



Saxmundham Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Saxmundham Town Council held on
Monday 11th November 2024 at the Market Hall, High Street, Saxmundham at 7:00 pm.

Minutes

87/24TC Attendees

Cllr John Findlay (Chair)
Cllr Elizabeth Clark
Cllr John Fisher
Cllr Tim Lock
Cllr Geraldine Barker
Cllr Nick Jackson
Cllr Benjamin Gulliford
Cllr Marianne Kiff
Cllr David Humphreys
Cllr James Sandbach (part of the meeting)

Apologies

Cllr Jeremy Smith
County Cllr Richard Smith

Also Present

Sharon Smith (Town Clerk/RFO)
4 members of the public

88/24TC Declaration of Interests

Cllr Benjamin Gulliford declared a non-registerable interest in item 95/24TCb.

89/24TC Open Forum

a) A member of the public expressed disappointment about the recently cancelled energy projects exhibition. Cllr Geraldine Barker explained the reason for the cancellation was due to the energy developers declining the invitation to attend. The intention was to give people an event with value, with all the energy developers, action groups, and local Councils present. Cllr Barker said the Council was working hard to prepare for the Sealink Development Consent Order application, which is expected in January, and the focus must now be on helping people to respond to the examination. In response to a further question from the member of the public, Cllr Barker said the Council will more than likely arrange a joint public meeting with SAND and SEAS in January 2025. The member of the public complained that the Councillors did not attend the recent protest march against Sealink. The Chair responded that everyone is on the same side. He explained that Councillors did attend the beginning of the march but then had to leave to attend a previously arranged meeting. The Chair made a statement to the press, but they preferred to use Cllr Tom Daly's version. The Chair also spoke on the radio and would have been happy to make a speech at the march, but he was not invited to do so.

b) District Cllr John Fisher had no report.

90/24TC Minutes

- a) It was **unanimously resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2024.
- b) The Council received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 5th November 2024.
- c) The Council received the minutes of Amenities and Services Committee meeting held on 17th October 2024.

Signed _____ Date _____

d) The Council received the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee meetings held on 17th October 2024 and 31st October 2024.

The Chair acceded to a member of the public's request to vary the order of the agenda.

91/24TC Community Garden

It was **unanimously resolved** accept the Resources Committee's recommendation to proceed with the proposal to lease the Community Garden at the old Fromus Centre site from Suffolk County Council. The Town Clerk was authorised to progress negotiations with the SCC.

92/24TC Reports

- a) The Chair gave a verbal report regarding the success of the strategic planning workshop.
- b) The Council received a previously circulated report from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Chair gave a verbal update.
- c) The Council received a previously circulated report from the Chair of the Energy Projects Working Group.

Cllr James Sandbach arrived at 7:55 pm.

- d) The Council received a previously circulated report from the Town Clerk including Crime Statistics.

93/24TC Committees

- a) The Council noted the revised Committee membership schedule.
- b) It was **unanimously resolved** to appoint Cllr David Humphreys as a member of the Amenities and Services Committee and the Staffing Sub-Committee.
- c) It was **unanimously resolved** to appoint Cllr David Humphreys as a member of the Market Hall Management Committee and the Market Hall Redevelopment Working Group, to be ratified by the Market Hall Trust at its next meeting.

94/24TC Outside Bodies

The Council further considered affiliation to the East Suffolk Planning Alliance. The Town Clerk was instructed to ask for a list of Councils currently affiliated and for a copy of the group's terms of reference.

95/24TC Consultations

- a) It was **unanimously resolved** to respond to the government consultation 'Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings'. Councillors agreed to submit their responses to the questions in writing to the Town Clerk for collation. The Town Clerk was authorised to respond with the majority view.
- b) It was **unanimously resolved** to respond to the Suffolk County Council 'Saxmundham and Leiston Area Transport Plan Consultation'. Cllr David Humphreys agreed to draft a response for circulation and comments. The Town Clerk was authorised to submit the final version.

Signed _____ Date _____

96/24TC Finance

- a) The Council noted the payments, receipts and bank balances to 31st October 2024.
- b) The Council received the budget versus actual income and expenditure report as at 31st October 2024.

97/24TC Correspondence

The Town Council noted the correspondence received since the last meeting.

98/24TC Next Meeting

The Town Council noted the date and time of the next meeting which is scheduled for 9th December 2024 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Sharon Smith
Town Clerk/RFO

Signed _____ Date _____