

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY COUNCIL** meeting held at Felixstowe Town Hall on
Wednesday 9 September 2015 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr D Savage (Town Mayor) Cllr Jon Garfield
 Cllr Jan Garfield (Deputy Mayor) Cllr T Green
 Cllr N Barber Cllr G Newman
 Cllr S Bird Cllr A Smith
 Cllr S Bloomfield Cllr J Vartan
 Cllr P Coleman Cllr S Wiles
 Cllr M Deacon Cllr K Williams
 Cllr S Gallant

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms H Greengrass (Felixstowe Forward Change Director)
 9 Members of the Public, 1 Member of the Press

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In response to a comment from a member of the public on the lack of signage for visitors seeking tourist information in Felixstowe and out of date information on pre-existing signs, Cllr N Barber responded that Felixstowe Forward would be looking into this matter through the tourism sub-group.

A member of the public asked whether the Town Council would ask SCDC to rename the Spa Gardens to the Queen Elizabeth II Gardens to honour of the fact that the Queen was now the country's longest serving monarch. The Mayor and Council paid tribute to the Queen in respect of this significant milestone. The Mayor advised that that there was no certainty that the people of Felixstowe would wish to rename the Spa Gardens but if there was the district council would need to discuss it with the Heritage Lottery Fund. Members suggested that, as the gardens were uniquely tied to the heritage of the town, another form of commemoration may be more appropriate.

In response to a question on cycling on the prom, the Clerk advised that Council's Highways Advisory Committee had met the previous day and heard that SCC had also received a number of queries about the cycling on the prom. The Clerk confirmed that as the Town Hall regularly received enquiries about this as well, Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee would be considering the matter in more depth at its October meeting.

PRAYERS

The meeting was preceded with prayers by Rev. Caroline Allen, St. Mary's Church, Walton.

194. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were recorded from **Cllr C Barham**.

195. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Member(s)	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Cllr S Bird Cllr S Bloomfield Cllr P Coleman Cllr M Deacon Cllr S Gallant Cllr T Green Cllr D Savage Cllr A Smith	All	Local Non-Pecuniary (as Members of Suffolk Coastal District Council)
Cllr G Newman Cllr N Barber	All	Local Non-Pecuniary (as Members of Suffolk County Council)

196. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were none.

197. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR

There were none.

198. CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 July 2015 be signed by the Mayor as a true record and adopted by the Council.

199. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred to the following list of engagements:

Felixstowe Academy Summer Concert	9 July 2015
Mayor's Reception	10 July 2015
Cotman House Garden Fete	11 July 2015
Seafarers Concert	11 July 2015
Felixstowe Academy Art Exhibition	12 July 2015
Opening of David Button Funeral Directors	18 July 2015
Felixstowe Tennis Club Tennis Tournament	18 July 2015
<i>Deputy Mayor – Mill Lane Nursing Home Garden Fete</i>	18 July 2015
Felixstowe Horticultural Show	19 July 2015
<i>Deputy Mayor – St Edmundsbury Civic Service</i>	19 July 2015

Port of Felixstowe 50 th Year Anniversary of Roll on Roll Off Operations	20 July 2015
Lions Club - Visit of Chernobyl Children	22 July 2015
Felixstowe Carnival – Judging of Carnival Floats	25 July 2015
Felixstowe Friendly Visiting Service	28 July 2015
<i>Deputy Mayor – Mayor of Haverhill, Mayor at Home</i>	28 July 2015
Bombay Nite 25 th Anniversary Event at The Triangle	1 August 2015
Leopold Nursing Home Summer Fete	1 August 2015
Conniston House, Felixstowe in Flower Visit	11 August 2015
Cowpasture Allotment Open Day	15 August 2015
Foxgrove Residential Home Open Day	15 August 2015
St Elizabeth Hospice, The Hope Trust and Local Alzheimer’s Society Fun Day	16 August 2015
Felixstowe Seafront Gardens Opening Event	26 August 2015
Old Grammar School Centenary Celebrations	2 September 2015
Art on the Prom	6 September 2015

The Mayor highlighted the vast array of high quality events around the town, remarking on the excellent turnout for Art on the Prom and expressed thanks to Felixstowe Academy for hosting the Mayor’s Reception in July. The Mayor had also been impressed by the work which had been carried out by the Felixstowe Society of Allotment Leisure Gardeners at the Cowpasture Allotment site. The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for supporting a number of these engagements.

Council noted that the Mayor had sent a letter of condolence on its behalf to the Mayor of Sudbury following the recent fire in their town.

RESOLVED that the Mayor’s engagements since 8 July 2015 be noted.

200. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the following meetings be noted as received and adopted:

- a) Planning & Environment Committee 1 July 2015**
- b) Planning & Environment Committee 15 July 2015**
- c) Finance & General Purposes Committee 22 July 2015**
- d) Planning & Environment Committee 29 July 2015**
- e) Planning & Environment Committee 12 August 2015**
- f) Planning & Environment Committee 26 August 2015**

201. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Report from Cllr Steve Wiles, Council representative to Felixstowe Wesel Association:

On 29 July 2015 I read in the local Wesel on-line newspaper that the town had been given just 48 hours' notice to take in up to 200 refugees as an initial allocation. I sent the Mayor of Wesel, Ulrike Westerkamp, an e-mail expressing the moral support and solidarity of the Mayor and Members of Felixstowe Town Council in coping with such a vast humanitarian issue.

Ulrika replied explaining that, although the task set had been made all the more difficult as the need was expressed to keep them all in one place, the town had all pulled together and the people of many nationalities had been found accommodation and medical cover. The major problem they faced (apart from finding a building large enough) was finding interpreters for so many nationalities at short notice, but a call to the community found the solution.

Ulrike closed expressing her thanks and personal best wishes to the Town Mayor, Doreen Savage and all Town Council Members.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

202. SCDC PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Council considered the report on proposed changes to the Suffolk Coastal District Council scheme of delegation relating to the determination of planning applications. The Clerk updated Members following consideration of this matter at the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held earlier in the day. Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee, Cllr Andy Smith, presented a draft letter for Council to consider submitting to the SCDC Audit & Governance Committee

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee and on the basis of the draft letter presented, be delegated the authority to write to the SCDC Audit & Governance Committee Chairman on behalf of the Town Council.

203. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD REPORT

Council received the report of the Felixstowe Forward Change Director, Helen Greengrass.

Ms Greengrass updated Council on the wide-ranging publicity generated by the Spa Gardens project which has resulted in a national newspaper marking them as a top tip for places to visit in 2016.

Council heard that the report following the Felixstowe Forward engagement event was being finalised and would be circulated shortly. Felixstowe Forward was also seeking to recruit an apprentice to join the team.

Members considered the draft Felixstowe Forward Improvement Plan which outlined how three sub-groups would be convened to consider and work towards the various aims. Ms Greengrass advised that the Tourism sub-group had already held its first meeting and would be meeting again the next day. Part of the remit of this group would be to look at how to improve tourist information in the town and across the region as well as increasing the event offer. Ms Greengrass referred to the aspirations of Members to see more arts, drama and music to the town and hoped to bring forward any opportunities for a drama festival to Council in the future.

Council was asked to consider the report on proposals for a Community Nature Reserve. Ms Greengrass advised that all local green initiatives should be linked. Members endorsed the proposal and recommended focusing efforts on those sites listed which were not in private ownership.

Members recorded a vote of thanks to Helen Greengrass for the Felixstowe Forward report.

RESOLVED that:

- i. the Felixstowe Forward update report be noted as received;**
- ii. the key objectives in the draft improvement plan be endorsed by the Town Council; and,**
- iii. the principle of the Community Nature Reserve project be approved with Peewit Hill suggested for further investigation as potential site.**

204. STREET NAMING

Council considered several suitable names for the new access road serving the 11 new dwellings at the land rear of 2-16 Philip Avenue.

Members unanimously supported the principle of retaining a royal theme in this area and, in consideration of the recent addition to the royal family it was proposed that the road be named Charlotte Close.

It was RESOLVED that it be recommended to the developer that the road be named Charlotte Close.

205. CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Council considered the principle of hiring a temporary Ice Rink Gt. Eastern Sq. in the week leading up to Christmas.

Members commented on the potential benefit to residents and visitors to the town such an event would bring.

RESOLVED that:

- i. subject to permission being granted for the use of Gt. Eastern Square for the purposes of a temporary ice rink on the dates as proposed; and funding towards the initiative be supported from the East of England Coop and District Councillors' Enabling Communities Budget, a mobile ice rink be hired and provided free for use by the public for the duration of the event;
- ii. Council's Youth Forum be invited to contribute towards the cost and arrangements of the event; and,
- iii. The Town Clerk be delegated the authority to confirm all arrangements for the event, reporting back to Council with final costs for approval from the Community Fund Earmarked Reserve.

206. FLY A FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

Council considered its participation in the Flying a Flag for the Commonwealth event on 14 March 2016.

RESOLVED that:

- i. the Council participate in the event by the raising of the Commonwealth Flag on 14 March 2016; and,
- ii. Council's Civic & Community Committee be requested to consider a programme of civic flag flying for 2016/17.

207. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

It was **RESOLVED** that the schedule and payment of accounts be received and approved as follows:

Date	Voucher Nos.	Total Payment
15/07/2015	150 – 171	£13,158.51
22/07/2015	172 – 181	£3,408.60
29/07/2015	182 – 193	£29,722.20
12/08/2015	194 – 212	£5,222.04
26/08/2015	213 – 226	£30,779.75
	TOTAL	£82,291.10

208. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm. It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 11 November 2015 at 7.30pm.

Date: _____

Town Mayor: _____