

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY COUNCIL** meeting held at Felixstowe Town Hall on
Wednesday 6th August 2014 at 7pm

PRESENT: Cllr G Newman (Town Mayor) Cllr D Savage (Deputy Mayor)
 Cllr C Slemmings Cllr A Smith
 Cllr Jon Garfield Cllr Jan Garfield
 Cllr S Bird Cllr M Walker
 Cllr C Webb Cllr N Barber
 Cllr M Sharman Cllr M Morris
 Cllr M Stokell

OFFICERS: Mr A Tadjrishi (Town Clerk)
 Mrs L Monsen (Mayor's Secretary)

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the Press, 10 members of the Public.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Town Mayor advised the chamber of a recent legislative change to the rules on the recording of meetings. Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, members of the press and public were now permitted to take photographs, film and audio-record the proceedings, and report on all public meetings.

The Mayor advised that Standing Order 3(l) would be suspended until such a time as revised Standing Orders could be brought to Council for consideration.

At the direction of the Mayor, Public Question Time was deferred until 7.30pm to allow members of the public arriving at this time to participate.

PRAYERS

The meeting was preceded with prayers by Rev. David White, St Johns Church.

200. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Deacon, J Sennington and K Williams.

201. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

The following declarations of Councillors' interests were made:

| Member | Minute No. | Nature of Interest |
|---------------|-------------------|---|
| Cllr G Newman | 210 | Local Non-Pecuniary (Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Roads, Transport and Planning) |
| Cllr M Morris | 210 | Local Non-Pecuniary (Oaks and Sea Breeze Advisory Board Member) |

Additionally, Councillors S Bird, M Morris, D Savage, M Sharman, C Slemmings, A Smith and Jan Garfield each declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest in all items on the agenda as Members of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Councillors N Barber and G Newman each declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest in all items on the agenda as Members of Suffolk County Council.

202. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

203. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR

There were none.

204. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Minutes of the Reconvened Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 19th June 2014 be signed by the Mayor as a true record and adopted by the Council.

205. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor welcomed the new Town Clerk, Mr Ash Tadjrishi.

The Mayor referred to a list of engagements: 06.06.2014 – Opening of New Flagship Bungalows, Deputy Mayor; 06.06.2014 – Level2 Dinner Dance; 08.06.2014 – Felixstowe Museum WW1 Exhibition; 08.06.14 – Mayors Civic Service, 12.06.14 – Youth Speaks; 14.06.14 – OFCA Summer Fair; 15.06.14 – Felixstowe Ferry RNLI Fundraising; 16.06.14 – Launch of Felixstowe in Flower; 19.06.14 – ESAB 100th Anniversary Tea Party; 21.06.14 – Cycling Safely Around the Sandlings; 23.06.14 – Orwell District Scouts AGM; 25.06.14 – Citizens Advice Bureau AGM; 25.06.14 – Suffolk College Student End of Year Celebration; 26.06.14 – Tea with Wesel Sailing Club, 27.06.14-30.06.14 – Civic Visit to Salzwedel; 02.07.14 – Mid Suffolk Chairman's Charity Evening; 05.07.14 – Felixstowe Fuchsia Fantasia; 05.07.14 – 26th Anniversary Charter Dinner for Lions Club, Deputy Mayor; 06.07.14 – Darrells Day, Landguard Fort; 11.07.14 – Refurbishment Relaunch of Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club; 12.07.14 – Salzwedel Garden Party; 14.07.14 – Homestart AGM; 16.07.14 Joseph & Technicolour Dreamcoat Concert; 17.07.14 – Felixstowe Academy Summer Concert; 18.07.14 – Wesel Fire Cadets Breakfast; 18.07.14 – Flagship Young People's Service Open Day; 18.07.14 – Mayor's Reception; 19.07.14 – Mill Lane Nursing Home Fete; 20.07.14 – Felixstowe & District Horticultural Society; 21.07.14 – Opening of Level2 Art Work; 24.07.14 – Presentation to winner of 'Ode to Beach Hut', Deputy Mayor; 25.07.14 – Ipswich Mayor at Home; 26.07.14 – Judging Felixstowe Carnival; 28.07.14 – Pre-Launch of Bartlet Show Homes; 01.08.14 – Opening of Ipswich WW1 Exhibition; 01.08.14 – WW1

Commemoration Concert; 02.08.14 – WW1 Talk by Phil Hadwen; 03.08.14 – Felixstowe WW1 Church Service & Parade; 03.08.14 – Bury St Edmunds WW1 Evensong & County Service; 04.08.14 – Ipswich WW1 Reception & Parade; 06.08.14 – Talk to Felixstowe Flyer Business Breakfast.

206. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Mayor invited Cllr A Smith, Chairman of Council's Plans Committee, to give a verbal update on recent Plans Committee meetings.

Members were invited to comment on any matters contained within the minutes of the meetings presented to Council.

A Member requested an update on progress with the Trim Trail (Minute 162 of Recreation & Amenities Sub-Committee 16 July 2014). The Clerk advised that the project was in hand with officers at Coastal Services and SCDC with an estimated timeframe of 3 months to complete.

Referring to Minute 191 of Finance & General Purposes Committee 23 July 2014, a Member requested an agenda item be brought to the next meeting of that Committee to consider applying for English Heritage listed building status for 91-95 Undercliff Road. The Clerk advised that he would liaise with the Chairman of Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee on this matter.

