Cllr Johnston noted current COVID rules & regulations which included the delay to full opening in the Governments Roadmap (new date 19th July 2021). Consequently the Town meeting previously scheduled from May and then revised to 28 June 2021 would be outside the time frame allowed for the town meeting as per stipulations under the Local Government Act would be renamed as an informal 'town review' to be held on Tuesday 27 July 2021 commencing 7pm. The Chairman noted that this was not a town council meeting and that all community groups and members of the Public were welcome to attend and participate.

76/21

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:

-After further legal advice on legality of holding remote meetings ECDC had reversed its decision and the first Planning meeting took place in the Hive sports hall, Ely. Any Planning support or objections will now require attendance at meetings although written statements can still be submitted for committee consideration. DCllr Jones noted that at the last planning committee meeting outline permission at the Princess of Wales Hospital for demolition of out-patient blocks, social club building and the porters' lodge to enable new hospital buildings and redevelopment including inpatient and outpatient facilities, a new multi storey car park, access, and associated infrastructure had been approved.

-Cllr Woodbridge commented that this would appear to safeguard this hospital and DCllr Jones confirmed that due the significant amount of proposed investment the hospital would remain viable and protected.

DCllr Jones noted that following the local elections the Conservatives had lost overall majority at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). He noted that the Council now retains a couple of Lib-Dem County Councillors to help support and advocate on Local issues.

DCllr Jones noted that the District Council's Finance & Assets Committee had met on Monday 7 June 2021 to consider a number of corporate (restructuring) matters, some of which took place in confidential session. Recommendations to full Council included:

- Review of Terms -Finance & Assets Hearings Sub-Committee, which currently conducts the complaints process and procedures against District councillors under breaches to Code of Conduct. The proposal is that the current sub-committee becomes an Ethical Governance Sub-Committee with a wider remit to promoting better behaviours. There is currently a need to recruit a replacement non-voting Co-opted Town/Parish Council Member to this sub-committee.
- Approval of Soham High Street Renewal Capital Grant Fund application process including applications being reviewed by the ECDC Conservation (£25000 received from £1m market town fund from Combined Authority) to enable shop owners in the High St to apply for one-off grants to a maximum of £2500 to improve their frontages/signage. Cllr Warner queried the source of this Funding and the Chairman agreed to write to the Combined Authority for clarification. A resident queried whether homeowners on the High St could apply for improvement grants but it was confirmed that these grants are for commercial operations only.
- Palace Green Homes will continue with their tenancy at offices in Fordham until 18 December 2024 but the District Council has 'instructed' its Trading arm to actively seek to reduce overheads by sub-leasing part of their current floor space.

DCllr Jones noted that the Operational Services Committee met on Monday 14 June 2021 to make decisions including:

- Approving the Council's second Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which acts to endorse the actions of Council management in these important matters and welcomed the first interim report from the Combined Authority's Climate Change Commission.
- Noting the outcome of a review and approving the changes to the housing lettings Policy for the sub-regional group of councils which includes East Cambridgeshire.
- Agreeing to become a member of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP).

But DCllr Jones noted that there remained a number of key and unfinished business including:

- The planning application to turn the Mepal Outdoor Centre into a crematorium which had been promised by Christmas 2020 and remains outstanding.
- The meeting of the Bus Walking & Cycling Working Group to review sort and prioritise residents' comments from the public consultation which finished over a year ago, was postponed and has no new date set.
- The proposal by the Council leadership to introduce some sort of on-street parking enforcement by enabling Council staff to act in the capacity of police volunteers working under the direction of the Chief Constable has not yet reached any conclusion. DCllr Jones noted that all but a handful of councils in England still had police enforcing on-street parking offences with the vast majority having introduced civil parking enforcement by District Councils years ago.

-DCllr Jones noted that The Welcome Back Fund being provided to councils across England enabling them to share out £56m from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support the safe return to high streets and help build back better from the pandemic with ECDC allocated £79,895 from the Fund. 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. WBF Guidance and FAQs documents can be found on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-back-fund>.

