



Saxmundham Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Saxmundham Town Council 7.00pm 13 Sept 2021, Market Hall, Saxmundham

In Attendance - Councillors

Cllr. Jeremy Smith (Chair) Cllr. Charlotte Hawkins
Cllr. Di Eastman (Vice Chair) Cllr. Nigel Hiley
Cllr. John Findlay Cllr. Roger Hedley Lewis
Cllr. John Fisher Cllr. James Sandbach
Cllr Rose Webster Cllr Tim Lock

Also present: Roz Barnett (Town Clerk)

Open Forum: At the start of the meeting the Council listened to residents' views about the ideas for improving the Memorial Field. Residents generally welcomed the idea of improvements but raised the following points: -

- Dennis Bloomfield from the British Legion urged that any improvements to site were respectful to the history of the 'Memorial Field' and welcomed the idea of the landscaping to enhance the memorial stone.
- Haydn Morris from the Scouts made a request for an improved drop-off point from Rendham Road to make it safer for the Scouts.
- That accessible parking was required.
- Stephen Pierce warned the Council that there had been late night parties and antisocial behaviour on the site, and this needed to be considered.
- Teresa McBrearty asked that a 'quiet' buffer zone be created on the west border of the site to protect residents from any noise. (eg not site benches or equipment in this area)
- Geraldine Barker urged that the historic fair and music events be allowed to continue.
- Hannah Bridges asked for more under-8s' equipment on the site.
- Catherine Hamos expressed concern about adding lighting as this could have an impact on the anti-social behaviour.

52/21TC	Apologies and approval of absence. Cllr. Webster explained that she would have to leave early due to shift change at work. Cllr Rose Webster left at 8.15 p.m.
53/21TC	Declarations of interest and considerations of requests for dispensations. Cllr. J Smith and Cllr. N Hiley declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 65/21TC Cllr. J Sandbach, Cllr N Hiley, and Cllr. R Hedley Lewis declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 64/21TC


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54/21TC	<p>Minutes of the previous Town Council meeting. RESOLVED: It was unanimously resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 13 Sept 2021.</p>
55/21TC	<p>County Councillor Report. Cllr Richard Smith congratulated the Town Council on the ideas for the Memorial Field and he expressed his hope that some of the ideas would come to fruition. He reported that the official opening of the train station would be on the 24th September. He also reported that the consultation on Sizewell C would be completed on the 14th October. He noted that the Planning Inspectorate had been very thorough in considering all the evidence, but he still had grave concerns about the noise of the freight trains which would include eight overnight movements. He also raised the point that the proposals now include a desalination plant which would resolve some of the issues about the water required for the construction phase</p>
56/21TC	<p>District Councillor Report. Cllr Fisher echoed The County Councillor's views on the Sizewell consultation process and was particularly concerned about the amount of building materials that will be brought in on the train. He also told the Council that there is a creation of a human wall on the 19th of September by the Stop Sizewell C Campaign at 10:00am to show the amount of land that will be concreted over in the development.</p>
57/21TC	<p>Chair's Report. Cllr Smith informed the Town Council that the musical event in the Market Hall was nearly sold out as tickets were limited to 70. The Chair updated the Council that there would be two Remembrance Day events, on the 11th November at the memorial in Fromus Square, and Sunday 14th November.</p>
58/21TC	<p>Minutes of the previous Committee Meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) RESOLVED: That the Town Council received and noted the draft minutes of the Resources Committee held on 26 July 2021. b) RESOLVED: That the Town Council received and noted the draft minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 19th July 2021. c) RESOLVED: That the Town Council received and noted the draft minutes of the Market Hall Committee held on 19th July 2021. d) RESOLVED: That the Town Council received and noted the draft minutes of the Planning and Development Control Committee (PDCC) held on 16 June 2021.
59/21TC	<p>Financial matters.</p>


21/10/2021

	<p>a) RESOLVED: That the Town Council received and ratified the payments and receipts for the Town Council and Market Hall up to 31 August 2021.</p> <p>b) RESOLVED: That the Town Council received and ratified the bank reconciliations for the Town Council and Market Hall up to 31 August 2021.</p> <p>c) RESOLVED: That the Town Council received and ratified the income and expenditure reports for the Town Council and Market Hall up to 31st August 2021.</p> <p>d) The Council discussed the report on banking and decided that Unity Bank provided better accountability because two Councillors could be nominated to approve payments. The Council noted that Unity Bank was financially stable and provided better customer care.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Council agreed to move their business bank accounts to the Unity Bank at an appropriate time.</p>
60/21TC	<p>Memorial Field Working Group.</p> <p>Cllr Hedley Lewis presented ideas from the public consultation during the skate jam. The Council debated the ideas suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carparking • Improvements to Skate Park • Toilets • Pond in the Anglia Water Land <i>ESSEX & SUFFOLK WATER</i> • Access to Anglia Water Land <i>ESSEX & SUFFOLK WATER</i> • CCTV • Gates • Dog walk through Seaman Avenue • Timed Solar lighting <p>RESOLVED That the Town Council continues to consult with the public on the proposals of the Memorial Field, using the existing survey, article in Saxmundham News and through a special edition of the newsletter.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Amenities Committee cost up some of the ideas while the consultation process is underway and consider commissioning an underground utilities survey.</p>
61/21TC	<p>The Events Working Group</p> <p>a) The Chair of the Working Group gave a verbal update on the exciting arrangements for the Victorian Christmas Event on the 3rd December. She asked Councillors if they could help on the day from 12noon.</p>

