



Soham Town Council
PO Box 21
The Walter Gidney Pavilion
Fountain Lane
Soham
Cambridgeshire CB7 9PL
Town Clerk: MJ Strand
Tel: 01353 723472
Email: info@soham-
tc.gov.uk
Web: www.soham-tc.gov.uk

SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Soham Town Council meeting held at the Walter Gidney Pavilion,
Fountain Lane recreation ground, Soham on Monday 16th January 2023.

Present: Cllrs E Johnston, D Woricker, R Aitchison, G Dyer, K Horgan, A Jones, P Lane, A Pallett, C Warner, G Woodbridge, and H Ross. M Strand, Town Clerk and M Francis, Assistant Town Clerk.

In attendance: District Cllr Alec Jones.
There were 5 members of the public present.

The meeting was opened at 7:15pm.

MINUTES

- 166/22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
NOTED – County & District Cllr Mark Goldsack had sent his apologies for the meeting.
The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- 167/22 COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
None.
- 168/22. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & TOWN CLLR UPDATES**
a. NOTED – Cllr Horgan reported on the Seen to be Green Competition which had featured in an article in the Ely Standard. The competition opens on 23rd January and has been advertised in the Ely Standard and the Jigsaw magazine. Invitations to enter will be distributed to local businesses ahead of the opening date and will also be available on the Council's website. The Chair of the Men's Shed community group has been appointed as the competition's first judge. Cllr Johnston thanked Cllr Horgan and Cllr Aitchison for their work on this.

Other matters raised at the meeting: -

- NOTED – making Soham a Dementia Friendly Community. A launch event will be held on Tuesday 24th January at the pavilion from 1:30pm to 2:30pm and Councillors are invited to attend. The intention of the group involved is to run regular 'Memory Cafés' within Touchpoint which meets at the pavilion every Tuesday afternoon.

- NOTED – Cllr Johnston reported on the acquisition of land to extend the cemetery. This had been delayed due to issues with the registration of the land. These have now been resolved and the contracts are being drawn up for signing.
- APPROVED unanimously – Cllr Johnston proposed to give a Pride in our Town Award posthumously to Kate Bavsiter for her work for the town. The award will be presented to her mother.
- NOTED – a police surgery will be held on Monday 23rd January between 11am and 1pm at the Walter Gidney pavilion.
- NOTED – Cllr Woodbridge thanked the Chairman and the Clerk for bringing to the attention of the public the problem of rubbish being dumped at the cemetery on 11th January. This had been reported on the Council's Facebook page and, subsequently, was picked up by The Ely Standard who published an article about it. The rubbish has been cleared by the Council.

169/22. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

A member of the public asked what the Council would be doing to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on May 6th this year, and whether plans were underway given the timeframe. Cllr Johnston acknowledged that no response from the Council was necessary during public comment time but said that the Council had already agreed to plant a tree in honour of His Majesty's wish that the 'Queen's Green Canopy' initiative, set up to celebrate Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, be continued.

170/22. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

NOTED – written reports from District Cllr Alec Jones and District and County Cllr Mark Goldsack. The following matters were raised by Town Councillors: -

- Cllr Warner asked about the Single-Issue Review of the Local Plan (LP). ECDC has requested this to seek to wipe clean the huge backlog in unbuilt homes since the start of the LP in 2011 by adjusting the number of homes expected to be built, to the number of homes actually built in this period, with no backlog carried forward. More information is available on ECDC's website.
- Cllr Aitchison asked for clarification on the housing needs figures received from ECDC for the Neighbourhood Plan, as two different figures had been given.
- Cllr Ross said that Soham's Community Infrastructure Levy contributions are the lowest in the district. Cllr Jones said that a review of land values, which contributions are based on, is awaited.
- Cllr Ross also said that documents had come to light showing that the commons were protected up to 2016 and that the Local Plan had been completed before this.
- Cllr Pallett said that anyone wishing to organise a street party for the Coronation should be aware that street party applications must be received by the County Council at least 8 weeks in advance of the event (before 10 March 2023). Highways events

applications must be submitted at least twelve weeks in advance (before 10 February 2023).

171/22. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. APPROVED unanimously – the minutes from the Full Council Meeting held 12th December 2022 with one amendment: Item 157/22
a. Cllr Horgan proposed that he and the Clerk contact ~~Supt. Sutherland~~ *Inspector Shane Fasey*.
- b. NOTED – the minutes of the Finance & Policy Meeting held on 5th December 2022.
- c. APPROVED unanimously the minutes from the Planning Meeting held on 19th December 2022.