-DCllr Jones noted there was a public consultation for Round 2 of the Ely area capacity enhancement (EACE) programme which closes on 4 July 2021 and aims to allow more trains to run through Ely by improving rail capacity and reliability for passenger services between key destinations. During Round 2 consultation, proposals and options to upgrade the railway in an area defined as Ely South include:

- Proposed infrastructure changes to part of the Soham branch line and Ely Dock junction
- Proposed changes to track and platforms at Ely station
- Options to upgrade the nearby Stuntney Road bridge
- Options to upgrade two bridges across the Great River Ouse adjacent to Ely marina
- Proposal to close Kiln Lane level crossing with options to maintain pedestrian and vehicle access to the east side of the railway.

The feedback from this second round of consultation will help to define and progress designs prior to selecting preferred option(s) that subject to further funding will be submitted under a Transport and Works Act Order later in 2022. Project ideas have to be submitted to MHCLG for funding approval with all monies must be spent by 31st March 2022. To register your views please visit <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/anglia/improving-the-railway-in-anglia/ely-area-capacity-enhancement/>

The Chairman thanked DCllr Jones for his most informative contribution and then invited CCllr Goldsack to present his report which had been previously circulated to the membership on Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) matters affecting Soham or more generally namely:

-CCllr Goldsack noted his humble thanks to being voted in once again as the County Councillor representative for Soham North and Isleham. He felt the vote support received had been fantastic and he expressed gratitude in having

the chance to continue to support the town council and represent the town of Soham for the next four years.

Cllr Goldsack noted that at the recent Local Elections and whilst the Conservatives remain as the largest political Party with 28 seats at the County Council it nevertheless remained 3 seats short of being able to form an overall majority administration. As a result the Lib-Dem led coalition with Labour had assumed Power. So far Cllr Goldsack noted that no committee meetings had been held but there had been a reorganisation to all existing committees to form new teams. Cllr Goldsack noted he had been asked to be the spokesperson for Green Investment and Environment Group and so far was delighted to note that the coalition looks set to continue the “great work the Conservatives started last administrative term”. His team will include the proposal to introduce ground source heat pump services to Swaffham Prior, bringing forward both solar farm at North Angle Farm, Soham and the solar field adjacent Turners and DH Smith to produce power locally.

Cllr Goldsack commented that unlike CCC’s solar park Angle Farm the Sunnica proposal to locate a new energy farm based on solar photovoltaic (PV) was ill conceived and that apart from the question of cost relative to any ‘green credentials’ given production and shipping of these units from the Manufacturers (China) it would have detrimental impact across not only Cambridgeshire but into Suffolk too.

A question was raised by a member of the Public in regards to the efficiency of solar panels in low light/cloudy conditions and Cllr Goldsack responded that these panels operate on indirect rather than on direct sunlight.

Cllr Goldsack indicated that the final design proposals for road management changes to surrounding roads affected by the reintroduction of the rail station in Soham had been prepared and that a public consultation would follow shortly.

Noting that trial ground hole/pits for the High Street tree planting project had been ordered with CCC Highways and it was hoped this preparative work would commence in the next couple of weeks to ascertain suitability/feasibility to those locations identified by town Cllr Leonard to improve the High St. Cllr Goldsack also was pleased to report that the long awaited relining of road markings meant that parking infringement was, subject to Police presence, enforceable.

Cllr Goldsack noted that CCC Innovate and Cultivate Fund applications for suitable causes is now open for applications¹ (deadline 1st August 2021) and he encouraged the town council and all community groups to look at this for possible sources of funding for Local projects (specifically for adult social care and children’s services that can strengthen our communities and reduce pressure on County Council services).

Cllr Goldsack noted that there had been very little traffic at the lateral flow test centre which has operated at Soham Town Rangers FC and as consequence this service which will end 31st May 2021 has now been moved to Burwell Fire Station. He confirmed that this had been well in the recent past but vaccinations has now superseded the demand for these tests.

Finally he indicated that he remained available for any resident to contact him on any issue even if he had no authority or jurisdiction to act (ie in the case of a ditch issue on Brewhouse Lane which remains a Riparian responsibility between East Cambridgeshire District Council and Sanctuary Housing) and he would always try to assist in resolving issues and problems.

¹ Fund to strengthen our communities adult social care and children’s services and reduce pressure on County Council services

Wishing Soham Town Council's new leadership every success he concluded by stating he look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead.

