



Saxmundham Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council
7.00 pm 14th December 2020 by Video Conference

In attendance - Councillors:

Cllr. Jeremy Smith (Chair)

Cllr. Di Eastman (Vice-Chair)

Cllr. John Findlay

Cllr. John Fisher

Cllr. Charlotte Hawkins

Cllr. Nigel Hiley,

Cllr. James Sandbach (arrived at 7.10pm)

Also Present: Rosalind Barnett (Town Clerk/RFO), and three members of the public who asked questions about the Pigeon consultation on the Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood masterplan.

- 091/20TC **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Lock.
- 092/20TC **Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interests declared.
- 093/20TC **Minutes of the Previous Meeting Town Council Meeting**
RESOLVED: It was unanimously resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th of November 2020 with minor amendments.
- 094/20TC **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**
The council received and noted the minutes of the planning meetings held on the 12th of November and 7th of December.
The council received and noted the minutes of the Resources Committee and the Amenities Committee held on the 30th of November.
The chair raised a question about the use of CIL money in the refurbishment of the Market Hall and requested that full council be involved in the developments on the memorial field.
- 095/20TC **County Councillor Report**
County Cllr. Richard Smith MVO County Councillor sent apologies due to a prior commitment.
- 096/20TC **District Councillor's Report**
District Cllr. Fisher highlighted items in his report (Appendix A). He also mentioned that 30-minute free parking would be available at the East Suffolk District Council carparks.
- 097/20TC **Chair's Report**
The Chair, Cllr. Smith formally welcomed the new clerk. He also explained that the council now has three councillor vacancies that would be advertised in January with the hope that they can be filled at the March meeting. He also thanked all the councillors and committee chairs for their hard work during 2020. Cllr Findlay responded by thanking Cllr Smith for acting as Chairman through a challenging year.
On a practical matter the chair raised the issue of the pathways from the Hopkins estate with a view to improving the management and welcomed the recent improvements that had been made. A discussion took place with councillors suggesting ideas for revitalising the Town Centre space.

Signed

Date

20/12/2020

098/20TC

Financial Matters

The Clerk stated that the bank accounts at the 2nd of December stood at: Cambridge Building Society - £ 60,000, Saxmundham Town Council - £ 182316.88, Market Hall - £15,048.19. She also reported that an additional grant for £2500 had been received for the Market Hall to improve the facilities during COVID-19 including the installation of a projector for online meetings.

RESOLVED: Councillors noted and unanimously approved the financial report (Appendix B).

099/20TC

Budget 2021-2022

Councillors noted that there could be a 3% reduction in precept grant due to the financial impact of coronavirus. If there is a reduction in the grant the council would have to reduce expenditure or take the shortfall from reserves.

RESOLVED: Councillors unanimously approved in principle the draft budget and budget statement which will be formally adopted at the January meeting (Appendix C).

100/20TC

Railway Station Update

The restoration works for the station are now out to tender and a schedule of the works should be available by the end of January. The station has been adopted by local volunteers which is now part of the regional station adoption scheme. Cllr Hawkins agreed to liaise with the volunteers.

101/20TC

EDF Sizewell Consultation

Cllr Hiley and Councillor Sandbach had prepared a response to the consultation and presented it to council.

RESOLVED: The council unanimously approved the response with a minor correction to the population of Saxmundham (Appendix D).

102/20TC

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Smith gave a progress report on the Neighbourhood plan which is currently being drafted (Appendix E).

103/20TC

Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood Master Plan

Councillors discussed the consultation being instigated by Pigeons. There was concern that the recently adopted local plan was being disregarded because of the additional development on the A12 corridor. Fears were expressed that the area could be earmarked as a lorry park for the Sizewell development. Issues around infrastructure were also discussed.

RESOLVED: Councillors unanimously approved the draft resolution and policy statement on the Pigeon's consultation (Appendix F and G).

104/20TC

Youth Booth

RESOLVED: Councillors unanimously agreed for a licence to be granted to CYDS for the use of the Youth Booth until the end of March 2021

105/20TC

Reports from Community Organisations

Cllr Eastman reported on the upcoming activities of IP17 Good Neighbours Scheme and thanked the council for their support. The chair congratulated the team for the 'Special Certificate of Merit' which they had been awarded by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk.

The activities for Christmas include Santa's sleigh event on the 19th of December followed by the drive-in carol event on the 20th. The team will also be cooking Christmas dinners for the community.

Cllr Eastman also reported on the Community Partnership project with the Art Station which will be providing activities for people to do during lockdown.

Signed



Date

20/4/2021

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.
Roz Barnett
Clerk/RFO to Saxmundham Town Council
Station Approach
Saxmundham, IP17 1BW

AS THIS MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY, ALL DOCUMENTS WILL BE SIGNED AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

Signed



Date

20/4/2021