172/22. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

- a. NOTED – Clerk’s Report (written). No questions were raised.
- b. NOTED – Cllr Woricker gave an update on Byway 113 (Soham – Wicken Cycleway). Funding for this is in place but there are a few matters that need resolving between the funding sources. To help find solutions it is proposed to hold a meeting with everyone involved to work out any issues. It is planned to start on the cycleway as soon as possible. Cllr Woricker will give a further update at the next meeting.

173/22 FINANCE MATTERS

- a. Neighbourhood planning – approvals and updates. Cllr Aitchison has ordered the habitat map and summary of species as agreed. The final housing needs assessment should be delivered soon, and evidence is being prepared to support the Plan’s policies.
- b. APPROVED unanimously – Receipts & Payments for January 2023 as advised with the agenda.
- c. APPROVED by a majority quotation for fencing for Drayton Meadows. Two quotations had been obtained. Cllr Warner asked if the method and longevity of the fencing suggested would be suitable in this location, and Cllr Dyer responded that it was proposed to also plant a hedgerow which would be grown enough to replace the fencing in 7 to 10 years’ time. Cllr Dyer proposed to accept the quotation from SF Home & Garden Landscapes for £3,650.00 for fencing with posts concreted in, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Aitchison. Councillors voted 9 in favour, 1 against with 1 abstention and the proposal was carried.
- d. APPROVED unanimously further quotation from CEL Group (1989) Ltd for remedial works to defective roof installation of the cemetery chapel - £60,119.40 +VAT. The necessity of this work had come to light when CEL had started work which had been previously agreed (151/22 c.). Cllr Woodbridge proposed to accept the quotation because this additional work would have to be carried out to enable the complete repair and restoration of the chapel. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Ross. Cllr Woodbridge will ask CEL to give a report on the current condition of the chapel.
- e. APPROVED unanimously to accept quotation from the CDS Group for Tier 2 Environment Agency Groundwater Risk Assessment including Flux Modelling on newly acquired land at the cemetery (to ascertain suitability for burials) - £4,993.50 +VAT and, at the same

time, soil management and waste classification works - £1,200 +VAT. Proposed by Cllr Woodbridge, seconded by Cllr Lane. Cllr Woodbridge explained Flux Modelling from information acquired from the CDS Group.

- f. APPROVED unanimously budget of up to £6,000 for preparation of newly acquired land at cemetery. Cllrs Johnston and Woodbridge gave details of the plans for access. The land will be grassed and hedged in harmony with the surrounding area.

174/22

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- a. NOTED – Completion of review by external auditor 2021-22.
Appropriate action will be taken to address issues raised.
- b. NOTED – November & December Health & Safety reports from Adams Payne Safety Ltd

175/22

RECREATION GROUND/PAVILION/TOWN MATTERS

- a. APPROVED unanimously to host a public meeting to discuss the proposed congestion charge for Cambridge (County Cllr Mark Goldsack to facilitate). Proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Horgan.
- b. APPROVED unanimously cost up to £4,000 for continuation of High Street tree planting scheme for 3 further trees. Proposed Cllr Horgan, seconded Cllr Warner.
APPROVED unanimously for Cllr Horgan to lead on this project.
Proposed Cllr Woodbridge, seconded Cllr Warner.
Cllrs Horgan and Dyer will liaise with business owners regarding trees outside their shops.
- c. APPROVED unanimously – to accept quotation Option 2 for the repair of swing, and replacement of both gates at the children’s play area for £5,424.43 +VAT. Proposed Cllr Woodbridge, seconded Cllr Pallett.
- d. REFUSED by a majority - request from Soham Benevolent Association to hold a Dog Show on Carnival Day, 30th April 2023. Cllr Warner proposed to refuse the request due to bylaws prohibiting dogs from the recreation ground. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Aitchison. Councillors voted 9 in favour with 2 abstentions and the proposal was therefore carried.
- e. DEFERRED – request from Living Sport to deliver activity ‘taster sessions’ in school holidays on the recreation ground and for use of the pavilion for these, and to subsequently run 6-week blocks of sessions on the recreation ground. It was AGREED to arrange to meet with Living Sport to discuss their requirements in more detail and to bring this matter back to the Finance & Policy Committee for consideration.

176/22

MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Monday 13th February 2023, Walter Gidney Pavilion, 7.15pm

The meeting was closed at 8:45pm.

Approved and signed by the Chairman – 13th February 2023.