

MINUTES of the **ORDINARY COUNCIL** meeting held at Felixstowe Town Hall on
Wednesday 13 July 2016 at 7.30pm

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Insp. Roger Salmon (Suffolk Constabulary)
 Ms H Greengrass (Felixstowe Forward Change Director)
 5 members of the Public, 1 member of the Press.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

PRAYERS

The meeting was preceded with prayers by Rev. Andrew Dotchin, St. John's Church, Felixstowe.

110. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from **Cllr C Barham, Cllr S Bloomfield, Cllr J Vartan** and **Cllr K Williams**.

111. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

112. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were none.

113. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR

There were none.

114. CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 June 2016 be signed by the Mayor as a true record and adopted by the Council.

115. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred to the following list of engagements:

An Evening at Ashton Jayne	9 June 2016
FOPWA Queens 90 th Tea Party	10 June 2016
Choral Evensong to Celebrate the 90 th Birthday of the Queen	11 June 2016
Tea at the Town Hall to Celebrate the 90 th Birthday of the Queen	12 June 2016
Songs of Praise for the Sovereign	12 June 2016
'A Retrospective Exhibition' at Bucklesham Grange Care Home	15 June 2016
National Care Home Open Day at White Gables Residential Home	17 June 2016
National Care Home Open Day at NPL Care Home	17 June 2016
Launch of the Eighth in the East Festival	17 June 2016
Felixstowe Town Pastor's 10 th Anniversary	18 June 2016
<i>Deputy Mayor - Last Night of the Proms</i>	<i>18 June 2016</i>
Citizens Advice Bureau AGM	21 June 2016
Orwell Connection Charity Concert	21 June 2016
Felixstowe Forward One Year On	22 June 2016
Suffolk New College, End of Year Celebrations	22 June 2016
Rose Care Celebrations at The Hut	23 June 2016
Meeting with Luxembourg Students	24 June 2016
Felixstowe Book Festival	24 June 2016
Cotman House Garden Party	25 June 2016
Suffolk Armed Forces Day	25 June 2016
Mayor's Civic Service	26 June 2016
Opening of Felixstowe Barbers	27 June 2016

Launch of Felixstowe in Flower 2016	28 June 2016
An Evening with Aldeburgh Music	30 June 2016
Whistle for the Somme Remembrance	1 July 2016
Felixstowe Fuchsia Fantasia	2 July 2016
Darrell's Day Commemoration	3 July 2016
Felixstowe Lions Club Annual Charter Lunch	3 July 2016
<i>Deputy Mayor – St Edmundsbury Mayor's Civic Service</i>	<i>3 July 2016</i>
FACTS AGM	4 July 2016
Suffolk Coastal Disability Action Day	5 July 2016
Children's Community Performance	5 July 2016
Felixstowe Breakfast Club	6 July 2016
Home-start AGM	11 July 2016
Felixstowe Academy Summer Concert	12 July 2016

The Mayor thanked fellow councillors and staff who had helped make the Queens 90th Birthday Tea Party at the Town Hall such a success. The launch of the 'Eighth in the East' festival celebrating the 8th Airforce, which had been based in Suffolk during WWII was highlighted as being very interesting. Commenting on the Felixstowe Forward 'One Year On' event, the Mayor thanked Helen Greengrass for her hard work in achieving so much over the past year. Council heard that a reception for students from Luxembourg students had been very well received; the students were a delight and all spoke perfect English.

The Mayor's Civic Service was well attended and the Mayor thanked Reverend Dotchin for the lovely service and Jenny Holland and Diana Barnard for providing refreshments. It was reported that over 30 people had attended 'Whistle for the Somme' to mark the first day of the battle of the Somme, following which the Mayor was at St. John's Church for the raising of a commemorative flag which would fly over the church for duration of the Battle of the Somme. Darrell's Day at Landguard Fort had been a great event and the Mayor recommended that everybody should visit. The Mayor reported on the enlightening experience of being pushed around Hamilton Road in a wheelchair as part of Suffolk Coastal Disability Action Day as, despite wearing the Mayoral Chain, many people talked over her head and access to some shops with narrow aisles and steps had proved impossible – as was trying to use an ATM. The Felixstowe Academy Summer Concert had lived up to expectation and all the participating students had shown themselves to be highly talented.