77/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr P Leonard and duly noted by the membership. Cllr S Prior was recorded as absent.

78/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST TO ITEMS ON AGENDA

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

79/21 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 MAY 2021 & EOM 3 JUNE 2021 (ATTACHED)

APPROVED that the minutes of the meeting on the 4 May 2021 & EOM 3 June 2021 be amended by

- a) The addition of figure of £ 57349.89 (expenditure costs for month of May 2021) omitted under minute 66/21
- b) The addition of Cllr D Woricker to the list of participants to the post completion feedback and review under minute 73.21e).

Thereafter RESOLVED to approve and as printed and attached herein as being a true record of proceedings which were duly signed as being such by the Chairman.

80/21 TOWN COUNCIL MATTERS INCLUDING CLLR VACANCY (SOUTH WARD)

NOTED currently (one) Cllr (South Ward) and (one) Cllr (North Ward) vacancy at Soham Town Council.

NOTED interview of prospective candidate and after request for him to temporary withdraw to enable ballot of membership present to proceed.

APPROVED by majority not to co-opt Mr Jonty Woodbridge 63 Orchard Row Soham CB7 5AY

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank him for attending but that in this instance his application had not been successful noting that he could reapply or to consider appointment at next local elections.

& THEREAFTER WITH PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

A) NALC Local Council Award Scheme - Foundation Level

APPROVED Soham Town Council to register for the Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme and any associated costs.

B) IIA Letter & Report

NOTED Independent Internal Auditor's concerns regarding the severe under budgeting of the 3 allotment sites in the past and that whilst fees had been increased (to take full effect with existing Tenants this October) there remained a significant overspend annually which is carried forward.

NOTED Cllr Woodbridge concerns regarding raising the allotment rents again

NOTED Cllr Dyer's comments that the overspend will be somewhat balanced by this years allotment fees and that he would be bringing the matter of the payment for fencing around Weatheralls allotment to secure the site under min 84.21A below.

NOTED the matter of over expenditure in relation to allotment provision by the town council will be kept under review.

81/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CURRENT & WHERE NECESSARY PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MINUTES (matters not listed on the agenda specifically below BUT to include):

A) PROPOSED REVISION OF CORPORATE STRUCTURE (from committees to teams (2 Cllrs) for defined project delivery) where approved will require changes to Terms of Reference and Financial Regulations under which the proposed Lead Cllrs in proposal may operate

NOTED Chairman and the Vice chairman's support for the reorganisation which would allow decisions for projects, priorities and budgets (precept) to remain set by full council but scope for appointment of a delegated Lead Cllr initially to five functional areas of Finance & Policy, Planning, Allotments, Resident (Community) Amenities and Cemetery (see amendment in approvals below) and where the Lead Cllr together with one interested Cllr (total of 2) would jointly act and have the requisite responsibilities for that functional area including ability spend full council-set budgets (under Financial Regulations) to deliver approved projects without constantly re-seeking authority from council. This model was already in place due to effects of COVID (see Land acquisition) and would enable not only more Cllrs to get practically involved but would speed up overall service and project delivery.

NOTED The Chairman, Vice chairman together with a number of Cllr members acknowledged particularly where Planning matters were concerned the need for more professional skills competencies and advocacy rather than as current where the memberships' comments at committee level and/or where enforcement to breaches was needed being layperson(s) Cllrs, the council as a Body as well as residents were often ignored causing feelings of impotency, disenfranchisement and frustration (see previous months minutes Cllr Pallet's comments and resignation from the Planning Committee under Public Comment Time).

NOTED Cllr Aitchison's concern and objection that the current structure (committees) allowed more 'input' of views from members and democratic decision making.

NOTED The Clerk confirmed that the town council had in reality been operating informally under this new structure for the last two years since the decision taken by full council to change to direct accounting practices and by having left the convening of committee meetings, with the exception of monthly Planning meetings, to their respective Chairpersons noting that none had been called within this timeframe but she also confirmed that it was unusual for a town (or parish) council to operate in this corporate manner with more direct-line management and delegation(s) that where approved would require alteration to its governance documents (particularly in respect of Financial Regulations) to be consistent with these proposed changes.

APPROVED BY MAJORITY adoption by resolution of the new corporate structure (substantive) with Cemetery functions activities and projects to have no lead Cllr (team leader) requiring every/all decisions to be by full council solely (amendment).

