

FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 14th August 2013 at Felixstowe Town Hall To be approved

Present: Councillors Jan Garfield (Mayor), Barber, Bird, Deacon, Jon Garfield, Newman, Savage, Sennington, Sharman, Slemmings, Smith, Walker, Webb and Williams.

147. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public, having thanked the Mayor for the Wings on Waves event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of sea planes in Felixstowe, asked for an explanation of what was happening with the Seafront Gardens Project. At the request of the Mayor, Councillor Smith responded that this was a Suffolk Coastal District Council project and the current dispute between Suffolk Coastal District Council and the contractor was being dealt with at Suffolk Coastal District Council.

A member of the public asked regarding rover car parking tickets why if the Town Council was in agreement nothing had happened. The Mayor responded that car parking in Felixstowe was in the hands of Suffolk Coastal District Council. At the request of the Mayor, Councillor Williams responded that she had been advised that Suffolk Coastal District Council had deferred their decision on rover tickets and were to undertake a strategic review of car parking with their draft paper prepared by the end of the year. The Mayor suggested that the member of the public may wish to write to Suffolk Coastal District Council with their views on the subject.

148. PRAYERS

The meeting was opened with prayer by Reverend Mark Kichenside, Christ Church.

149. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Morris and Stokell.

150. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bird, Deacon, Jan Garfield, Savage, Sennington, Sharman, Slemmings, Smith and Williams declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as Members of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Councillors Barber and Newman declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as Members of Suffolk County Council.

151. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 5th JUNE 2013

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5th June 2013 were confirmed as a true record by those present and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

152. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred to a list of engagements: 06.06.2013 – opening ceremony of the New North Rail Terminal at the Port of Felixstowe; 09.06.2013 – Mayor of Felixstowe, Civic Service; 13.06.2013 – Dame Vera Lynn Trust, School for Parents, Grand Opening of Outdoor Sensory Classroom; 15.06.2013 – opening of the Felixstowe

Book Festival, *Deputy Mayor*; 17.06.2013 – 100th birthday of Joyce Gillies at Cotman House; 20.06.2013 – Home Start Suffolk Coastal, drinks party, *Deputy Mayor*; 20.06.2013 – High Sheriff of Suffolk Reception; 21.06.2013 – Birthday Lunch at Queens Road Day Centre (Leading Lives); 22.06.2013 – launch of 2013 Felixstowe Carnival; 22.06.2013 – Cheese and Wine evening in aid of the Felixstowe Friendly Visiting Service; 23.06.2013 – Mayor of St Edmundsbury Civic Service; 24.06.2013 – Orwell District Scouts, Annual General Meeting; 26.06.2013 – End of Year Student Celebration Event at Suffolk New College; 26.06.2013 – Felixstowe Academy, Summer Concert; 27.06.2013 – Launch of Felixstowe in Flower; 27.06.2013 – Felixstowe Academy, New Build update; 28.06.2013 – Mayor's Tea at St Elizabeth Hospice; 28.06.2013 – Riverside Evening in aid of Seafarers' UK; 29.06.2013 – Lions Club of Felixstowe, Charter Dinner; 05.07.2013 – Suffolk Coastal District Council, Chairman's Reception, *Deputy Mayor*; 06.07.2013 – Music in Felixstowe, Noye's Fludde, *Deputy Mayor*; 07.07.2013 – Darell's Day at Landguard Fort, *Deputy Mayor*; 08.07.2013 – Home Start Suffolk Coastal, Annual General Meeting, *Deputy Mayor*; 10.07.2013 – The Mayor of Ipswich, Mayor's At Home; 11.07.2013 – visit to Felixstowe by children from Chernobyl; 13.07.2013 – Leopold Road Nursing Home, Summer Fete; 17.07.2013 – interview with Radio Suffolk concerning Wings on Waves; 18.07.2013 – flight in the Catalina at Duxford; 19.07.2013 – Salzwedel Association, breakfast at the Town Hall; 19.07.2013 – Great Baking Evening in aid of the Lions Club; 20.07.2013 – Finals Day at the Felixstowe Tennis Club; 20.07.2013 – Cotman House, Summer Fete, *Deputy Mayor*; 21.07.2013 – Felixstowe and District Horticultural Society, Annual Show; 22.07.2013 – Guide Dogs for the Blind, blindfold walk; 27.07.2013 – We are Community at Broadway House; 27.07.2013 – Mill Lane Nursing Home Fete, *Deputy Mayor*; 27.07.2013 – 115th Anniversary Gala Ball at the Orwell Hotel; 03.08.2013 – Westcliff Care Home, Summer Fete; 03.08.2013 – talk by Phil Hadwen concerning Sea Planes in Felixstowe; 04.08.2013 Wings on Waves, Church Service, Parade, luncheon and Air Show; 10.08.2013 – Judging of floats at Felixstowe Carnival; 10.08.2013 – Pam Dangerfield Memorial Fund Charity Craft Fair.

The Mayor referred in particular to the recent Wings on Waves event which had been a superb celebration of the 100 years anniversary of seaplanes at Felixstowe. It had been a significant and collaborative achievement involving many different local people and organisations. The sun shone, the crowds came and warmest thanks were given to all who helped to organise the event.

153. PLANS COMMITTEE

Items 69 – 80, 81 – 96, 111 – 122 and 123 - 133 of the meetings held on 12th and 26th, 17th and 31st July 2013 were presented by Councillor Smith, Chairman of this Committee.