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	<p>RESOLVED: That the Christmas Event Budget be presented to the Resources Committee.</p> <p>b) RESOLVED: That the Town Council agreed to commit £2,500 of the Events budget to purchase services from Black Knight Historical for a reenactment event to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the Town's Market Charter on the weekend of the 8-10 July 2022.</p>
62/21TC	<p>Report from the Environment Working Group</p> <p>Cllr. Hiley reported that the Environment and Climate Change Working Group had agreed their Terms of Reference which was circulated as part of the committee pack. He also explained that the group are looking to recruit new members to join the group and have secured a local landowner and a member of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>He asked Council to note that the working group are looking at options for an Environmental Audit and working on a draft of a climate and environment action plan.</p>
63/21TC	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Cllr Smith reported that the Steering Group are preparing the final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan with help from the consultants and feedback from East Suffolk District Council Planners ready for consultation in late Autumn.</p>
64/21TC	<p>The Gannon Institute.</p> <p>a) RESOLVED: That the Council received and noted the condition report on the Gannon Rooms</p> <p>b) RESOLVED: That the Town Council award the Institute a grant of £1,000 for urgent safety checks and minor works so the building can be reopened. It was agreed that the Town Clerk could administer this money from the Town Council accounts as she was still awaiting Barclays set up of the new signatories of the accounts linked to the Gannon Institute.</p> <p>RESOLVED That the Town Council consult with the public on whether the Town Council should seek to become the sole trustee of the Gannon Institute.</p>
65/21TC	<p>Small grants</p> <p>a) RESOLVED That the Town Council award a grant for £500 to Britten Pears Arts for music workshops for adults to combat social isolation</p> <p>b) RESOLVED That the Town Council award a grant for £500 to Greener Sax for a hedgehog awareness project and events.</p>
66/21TC	<p>Staffing Matters</p> <p>a) The Clerk reported that the businesses have supported the appointment of the Town Centre Co-ordinator and that she has submitted the grant application to East Suffolk Council for the post. The Town Council agreed that once the grant was received, the recruitment should be progressed with the Chair and Vice Chair of Council and a member of the business community.</p>


17/10/2021

	<p>b) RESOLVED: that the Town Council adopt the revised Appraisal Scheme.</p> <p>c) Council noted that the Resources Committee have agreed that the Clerk's probation period and confirmed her appointment as the Town Clerk for Saxmundham Town Council.</p>
67/21TC	<p>Market Hall</p> <p>a) RESOLVED: That the Council agree the tender report and recommendations from the Market Hall Management Committee on kitchen improvements and approved that the contract be awarded to DBS Contracts at a maximum cost of £13879.49.</p> <p>b) RESOLVED: That the Council agree to allocate £10,500 from the capital reserve towards the refurbishment of the Market Hall Kitchen.</p>
68/21TC	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Town Council noted the correspondence received since the last meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk asked whether the Town Council would like to consider a resident's request for a speed watch within the Town. Cllr Lock agreed to look into the matter with the resident.</p>
69/21TC	<p>Reports from Councillor Representatives on other organisations.</p> <p>IP17 GNS: Cllr Eastman reported on the IP17 GNS Annual General Meeting. She also explained that they have changes their logo and the organisation is transitioning from an organisation focussing on responding to a pandemic to an organisation that is focussing on community connection and inclusion.</p> <p>Footpath Warden: Cllr. Fisher reported that there had been a complaint about the Mill lane Road Footpath.</p> <p>Patients Participation Group: Cllr Hiley reported on the PPG who have had over £20,000 donations to their COVAX scheme. He reported that flu jabs are being planned. He mentioned that Dr Havard has expressed his keenness to work with the Town Council and IP17 GNS. Cllr Sandbach asked if the Town Council or IP17 GNS could organise a network meeting for community groups within the Town.</p> <p>Tree Warden: Cllr. Hedley Lewis raised issues about the trees with the Church estates.</p> <p>Sizewell A B C: Cllr Hiley reported on Sizewell C and that he raised the issue of road noise and the capacity of junction from the A12 to the Rendham Road. The Clerk was asked to organise a meeting with EDF and the Town Council.</p>

Meeting ended at 10.08 pm
Roz Barnett, (23/9/2021).

Clerk to Saxmundham Town Council



15/10/2021