

FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 19th March 2014 at Felixstowe Town Hall

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

499. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Jon Garfield and Stokell.

500. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bird, Deacon, Jan Garfield, Savage, 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.

Councillor Williams declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as her son is a member of the Corinthians Youth Cricket Club.

Councillor Walker declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as an employee of BT.

Councillor Sharman declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as a member of the Felixstowe and District Sports Council.

Councillor Slemmings declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as a member of Felixstowe Swimming Club and the Ipswich Triathlon Club

Councillor Smith declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as a member of the group that prepared the East Suffolk Growth Plan.

Councillor Deacon declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as a member of the Felixstowe Road Runners.

501. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR COUNCILLORS WITH A PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Walker sought, and was granted dispensation to remain, speak and vote on matters related to the East Suffolk Growth Plan.

502. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 26th FEBRUARY 2014

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th February 2014 were confirmed as a true record by those present and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

503. FELIXSTOWE SPORTS HUBS PROPOSALS

The Council considered the Felixstowe Sports Hub proposals. A response was agreed and the Town Clerk was asked to respond as follows:-

“Felixstowe Town Council welcomes the Felixstowe Sports Hub proposals designed to ensure the longterm sustainability and development of sports provision in the town for football, cricket, hockey and rugby provided that:-

- a) No changes will be made to the current pitch provision at both Walton and Seaton Road Recreation Grounds
- b) There is no reduction in the overall current pitch provision in the town
- c) Consideration is given to the original suggestion of a jogging/running track around the perimeter of Coronation Sports Ground and/or Eastwood Ho
- d) Provision is made for persons with disabilities to be able to access the facilities and participate in the sports
- e) There is adequate provision for outdoor sports to be played other than those mentioned in the report (both on a formal and informal basis)
- f) The Grove Car Park be excluded from any leases and remain a public car park managed within the existing Suffolk Coastal District Council car parking regime
- g) This Council receives confirmation that the clubs involved have been fully appraised of the financial impacts (on them) of the associated maintenance costs involved.”

504. EAST SUFFOLK GROWTH PLAN

The Council considered the East Suffolk Growth Plan in detail. A response was agreed and the Town Clerk was asked to respond making the following points:-

- a) Paragraph 2.4 – There is no mention of any New Anglia LEP involvement in any Felixstowe project; this should be addressed, either by inclusion of a project in this paragraph, or by direction of the LEP’s focus to Felixstowe
- b) Paragraph 4.7 – Felixstowe can only benefit from its proximity to the City of London if the road/rail links (and connectivity) are adequate and reliable. The reliability and timetabling of the Felixstowe Branch Line is probably amongst the worst in the South of England. Similarly the A14/A12 links by road to London are below standard, and have been recognized as such.
- c) Paragraph 4.8 – Mention should be made of the challenges faced by the unreliability of the Felixstowe Branch Line.
- d) Paragraph 5.7 – The Ipswich Northern Bypass needs to have a higher rating than an “aspiration”; the A14 Orwell bridge is increasingly seen as a barrier to economic growth in Felixstowe.
- e) Paragraph 5.10 – The Felixstowe Branch Line should be separately identified from the East Suffolk Line in this paragraph; their issues are distinct. Electrification of the Felixstowe Branch should be a priority – look at the economic growth of Braintree following electrification of its branch line and the provision of through trains to/from London.
- f) Paragraph 6.2 – Felixstowe and the A14 corridor should be listed as two distinct locations for growth, not conjoined as one.
- g) Paragraph 6.11 – Can the A14 (particularly the Orwell bridge) be accepted as a good transport link in its current form ? There needs to be resilience for the A14 south of Ipswich.
- h) Paragraph 6.19 – Felixstowe and Lowestoft’s characteristics are very different. Felixstowe has a thriving town centre and its port-centered industry is continuing to grow,

- i) Paragraph 6.40 – There should be a separate DMO for Felixstowe and its peninsular, as its offer is very distinct.
- j) Paragraph 7.3 – There should be clarity between Suffolk Coastal District Council interventions and impact, and the interventions/impact of others. There should be performance indicators centered around tourism – visitor spend, bed space occupancy rates, visitor numbers etc. This is a key economic driver for the coastal area.
- k) General – there is no recognition of the growth in tourism associated with the areas of outstanding natural beauty
- l) General – there is no recognition of tourism opportunities through cycling and the development of cycle routes

505. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 8:05 p.m.