



Saxmundham Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Saxmundham Town Council 7.00pm Thursday 17th November 2022, Market Hall,

Councillors

Di Eastman (Chair), John Findlay (Vice-Chair), John Fisher, Charlotte Hawkins, Tim Lock, James Sandbach, Jeremy Smith, Nigel Hiley, Benjamin Gulliford, Elizabeth Clark Marianne Kiff

Also present: Katy Bailey (Town Clerk), County Councillor R. Smith MVO, Sharon Smith RFO

Open Forum: There were no members of the public.

77/22TC **Apologies:** There were apologies received from: Cllr Findlay, Cllr Gulliford, Cllr Clark, & Cllr Kiff

78/22TC **Declaration of Interest:** None received

79/22TC **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**
The minutes of the meeting 10th October were presented for approval. 66/22TC amendment to 'Resources & Governance' & Governance removed. **It was unanimously resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting and the Chair signed the document.**

80/22TC **Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings:**

- The draft minutes of the Resources & Governance Committee held 31st October 2022 were noted.
- The draft minutes of the Planning & Development Committee held 28th September 2022 were noted.
- The draft minutes of the Amenities and Service Committee held 1st November 2022 were noted.
- The draft minutes of the Events and Communications Committee held 24th October 2022 were noted.
- The draft minutes of the Market Hall Management Committee held 24th October 2022 were noted.
- The draft minutes of the Gannon Institute Management Committee held 27th October 2022 were noted.

81/22TC **County Councillor's Report:**
County Councillor Richard Smith welcomed Katy Bailey as the new Town Clerk and also welcome Sharon Smith to the meeting.

- He commended Saxmundham Town Council for their organisation of the proclamation of King Charles III, the opening of the Memorial Garden & Remembrance Sunday
- He noted his visit to the Smile café at the Fromus Centre to join them for their anniversary; he was pleased to see that it was thriving.
- He noted that there was the desire for a new surgery in Saxmundham and that he had spoken to Dr Ed Garratt (CEO of NHS Suffolk & North East Essex Integrated Care Board) with regards to this. Although he couldn't say much he was optimistic that they were keen to move forward.
- Following the Autumn Statement, he noted that there would be more details to follow about a

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County Deal for Suffolk. He also noted that there had been cross communication about the new elected Mayor to Suffolk.

- There were concerns about the budget for Suffolk, especially it's timing before Christmas. Balanced budget must be finalised by February and agreed by Full Council.
- It was noted that Suffolk have more energy projects than anywhere else in the country including Sealink and Eurolink but the County Council had some of the best planning staff in the country. It looked as if the link will be brought through between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness with a strong possibility of the sub station being built to the South of Saxmundham.
- Cllr. Hiley noted his concern for the elected Mayor being from a particular political party.
- Cllr. Jeremy Smith asked about the powers that the Mayor would have under the Government. County Cllr. Richard Smith noted that the position of Mayor works in urban areas but not in rural but felt that it would lead to extended funding and extended powers.
- Cllr. Hiley noted that he thought that Therese Coffey had originally opposed a sub station in land. County Cllr. Smith could neither confirm or deny whether that was the case.
- Cllr. Jeremy Smith said he was aware that there was a proposal that CIL money from the GNS will support expanded doctor's facilities and that this is detailed in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- There had been a meeting with UKPN & Sealink. Sealink were criticised for not properly researching the area around Walberswick.

82/22TC **District Councillor's Report:**

District Councillor John Fisher noted that following a consultation there was the possibility of increase of pylons

- No report from Cllr S Gallant
- Stephen Baker is retiring at the end of the year and being replaced by Chris Bally as new CEO.
- East Suffolk Council were organising digital champions at Saxmundham library.

83/22TC **Chairs Report**

The Chair commented on the following:

- Welcome Katy Bailey and Sharon Smith
- Remembrance Services had gone well but had lower attendance than expected
- There had been concern from High Street Shops about the road closure, however some shop owners had expressed that they would like the area to be pedestrianised.
- Kestrel Team were working in Saxmundham following the stabbing earlier in the week. It had been asked whether there was a link between stabbings.

84/22TC **Financial Matters:**

- a) Questions were asked about the projector and the clock. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to note and ratify the payments and receipts for October 2022 for the Town Council, Gannon Rooms and the Market Hall.**

The Bank balances were reported as follows:

Gannon Rooms	£5,235.67
Market Hall	£9,610.41
Town Council (Unity Bank & Cambridge BS)	£280,334.05

- b) Following the recommendation of the Resources committee, it was unanimously RESOLVED to allocate £10,000 of General Reserves to the refurbishment programme for the Gannon Rooms.
- c) To note the decision to authorise the Town Clerk to use a debit card from Unity Trust Bank for Council expenses. NOTED

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- d) To change the bank administrative authority so that Karen Forster is removed, and Katy Bailey is added. NOTED

85/22TC **Policies**

To approve the following policies as recommended by the resources committee:

- a) Standing orders UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED
- b) Management Risk Assessment UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED
- c) Reserves Policy DELAYED
- d) Model Publication Scheme DELAYED

86/22TC **Memorial Field**

Cllr. Lock updated that the field was now pretty much finished and thanked Amy, the Green Team and Charlotte for all their hard work. Bulb planting had been postponed until Saturday. Mulch to be placed in order to suppress weeds.

87/22TC **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr. Smith updated the following:

- There had been an appointment of an independent examiner who had visited Saxmundham and subsequently sent a list of questions.
- They noted that it was a well written plan but highlighted the issue of the boundary.
- There had been a meeting with the consultant Andrea Long, all responses to questions needed to be sent by 18/11/2022
- Boundary changes will need to go to the boundary commission
- District Council will also submit their responses

Councillor Jeremy Smith responses were unanimously approved

88/22TC **Energy Projects**

- Preference to have the substation outside rather than Saxmundham
- It was questioned why the substation wasn't off shore
- Cables will probably be brought in either through Sizewell or Aldeburgh/ Thorpeness
- It was suggested that we collaborate with other parish councils
- Team to ask whether technical expertise was available

It was agreed that this matter would be discussed further at December meeting

89/22TC **Committee Members**

To agree the appointment of Cllr. Gulliford and Cllr. Kiff to the Planning & Development and Events & Communications Committees. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

90/22TC **Bell Hotel Parking**

To consider an email regarding parking for The Bell Hotel with potential to use Town House spaces overnight for a fee.

Discussed at length, raising the following points:

- Who else have The Bell contacted?
- Concerns about the current lack of space

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- Look at the possibility of providing spaces between 6pm – 10am (possibly behind the The Town House)
- Particular concerns about Tuesday when the car park is already crowded

It was agreed that the Clerk would review the parking provision at The Town House

1/22TC **Reports from outside bodies**

- a) To consider how to receive reports from outside bodies

It was agreed that this item would be put back on future Town Council meeting agendas

Meeting ended at 9:00 pm

Katy Bailey
Clerk to Saxmundham Town Council

Signed _____ Date _____