The Mayor drew attention to a photography competition that the Town Council was holding to mark the first anniversary of its award winning website. The winning photo was to be used as the new homepage background and £100

would be awarded to the photographer who took it. Entrants must have full rights to the supplied image and give permission for the Town Council to use it. The photo competition was to run up until 13th September 2016.

Members were reminded that if they had any comments or suggestions in relation to SCDC's offer to holding bi-annual engagement forums for representatives from all town and parish councils in Suffolk Coastal, to please respond to the Town Clerk by 20 July

The Mayor thanked Cllr S Wiles for agreeing to attend the Devolution briefing at SCDC offices on behalf of herself and the Deputy Mayor who had prior engagements.

It was RESOLVED that the Mayor's engagements since 9 June 2016, and the above communications, be noted.

116. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the following meetings be received and, subject to their accuracy being confirmed by those committees, adopted:

- a) Planning & Environment Committee 15 June 2016
- b) Civic & Community Committee 15 June 2016
- c) Planning & Environment Committee 29 June 2016

117. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Council received the report of Cllr G Newman, Town Council representative to the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC).

Referring to his report, Cllr Newman spoke of the SALC meeting at which the new relationship of Community Transport with Coastal Accessible Transport Service (CATS) had been discussed. This was a transport service provided by SCC designed to help people travel around the county of Suffolk who might not have access to a regular bus service.

Cllr Newman reported that, subsequent to the SALC meeting, he had attended the Felixstowe Area Community Transport (FACTS) AGM where this matter was also discussed. Council heard that, although it was in the early stages, the changes had not affected them to a significant degree. It was expected that a single telephone contact number for CATS number would be employed across the county in order to simplify the process for customers who may be travelling countywide and to cover the reduced bus service in the county.

RESOLVED that the outside body report from Cllr G Newman be noted.

118. FELIXSTOWE FORWARD REPORT

Council received the report of the Felixstowe Forward Change Director, Helen Greengrass. Ms Greengrass reported that Felixstowe Forward had recently held a very successful annual stakeholder event called 'Felixstowe Forward – One Year on'. This community workshop had identified 6 key areas for follow up, including health & wellbeing and time banking. Time banking was explained as being able to 'deposit' time by giving practical help and support and then being able to 'withdraw' time credits elsewhere, and a way for community organisations and volunteers to come together and help each other. The concept of 'social prescriptions' had also been raised, whereby GPs could prescribe attending a group or club to somebody at risk of social isolation.

It was noted that Ms Greengrass had attended a recent Coastal Communities Conference at which it had been helpful to learn about similar challenges faced by many other coastal towns.

Referring to the town's noticeboards, Ms Greengrass advised that a condition report would be provided soon which would help determine how and what can be done to improve them.

Members were pleased to note that Martello Park had been highly commended in the regeneration category of the 2016 Planning and Placemaking Awards.

Members requested that more information be provided on the KPIs referenced in the town benchmarking data. Ms Greengrass gave an undertaking to provide this subsequent to the meeting.

A Member asked whether Felixstowe should be entered in to the Great British High Street awards. Ms Greengrass advised that it would be looked in to but that it may be too much to get an entry in this year.

In closing her report Ms Greengrass advised that, at the request of Council, expressions of interest were being sought for directorships of the Visit Felixstowe CIC and would be reviewed by an independent panel.

It was RESOLVED that:

- i. the Felixstowe Forward update report be noted as received;**
- ii. It be recommended to Felixstowe Forward that an annual benchmarking exercise be undertaken as a means of monitoring the Town Centre; and,**
- iii. the Draft Felixstowe Events Policy be circulated for feedback.**

119. SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY REPORT

The Mayor invited Insp. Roger Salmon of Suffolk Constabulary to address the Council. Inspector Salmon thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and commented on how much he had enjoyed working in Felixstowe since his appointment to the post a year ago.