It was RESOLVED that:

The Minutes of the following meetings be noted as received:

- a) Plans Committee - 11 June, 9 July and 23 July 2014**
- b) Town Members Committee – 23 June 2014**
- c) Personnel Committee – 26 June 2014**
- d) Recreation and Amenities Sub-Committee – 16 Jul 2014**
- e) Finance Sub-Committee – 16 July 2014**
- f) Cemetery & Allotments Committee – 22 July 2014**
- g) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 23 July 2014**

At this point, the Town Mayor directed that Council consider Public Questions.

207. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public welcomed the Town Clerk.

A member of the public thanked the Council for its representation on a recent planning application for a supermarket.

In response to a public question on 91-95 Undercliff Road West, the Mayor confirmed that the Town Council had successfully applied to Suffolk Coastal for the building to be listed as an Asset of Community Value.

208. PRESS AND MEDIA POLICY

Council considered the draft Press and Media Policy as presented. Following a short debate, it was **proposed** by Cllr D Savage, **seconded** by Cllr Jan Garfield, that any training opportunities for dealing with the media should be offered to all Members.

All Members present voted in favour of the motion and it was RESOLVED that:

Subject to an amendment to (D)1, to allow opportunities for all Members to attend training in dealing with the media, the Press and Media Policy be approved as presented and adopted with immediate effect.

209. TO NOTE THE CHANGES TO THE SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

Council noted the changes which had come in to force from 21st July 2014.

210. TO CONSIDER AND MAKE ANY COMMENT IN RESPONSE TO A CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL CHILDREN'S CENTRES IN FELIXSTOWE

The Town Mayor advised that, although his interest was Non-Pecuniary, he would not take part in any debate or voting on this item.

Members considered the consultation being undertaken by Suffolk County Council which proposed to merge Sea Breeze Children's Centre with The Oaks and close Sea Breeze. Council noted the following comments from Members on this issue:

- i. The Sea Breeze Children's Centre is well served by a large SCDC car park 100 yards away. The consultation incorrectly states that there is limited parking here.
- ii. Sea Breeze provides walk-in support as part of a key service provision for residents in Felixstowe's south ward, users of which form part of a distinct local community. Those in need of help may not be willing to travel to The Oaks or enter a school environment such as that at Langer Primary Academy.
- iii. The consultation document states that the Oaks is around 0.9 miles from Sea Breeze, has adequate on-site parking and a regular public bus service. However, current users of Sea Breeze would have to travel around 1.5 miles to attend the Oaks. Those with young children using public transport would be required to use at least two buses to get to the Oaks, an additional cost burden. Walking the 3.5 mile round-trip from locations such as Adastral Close would be challenging for many, particularly so for young children. The car park onsite at the Oaks is often full.

- iv. Sea Breeze currently runs the 'Freedom' programme two days a week, supporting victims of domestic violence. The success of this programme is dependent on being able to hold such meetings close to those that it supports as many may not be able or willing to take two buses to a destination further away.
- v. The consultation does not provide any analysis of the implication of the proposal on current users of Sea Breeze.

It was RESOLVED that:

The Town Clerk incorporate Members' comments and submit a response to Suffolk County Council stating that the proposal to close Sea Breeze Children's Centre would not be supported by the Town Council.

211. TO CONSIDER AND MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THE CONSULTATION PROPOSALS FOR COMMUNITY RAIL SERVICE DESIGNATION OF TWO ROUTES WHICH COMPRISE THE EAST SUFFOLK LINES (IPSWICH TO FELIXSTOWE/LOWESTOFT)

Members considered verbal reports on this item from Cllr A Smith and the Town Mayor. It was agreed that Council was in favour of the proposal provided the DfT give assurance that designation of the route as a Community Rail Service would not prejudice existing aspirations for the line, such as passing loops and electrification.

Additionally, Members expressed the importance of reduced interchange times to and from Felixstowe to places such as Cambridge and through routes to Oxford.

It was therefore RESOLVED that:

The Clerk, taking account of the views expressed by Members, and in consultation with the Town Mayor, the Chairman of Plans Committee and a representative from Felixstowe Travel Watch, be delegated the authority to prepare and issue a response to the DfT on behalf of the Town Council.

212. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE FINAL VERSION OF THE PROPOSED QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DISTRIBUTION

Council received and consider the final version of a proposed questionnaire as recommended by a Questionnaire Working Party consisting of Cllrs A Smith, Jon Garfield, K Williams and the Town Clerk.

A couple of minor, non-material, amendments were agreed and a vote of thanks recorded to the Working Party.

It was RESOLVED that:

Subject to minor corrections, the questionnaire be approved as presented and the Town Clerk be duly authorised to progress the project.

213. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

It was RESOLVED that:

The payment of accounts be received and approved as follows:

| Date | Cheque Numbers | Amount £ |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 11/06/2014 | 2719 | £1,014.00 |
| 11/06/2014 | 2720 – 2721 | £8,080.54 |
| 13/06/2014 | 2722 – 2728 | £2,433.04 |
| 17/06/2014 | 2729 – 2739 | £6,824.00 |
| 25/06/2014 | 2740 – 2754 | £23,392.00 |
| 08/07/2014 | 2755 – 2765 | £9,204.97 |
| 08/07/2014 | 2766 | £1,000.00 |
| 16/07/2014 | 2767 – 2779 | £4,108.20 |
| 16/07/2014 | 2780 Petty Cash | £231.24 |
| 22/07/2014 | 2781 – 2793 | £5,513.31 |
| | TOTAL | £61,801.30 |

214. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 8.14pm. It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 24 September 2014 at 7.30pm.

Date: _____

Town Mayor: _____