

FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECONVENED ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on Thursday 19th June 2014 at Felixstowe Town Hall

Present: Councillors Newman (Mayor), Bird, Deacon, Jan Garfield, Jon Garfield, Savage, Sennington, Smith (except items 1-11), Walker, Webb and Williams.

Also present: Five members of the public.

102. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public enquired regarding the Spa Gardens project. Councillor Savage advised that Suffolk Coastal District Council would be issuing a press release but the new anticipated start date was likely to be September.

Another member of the public complained about the state of the wildflower meadows at the south seafront site, and Councillor Savage advised that Suffolk Coastal District Council were aware and were working on the creation of the meadows.

103. PRAYERS

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev David White, St John Baptist, Felixstowe.

104. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barber, Morris, Sharman, Slemmings and Stokell.

105. MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The Mayor reported that the Clerk had received a number of letters from the public, and that a number of Councillors had contacted him directly, regarding perceived bullying amongst members and of staff. The Mayor added that two members had asked for an item to be tabled on this matter but indicated that at that time he would be proposing the preparation of policies for adoption by the Council.

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillors Newman declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as a Member of Suffolk County Council.

107. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR COUNCILLORS WITH A PECUNIARY INTEREST

No requests for dispensation had been received.

108. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 4th JUNE 2014

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4th June were confirmed as a true record by those present and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

109. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR

No Members had tabled any questions for the Mayor.

110. PLANS COMMITTEE

The receipt of the minutes of the meetings of the Plans Committee held on 11th June 2014, which were on the table, was noted.

111. TO ADOPT A REVISED SUFFOLK CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council agreed to adopt the revised Suffolk Code of Conduct.

112. TO CONSIDER AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CHARGING SCHEDULE ISSUED BY SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Committee noted the draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule and agreed that their comments would be to question why wholly or mainly comparison retail developments were to be zero-rated, and why Felixstowe was determined as a “low value” area.

113. TO CONSIDER AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ISSUED BY SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Council noted the receipt of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement.

Councillor Smith joined the meeting at this point and declared a local non-pecuniary interest as a member of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

114. TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The Council noted the current financial position as at 31st May 2014.

115. TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S POLICY FOR DEALING WITH THE PRESS/MEDIA

The Council agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the next Full Council meeting and asked the Clerk to represent it in such a way that it was clear that the policy did not apply to individual Councillors who had been asked by the press, or who had contacted the press, to comment.

116. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION FROM FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REGARDING THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS IN RESPECT OF ITS TREE STOCK AND AGREE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO REDUCE RISKS

The Council agreed to adopt the policy and procedure.

117. TO AGREE THE ADDRESS THE COUNCIL'S LAND REGISTRATION ISSUES

The Council agreed to implement a legal and survey overhaul of the Council's property portfolio.

118. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CHEQUE LISTS FOR PAYMENT

The Council approved the following payments made since the last meeting:-

Date	Cheque Numbers	Amount £
21/05/14	2683-2695	£2,560.07
02/06/14	2696	£181.27
02/06/14	2697-2704	£2,352.46
10/06/14	2705-2718	£9,006.82
	TOTAL	£14,100.62

119. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL BODIES

There were no reports to be considered. The Council agreed that at each scheduled meeting reports would be presented on one sixth of the external bodies.

120. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSED QUESTIONNAIRE AND APPROVE ITS FINAL VERSION

The Council agreed to ask the Working Party to review the questionnaire and to present the final version to the next Full Council meeting.

121. TO CONSIDER THE FUNDING OF BAGS OF BULBS FOR SCHOOLS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE YOUTH COUNCIL

The Council agreed to fund, from the Felixstowe Promotions Earmarked Reserve, the purchase of bags of bulbs for distribution to schools at an

estimated cost of £500. The Council asked the Clerk to prepare a report for the Finance Sub-Committee recommending that in the 2015/2016 budget a sum be allocated to the Youth Forum for projects.

122. MOTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

- a. To discuss complaints received from the public concerning alleged bullying behaviour between members of Felixstowe Town Council, and to recommend that the Personnel committee prepares a protocol for behaviour between members, which should include an anti bullying policy to supplement the existing anti bullying policy relating to employees**

The Mayor asked Councillors Deacon and Williams if they would be willing to withdraw their agenda item subject to a resolution by Council that the Clerk draw up a policy on Member/Officer protocols, and Member/Member protocol for consideration by Personnel Committee and adoption by Full Council. Councillors Deacon and Williams being in agreement, the Council agreed to ask the Clerk to draw up such policies.

123. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 9.20 p.m.

Date: _____

Town Mayor: _____