APPROVED that the changes would be subject to monitoring and review (initial period of one year).

NOTED Cllrs Aitchison and Lane wished it to be recorded that they voted against the substantive resolution with Cllr Woodbridge voting against the amendment.

B) Byeway 113 (Cllr D Woricker)

APPROVED A VOTE OF THANKS to Mr Jestyn Staples who had undertaken the works which had taken in excess of 5 years to achieve the stable base to enable a top dressing (MOT type 2) to be laid the entire length of this byeway to support all traffic including motor vehicles and cycles.

NOTED that Funding application to the Combined Authority under the Soham Town MasterPlan Fund has been applied for (outcome TBD) to complete project.

APPROVED unanimously that in the event of this Funding not being secured to place an additional £10 000 (net) into current byeway 113 budget (virement from 5 year amenity & infrastructure improvement ring fenced monies 2021-22) to complete project.

NOTED work on adjoining footpath 126 remains outstanding and will require negotiations with Wicken Parish Council and the registered Land Owner.

C) High St Improvements (Cllr Leonard)

NOTED item deferred due to Cllr Leonards absence with update to be provided at next full council meeting

NOTED Cllr Aitchison request for confirmation of tree species proposed to be planted.

D) Land acquisitions ~~and disposals~~ (Cllr Johnston)-engagement of Ward Gethin Archer as conveyance solicitors to Drayton Meadow

NOTED three quotes obtained for conveyance solicitors (as per Financial Regulations)

NOTED that Cllr Johnston who had been delegated with responsibility for delivery of this project had tentatively engaged her preferred Supplier (re the changes in structure noted under min 81.21 A above)

ACKNOWLEDGED UNANIMOUSLY engagement of Ward Gethin Archer as conveyance solicitors to Drayton Meadow with all associated costs

APPROVED unanimously all land searches to be undertaken in relation to purchase of Drayton Meadows acknowledging additional disbursement costs to project.

APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE the purchase of second land area to augment additional cemetery provision but for Cllr Johnston/Land Agent Appointed for the works to negotiate ideally a reduced figure. Where not then matter to purchase must be reconsidered by full council.

E) Annual Town Meeting-Flier/Publication (Cllr Woricker et al).

NOTED that the Annual Town Meeting due to being outside prescribed timeframe under the LGA 1972 due to restrictions placed by Central Government be renamed as Soham Town Review and rescheduled for 27th July at 7pm.

APPROVED that due to the continual rescheduling of this meeting that the flyer proposed as a leaflet drop be circulated this time locally in shops/business, Jigsaw publication, website etc.

NOTED WITH A VOTE OF THANKS to Cllrs D Woricker, A Woricker and C Simoes for the content of flyer and their work (as delegated Cllrs) in continuing with Press and public engagement matters to raise the profile of Soham Town in the community.

F) 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's update that there were 2 surveys currently being undertaken (no of respondents in parenthesis) relating to business/commerce (5) and on green space provision (69) which will feed into the Neighbourhood Plan documentation. Cllr Aitchison noted the re-engagement of Natalie Blaken (Nupremis Cambridge Ltd) using the grant recently received who will along with a colleague be undertaking the statistical research necessary. Cllr Aitchison noted that as part of this work she is looking at s106 agreements and this has been an interesting and illuminating exercise and that the next planned Neighbourhood Planning meeting would be in June (date to be confirmed).

G) Any other pertinent matters (Cllrs must specify at the meeting the minute number(s) to which they wish to refer)
No additional matters were raised by members.

82/21

PREVIOUS MONTH'S STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following committees as printed and approved those recommendations as contained, unless otherwise specified under matters arising (below), be duly adopted.

- Planning Committee 24 May 2021.

Cllr Pallet noted that PA 21/00672/FUL (Land East Of 4 Long Dolver Drove Soham Cambridgeshire Proposed two traveller sites & associated site works) although previously approved under APP/V0510/A13/219838 by the Planning Inspectorate that upheld the Appeal due to insufficiency of provision in Local Plan 2015 has been nevertheless been called in for Planning Committee determination by DCllr Jones.