With reference to the changes brought about since the Suffolk Policing Review, Insp. Salmon provided Council with a 3 month update. Positive outcomes had been seen in key areas, with 91.9% of 999 calls having been responded to within 15 minutes in urban areas, and within 20 mins further afield. Council noted that the target was 90% and performance was in the top 3 in the district. There had been 885 incidents recorded since 1 April and new intelligence sharing protocols with Ipswich had resulted in an increase to arrests. There had been three organised drug businesses which the Police had shut down. Insp. Salmon was confident that the new model was working well and advised that new initiatives, such as Community Speed Watch, were about to go live. Police Specials were also going to be brought in for a month's blitz on road issues from 20th July. Council heard how the Safer Neighbourhood Team Tasking meetings were up and running, SNT newsletters were available online and a neighbourhood harm register was working well. The CCTV system was well supported by the volunteers and functioning effectively well following some maintenance issues and one individual was looking at getting involved with lost property within the town.

Insp. Salmon told the Council that the challenges ahead were the performance data was still very patchy with the new computer systems. The problem was that it was very intelligent but input was very slow. They had now recruited 22 new call handlers but the model needs to be bedded in. Felixstowe was in the same area as Woodbridge and South East Ipswich and domestic burglary had dropped by 20%. There had been 3 robberies, sexual incidents were up by 13 to 26 and violent crimes were up by 13 to 92 incidents.

A Member asked the Inspector if the reduction in street lighting had resulted in an increase in crimes such as burglaries. The Insp. advised that an increase had not been demonstrated but that the situation would be monitored. Following a Member's question as to whether recent drug-related arrests were attributed to local people the Inspector advised that the majority of activity had been from people who were London-based. Members expressed concern that over reports that members of the public were experiencing extremely long wait times for a response from 101. Inspector Salmon advised that new staff were due to start in October which should improve times.

Referring to parking enforcement, Members expressed how it was unacceptable for the constabulary to say that they would not be carrying out enforcement as that have a statutory duty to do so and, as nobody else could do it, could more attention be given to this. Inspector Salmon advised that the police would do what they could to attend to local matters of concern, such as parking, but with a reduced budget this had to be balanced with other priorities.

Members thanked to Insp. for his report and wondered if there had been any rise in race-related crimes in the area since Brexit. Insp. Salmon said there had been a rise but not in the Felixstowe area.

Council recorded a vote of thank to Inspector Salmon for his report.

120. S106 SPORTS FUNDING

Council considered an application from Felixstowe Rangers FC for £10,571.82 funding from the sport pot of the Section 106 Outdoor Playing Space Fund in order to redevelop the pavilion at Walton Recreation Ground.

Members commented on how the plans would support a significant number of young people who used the facility and the hard work shown by the club's players in raising money towards the project.

It was RESOLVED that the application from Felixstowe Rangers for £10,571.82 funding from the sport pot of the Section 106 Outdoor Playing Space Fund be endorse and SCDC be advised accordingly.

121. COMMEMORATIVE GATHERING FOR THE SOMME

Council considered a letter from the Felixstowe branch of the Royal British Legion inviting the Town Council to participate in a commemorative gathering for the Somme at the Triangle on 10th September 2016.

The Mayor advised that she would representing the Town Council in Salzwedel on the weekend of the event. The Deputy Mayor advised that he may be able to attend.

It was RESOLVED that the Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion be thanked for their invitation and for the Deputy Mayor to attend the event on behalf of the Town Council.

122. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

It was RESOLVED that the schedule and payment of accounts - to include a transfer of £197,606.58 in to Council's Nationwide investment bond - be received and approved as follows:

Date	Voucher Nos.	Total Payment
08/06/2016	97 - 115	£202,210.45
22/06/2016	116 - 140	£13,888.02
29/06/2016	141 - 151	£39,119.19
	TOTAL	£255,217.66

123. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm. It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 14 September 2016.

Date: _____

Town Mayor: _____