With regard to item 72 C13/1012 and C13/1013 Car Park and Hamilton House, Cambridge Road, further to a Member's request, the Chairman reiterated the reasons for the Plan's Committee's recommendation for refusal.

With regard to C13/0887 246 High Street, Walton, further to a Member's request, the Chairman confirmed that this application would be determined by the District Council's South Sub Committee for Plans.

With regard to item 74 South Seafront Land, further to a Member's request, the Chairman reported that the ongoing correspondence with Suffolk Coastal District Council in relation to the Planning Reserved Matters had now concluded, resulting in the District Council agreeing to some, not all, of the Town Council's suggested

amendments. It was pleasing that various improvements had been agreed including to the floodgates and the reintroduction of uprighters to the Martello Tower.

With regard to item 84 Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Service, further to a Member's request, the Chairman reported that changes to Suffolk Coastal District Council's Planning Service had taken place with the introduction of a new IT system. There was also an intention nationally to move away from hard copies and paper printing to an online planning portal. The impact of this on the Town Council was not yet known.

With regard to item 87 C13/0485 Haven Exchange, further to a Member's request, the Chairman reported, in his capacity as a member of the District Council's South Sub Committee for Plans, that useful site visits had taken place to the sites of the food store applications registered with the District Council, and in order to avoid any potential contention from any of the three applicants, the District Council had decided to hear all three applications on the same date, as yet unknown.

With regard to item 117 Orchard Bungalow, Park Avenue, further to a Member's request, the Chairman confirmed that there was an annual review of all play space provision by Suffolk Coastal District Council.

With regard to item 122 Suffolk Coastal District Council Notice of Adoption of Core Strategy, further to a Member's request, the Chairman reported that following its formal adoption by Suffolk Coastal District Council on 5th July 2013, the Core Strategy had become a planning document fundamental for all district planning decisions, and the next step would be working towards a site specific area action plan.

With regard to item 132 proposed pedestrian bridge over railway line in the vicinity of the Felixstowe Academy, further to a Member's request, the Chairman reported the Plans Committee's preference for the ramped bridge option, albeit more expensive.

RESOLVED that with these comments the report of this Committee be approved.

154. NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Items 106 – 110 of the meeting held on 8th July 2013 were presented by Councillor Savage, Chairman of this Committee.

RESOLVED that the report of this Committee be approved.

155. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Items 134 – 146 of the meeting held on 31st July 2013 were presented by Councillor Slemmings, Chairman of this Committee.

Item 137 – Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts from 1st April 2013 – 30th June 2013 amounting to £160,363.42, presented to this Committee be approved.

Item 139(a) - Report of the Community Services Group (Health Councillors) of 13th May 2013

It was **RESOLVED** that Felixstowe Town Council should become a member of Suffolk Healthwatch with Councillor Sharman appointed as the Town Council's nominee, reporting back as appropriate to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Item 140 – Membership of Suffolk Libraries

Deferred to Council agenda item 156 below.

Item 143 – Electoral Review of Suffolk Coastal

Deferred to Council agenda item 157 below.

Item 146 – Review of Town Council arrangements with Suffolk Coastal Services

IT WAS RESOLVED in this instance to fund the repair of the two benches in the Crescent Road car park for the sum of £186.43 from the environmental fund, however Suffolk Coastal Services should be advised that Felixstowe Town Council would not accept responsibility for the future repair and maintenance of all benches in the town.

RESOLVED that with these comments the report of this Committee be approved.

156. TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP OF SUFFOLK LIBRARIES

Following full discussion at the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 31st July, Members considered the recommendation for the Town Council to apply to Suffolk Libraries IPS Ltd to become the member for Felixstowe.

It was **RESOLVED** that Felixstowe Town Council should apply to become the member for Felixstowe of the Suffolk Libraries IPS for the sum of £1 from the Community Fund, on the understanding that such membership would not require, imply or include a financial contribution from the Town Council of £5,200, and for the Town Council's nominated representative to be Councillor Sennington, with Councillor Walker as nominated substitute.

157. ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY

Following discussion at the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 31st July 2013, Members discussed again the establishment of an Electoral Review Working Party in order to consider matters of relevance to the Electoral Review of Suffolk Coastal by the local Government Boundary Commission for England and to determine a response from the Town Council to the consultation exercise. Recognising the time constraint for response to the consultation and the Town Council's meeting schedule, in the interests of expediency:

It was **RESOLVED** to establish an Electoral Review Working Party including representation of one Councillor per Town Council Ward (East Ward – Councillor Newman, South East Ward – Councillor Smith, North Ward – Councillor Deacon, South Ward – Councillor Jon Garfield, West Ward – Councillor Barber), and to give delegated authority to the Electoral Review Working Party in view of timescales, with any action of the Electoral Review Working Party to be ratified by the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on Wednesday 18th September 2013.

158. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members considered a paper from the Clerk regarding the proposed establishment of a Personnel Committee. Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor Slemmings seconded that the Town Council adopt arrangements as set out in the paper. Councillor Deacon proposed and Councillor Sharman seconded an amendment to the paper regarding Committee membership, such amendment not being passed on a vote. Following further discussion

It was **RESOLVED** to establish a Personnel Committee comprising the Mayor (ex officio), the Deputy Mayor (ex officio) and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

159. FELIXSTOWE AND TRIMLEYS PENINSULA FUTURES STEERING GROUP

Members noted a report of the key discussion points and actions of the Felixstowe Futures Steering Group meeting held on 17th July 2013.

160. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

161. SOUTH SEAFRONT AREA

CHAIRMAN