Cllr Pallett noted that the next Planning Committee meeting which is likely to be the last in its current format due to those approvals taken under 81.21 A above will take place at the Pavilion 28th June 2021 commencing 1pm

83/21

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.

84/21

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS MADE (FP 22/20) & STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31 MAY 2021 (attached)

NOTED income & RESOLVED approval of those payments made to 31 May 2021 totalling £41267.26 (inc. vat) respectively and as attached to the council minutes as appendices.

- A) request for virement by Cllr Dyer in regards to fencing costs (allotments)- APPROVED that the matter of financial costs associated with installation and completion of fencing at Weatheralls allotments be taken from this years 5 year amenity and infrastructure improvement funds (circa £12k) and not applied to the allotment budget.

- B) CCLA application - suitability questionnaire (Financial circumstances) and costs of undertaking this assessment

NOTED Clerk's concerns relating to placing significant amount of the town councils available cash (general funds as treasury liquidity amounts) into this Fund and at this time

NOTED Cllr Dyer's comments that monies are attracting historic low interest levels and may, should unforeseen needs and circumstances subsequently arise, be accessed subject to loss of all interest payments in year.

APPROVED by majority for the Clerk to sign on behalf of Soham Town Council the application form investing an amount of £300K from current funds into CCLA portfolio funds with an estimated annual ROI of 4% and those costs for undergoing suitability report with Arlingclose Independent Treasury Advisers (ref Paul Roberts £795 net)

85/21

COMMUNITY SUPPORT INCLUDING FINANCIAL REQUESTS (As attached)

- A) Storage request (back hall)-Foodbank & Community Uniform Scheme

NOTED that the future of the back hall (extension) as an available community space remains to be discussed and this will be a matter delegated to interested Cllrs under the new corporate structure.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY that in the interim storage space be provided to the Foodbank Ely and Soham Community Uniform Scheme (subject to an occupation licence, short term rolling 3 month notice period attracting a peppercorn rent-matter delegated to the Clerk)

B) Request pot hole bus-Scouts (and Girl Guide) Assoc. (recreation ground)

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY to allow the pot-hole bus on the recreation ground on Saturday 10th July 2021 (all other licence stipulations and byelaws to be observed).

A) Litter picking equipment (purchase of equipment s137)

NOTED that the Statutory Duty for rubbish and its collection resides with the District Council and that previously litter picking equipment had been made available from this Authority to community volunteers for this activity.

NOTED matter of costs to be taken up by the Chairman with the District Council
APPROVED currently not to approve request of grant (s137) for purchase of litter picking equipment.

B) ECDC Central Government Welcome Back funding closing date Friday 30th July 2022

NOTED the Cllr Johnston's interest in pursuing this Fund on behalf of Soham Town Council for refurbishment of Fountain Lane public toilets.

E) Letter of thanks to Staploe Medical centre including community volunteers (motion Cllr P Lane)

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY that a letter of thanks be sent to the Practice Manager Staploe Medical Centre acknowledging their work not only for Soham and its residents but surrounding villages in the District.

F) Verge Flowerbeds (and hanging baskets)

NOTED WITH A VOTE OF THANKS to Cllr and Mr Aitchison for their hard work over the last 10 years and that the matter of continuing this work with community volunteers (where any) will be pursued by the Chairman.

G) Soham Basket Ball Court - resident request (including petition)-please refer to minute 74.21 above.

86/21

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 57 28th April 2021; 58 5th May 2021; 59 12th May 2021; 60th 19th May 2021; 61 26th May 2021; Welcome to Affiliated Voices, the Cambridgeshire Royal British Legion (RBL) Affiliated Youth Groups Inaugural Newsletter.

- IHMC March incident report; IHMC April Incident Report

- TTRO 21/512 - Brook Street, Soham 1/6/2021-6/6/2021;

- Proposed closure - Mereside & Julius Martin Lane, Soham 15/07 - 16/07/21.

- ICCM Members newsletter 15th May 2021

- IHCM Roadworks & events bulletin 1st - 15th May 2021; 16th - 31st May 2021

- COVID-secure spot inspection - 06/05/21

- East Cambs Youth Strategy

- East Cambs Parish and community forum notes and updates

- Local Highways Micro Asphalt/Grip fibre Surface Treatment Program Update

