

**MINUTES** of the **CIVIC & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE** meeting held at Felixstowe Town Hall on **Wednesday 16 October 2019 at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Savage (Chairman) Cllr S Harkin  
Cllr D Aitchison (Vice-Chairman) Cllr M Morris  
Cllr S Bennett (*from item 268*) Cllr G Newman  
Cllr S Gallant Cllr M Richardson

**OFFICERS:** Mr A Tadjrishi (Town Clerk)  
Mrs D Frost (Deputy Town Clerk)

**259. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

**260. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from **Cllr K Williams**.

Apologies for lateness due to work commitments were received from **Cllr S Bennett**.

**261. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Member(s)</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Cllr G Newman	All	Local Non-Pecuniary (as Member of Suffolk County Council)
Cllr S Gallant	All	Local Non-Pecuniary (as Member of East Suffolk Council)
Cllr D Aitchison	265	Local Non-Pecuniary (as Chairman of Royal British Legion)

**262. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

A Member requested an update of the HHFS partnership meeting held on 1 October, attended by the Deputy Town Clerk. A verbal update was given.

**RESOLVED** that the **Minutes of the Civic & Community Committee meeting held on 18 September 2019 be signed as a true record.**

**263. CIVIC & COMMUNITY BUDGET REPORT**

The Committee considered a summary and detailed report showing income and expenditure against budget to 10 October 2019.

**RESOLVED** that the **Budget Report to 10 October 2019 be received and noted as presented with no other action required at this time.**

## **264. FELIXSTOWE IN FLOWER 2019 REPORT**

Committee commented that the floral baskets were particularly good this year, making Felixstowe in Flower 2019 an exemplar year. Committee gave thanks to the Officer involved in getting sponsors which enabled Felixstowe in Flower to be cost neutral this year. Members noted the details of the experiment and consequential reschedule of watering.

It was noted that Felixstowe in Flower had become far more environmentally friendly over the past few years, with the modern baskets allowing the frequency of watering to have been reduced from 6 days a week to the new schedule of watering the Town flowers 3 times a week and Walton and Sea front twice a week. This reduction was helping to save diesel consumption for the truck and use less water. The new baskets, which are longer lasting than the previous baskets, have a reservoir and wick which keeps the water available for the plants. Members requested that an article be written for the Town Council Winter Magazine to explain the environmental changes that have been made.

One way to improve the watering even more would be to use water runoff from farmland. Felixstowe Ferry Golf Course now use rainwater from Adams Farm, so something similar or a joint venture may prove a positive addition. Harvesting rainwater off Council buildings could be considered but would not provide enough water throughout the Summer season.

Members also requested that next year the categories for the competitions be reviewed, with sustainability and environmental themes in mind.

**It was RESOLVED that:**

- i. The Felixstowe in Flower report 2019 be noted;**
- ii. further water saving actions be investigated; and,**
- iii. categories for next year's competitions be reviewed with a focus on sustainability and the environment.**

## **265. FLORAL BEDDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2020/21**

Committee considered the quote for the floral bedding arrangements for the section of the seafront in the form of chevron beds and promenade beds close to the War Memorial and raised beds in Town Centre and at the Triangle. Members discussed the possibility of introducing more sustainable planting. It was suggested that East Suffolk Norse be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss options for a planting plan with this aim. It was also suggested that investigations be made into what type of sustainable plants other coastal towns use.

**It was RESOLVED that:**

- i. East Suffolk Norse be invited to attend the next Civic and Community Committee meeting in December and to provide a sustainable planting plan; and,**
- ii. investigations be made into what type of sustainable plants other coastal towns use.**

**266. REMEMBRANCE 2019**

Cllr D Aitchison gave a verbal report on the recent Remembrance meeting and plans for Remembrance. Members were pleased to note that sponsorship had been received for the 171 signs which are to be placed on 66 roads in Felixstowe to remember the fallen in both WWI and WWII. The signs were to be erected the following week and taken down the week after Remembrance. Large poppies will also be placed, as last year, on the lampposts from the Orwell Hotel to Bent Hill and the Tommy silhouette 'There but not there' will be placed on the Triangle. Members are all invited to the Poppy appeal launch on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October the parade leaves Bank Corner at 10.40 am with the launch at the Triangle at 11am. Members have been sent details of all the Remembrance events and should rsvp to the Mayor's Secretary.

**It was RESOLVED that the Remembrance report be noted.**

**267. INVITATION TO WESEL COMMEMORATIONS**

Members received the report outlining details of the invitation to send a delegation to Wesel to join them in commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the devastation of their town. Committee agreed that the Mayor should attend and choose one other to accompany him. This could be the Deputy Mayor, or a Councillor with long-standing connections with Wesel.

**It was RESOLVED that the Mayor plus one other representative of the Council should attend the commemorations in Wesel between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

**268. BUSINESS PLAN 2020-2024**

Members were asked to consider aspirations for Council for the four-year span 2020-2024 within the scope of the Civic and Community Committee. The Clerk reminded members that two workshops had been arranged in November to discuss the four questions that formed the public consultation that was currently running, with a closing date of 31 October.

Members agreed that the PCSO should be considered, currently with a two-year contract ending in December 2020, the cost of which has been agreed to be funded from Earmarked Reserves and may as such not be sustainable. This should be considered alongside the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement.

Members also agreed that other ideas that could be considered for the business plan were to investigate the possibility of making Felixstowe in Flower carbon neutral, to consider the travelling by the Mayor to his engagements both locally, in the county and abroad, and offsetting carbon by planting more trees.

**At this point, Cllr S Bennett joined the meeting.**

Other ideas included more detailed guidance for organisations applying to Council's grant scheme to make them more environmentally friendly. Members agreed that grants should be more data-led, to discover where the need is for grants to ensure smarter allocation of the funds, including taking advice from other partners. It was anticipated that the forthcoming Community Partnership workshop would give some insight in to priorities for Felixstowe.

Another item for consideration would be to give potential Grant applicants more of a steer as to the types of grants by categorising the grants into areas such as Environment / Young People / Disability/Dementia.

**It was RESOLVED that in these aspirations be considered in the scope of the Civic and Community Committee for the Business Plan 2020-24.**

**269. DRAFT BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS 2020-21**

Committee considered first draft proposals for its element of the Council's 2020-21 budget and reviewed the accompanying notes to the budget estimates in the report. The Clerk explained that this budget is based on existing expectations, however after the Business Planning workshops Council may need to make changes to the budget accordingly.

Members requested that a budget line (up to £20,000) be considered for inclusion to potentially support projects resulting from the forthcoming Community Partnership.

**It was RESOLVED that the draft proposals for the Civic & Community element of the Council's 2020-21 budget be recommended, as per the report, to Council's Finance & General Purposes for further consideration.**

**270. CLOSURE**

A discussion was held on the possibility of moving future meetings to an earlier time. Committee elected to keep the time at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed at 9.20 pm. The next meeting was noted as being scheduled for Wednesday 18 December 2019 at 7.30pm.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

