



Saxmundham Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Saxmundham Town Council held on Monday 12th February 2024
at the Market Hall, High Street, Saxmundham at 7:30 pm.

Minutes

132/23TC

Attendees

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

Apologies

None

Also Present

Lisa Hamon (Deputy Town Clerk)
Four members of the public
District Cllr John Fisher

133/23TC

Declaration of Interests

None.

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Open Forum

- a) A resident raised a concern that vehicles were running the red traffic lights at the High St and Chantry Rd crossroads. She has seen 5 cars going through red lights, while pedestrians were trying to cross the road and is very concerned that an accident could occur, particularly with the increase in the population of Saxmundham. The resident also mentioned that the pedestrian crossing between Waitrose and Tesco is barely visible and full of water. Drivers do not stop as the Belisha beacons are not working. Cllr Findlay stated that Suffolk Highways managed pedestrian crossings and that the Police should be contacted about drivers running the red traffic lights. The Town Clerk will notify the Police.

A resident reported that the 30mph sign between Saxmundham and Kelsale had come down and so motorists were not obeying the speed limit. The resident was informed that this was a matter for Suffolk Highways. The resident also asked why the sign advertising the bike shop was still in place, when the bike shop has been shut. The resident was informed that the Town Council caretaker will remove the sign.

A resident asked why the grass verges in Saxmundham were only cut every 6-8 weeks. He raised a concern that in the Summer, the grass needs to be cut more often, as the long grass makes the town look untidy and presents a hazard to drivers who cannot see when exiting from junctions. Cllr Findlay explained that powers of the Town Council with regard to this were limited, as the land belonged to the District Council and they were responsible for mowing the grass. If there was a safety issue caused by the high grass, this was the responsibility of Suffolk Highways. Saxmundham Town Council can raise the concerns of the public to the District Council. Cllr Lock said that it would be unlikely that the District Council

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would be able to increase the frequency at which the grass is mown, as a result of budgetary constraints.

A resident provided an update regarding Ralph Fiennes interview with Laura Kuenssberg regarding the destruction of Green Field sites in East Suffolk.

- b) County Cllr Richard Smith was not able to attend the meeting and no report was received from him.
- c) District Cllr John Fisher reported on a mock council debate which had taken place with the youth council. It was run under Council rules and provided young people with the opportunity to experience debating a motion.

135/23TC Minutes

- a) Cllr Smith proposed some minor amendments to pages two and three of the draft minutes, which were presented by Cllr Eastman. It was then **unanimously resolved** to approve the draft minutes of the meetings held on 15th January 2024, as a true and accurate record.
- b) The Council received the draft minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 6th February 2024.
- c) The Council received the draft minutes of the Amenities and Services Committee meeting held on 17th January 2024.
- d) The Council received the draft minutes of the Planning and Development Committee meetings held on 11th December 2023 and 20th January 2024.

136/23TC Reports

- a) The Chair reported that she had attended the formal appointment of Dave Preece as Rector of Saxmundham and Kelsale-cum-Carlton.
- b) The Council received and noted a report from the Town Clerk, including a Crime Report. Cllr Eastman pointed out that the annual town meeting takes place on 23rd May and will have a similar theme to that of last year. Cllr Kiff said that we could invite the Neighbourhood Watch representative. On the subject of the ESC street trading policy, Cllr Fisher explained that Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils had had different policies with regard to this and that the new policy was an amalgamation of the two.
- c) The Council received and noted an Energy Projects Report from the Town Clerk.

137/23TC Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

- a) The Council received a verbal report from Cllr Smith regarding the South Saxmundham Garden Neighborhood. Cllr Smith reported that the group are in discussion with developer Pigeon, to obtain the best outcome for the town. He has asked the Director of Communications at Pigeon to hold a meeting which includes representatives from East Suffolk Council's Planning Department. The next general meeting with Pigeon will take place on 13th February and Cllr Smith will provide an update at the next Town Council meeting. He also reported that the new Neighbourhood Plan Area is in a consultation period with East Suffolk Council which has not yet begun.
- b) The Council received a report regarding the development of the old Fromus Centre. Cllr Smith reported that the County Council is working with Orwell Housing Association on proposals for the

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site, including transfer of the garden area to Saxmundham Town Council. Cllr Smith is liaising with Suffolk County Council initially and will then hand over contact to the Town Clerk, who will sort out Heads of Terms. The proposal for the site is due to go to East Suffolk District Council for planning consent. Cllr Smith mentioned that a number of open swales bringing water to the basin had been created and one of these is in the area in the north of the garden area, which can be planted up for biodiversity. This project will involve the Town Council Environment Coordinator.

138/23TC Finance Report

- a) The Council noted the payments and receipts for January 2024.
- b) The Council noted the bank balances as at 31st January 2024.
- c) The Council noted the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure report as at 31st January 2024.
- d) The Council noted the forecast to the financial year end.

139/23TC Communications

- a) The Council noted the correspondence received since the last meeting. Regarding the slippery footpath at Brook Farm Road, Cllr Fisher commented that the person had also written to him about this and Cllr Fisher had referred the matter to the East Suffolk Council Customer Services Department.
- b) The Council noted the press release regarding the WWII property damage records. Cllr Barker explained that these records had been discovered when the Saxmundham Town Council archive was uncovered.

140/23TC Policies

- a) The Council accepted the recommendation of the Resources Committee to approve the annual review of the Standing Orders.
- b) The Council accepted the recommendation of the Resources Committee to approve the annual review of the Model Publication Scheme.

141/23TC Next Meeting

The Council agreed the date and time of the next meeting which is scheduled for Monday 11th March 2024 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm.

Lisa Hamon
Deputy Town Clerk

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