

MINUTES of a CIVIC & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING held at TOWN HALL, Felixstowe, on Wednesday 9 October 2024 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr M Sharman (Chairman)
Cllr C Franklin (Vice Chairman)
Cllr S Bennett
Cllr A Folley
Cllr S Harkin
Cllr M Morris

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

219. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

220. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from **Cllr D Aitchison, Cllr N Barber** and **Cllr J Candy**.

221. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Other Registerable Interests, to which no matters on the agenda were directly related, were noted:

Member(s)	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Cllr A Folley Cllr S Bennett	All	Other registerable interests (as Members of East Suffolk Council)
Cllr S Bennett	All	Other registerable interests (as Members of Suffolk County Council)
Cllr S Harkin	All	Other registerable interests (as an employee of East Suffolk Council)

Members were advised that, should any matters arise in the meeting that directly relate to any of their interests, they should make appropriate declarations at that time.

222. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Civic & Community Committee meeting held on 11 September 2024 be confirmed as a true record.

223. CIVIC & COMMUNITY BUDGET REPORT

The Committee considered a summary and detailed report showing income and expenditure against budget to 30 September 2024.

RESOLVED that the Budget Report to 30 September 2024 be received and noted as presented with no other action required at this time.

224. DRAFT BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS 2025-26

The committee considered the Civic & Community Committee's draft budget proposals for the 2025-26 financial year.

Following a discussion on Occasional Grants, it was noted that the funding level had remained unchanged since it was increased from £15,000 to £25,000 in the 2017-18 financial year. Recognising the significant increase in the number of community groups over recent years and the impact of inflation, it was proposed to raise the funding for Occasional Grants to £35,000.

In a separate discussion on Twinning, members acknowledged the renewed enthusiasm for twinning activities following recent anniversary celebrations and agreed to maintain the twinning budget for 2025-26 at the current year's level.

RESOLVED that the draft budget for 2025-26, as presented, be recommended to the Finance & Governance Committee, with the Occasional Grants funding increased to £35,000.

225. TWINNING

Members noted the report on Twinning and requested that the Twinning Policy be reviewed at a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the update report on Twinning be noted and the Clerk to bring the Twinning Policy for review at a future meeting.

226. FLAG FLYING ARRANGEMENTS

Members reviewed the Council's Flag Flying Policy, drafted following the previous meeting.

It was proposed that authority for raising ad-hoc or additional flags, not specifically covered by the policy, be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor and the Chairman of the Civic & Community Committee.

It was RESOLVED that, with the delegation of approval for additional flag flying as outlined, the Flag Flying Policy be adopted.

227. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 8.17pm. It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 11 December 2024 at 7.30pm.

Date: _____

Chairman: _____