



Saxmundham Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Saxmundham Town Council held on Monday 16th June 2025
at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham at 7:00 pm.

Minutes

38/25TC Attendees

Cllr John Findlay (Chair)
Cllr Geraldine Barker (Vice Chair)
Cllr James Sandbach
Cllr John Fisher
Cllr Elizabeth Clark
Cllr David Humphreys
Cllr Georgina Burns
Cllr Jeremy Smith

Apologies

Cllr Tim Lock
Cllr Marianne Kiff
Cllr Nick Jackson
Cllr Laura Purina

Also Present

Sharon Smith (Town Clerk/RFO)
No members of the public

39/25TC Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, other registerable interest, or non-registerable interest.

40/25TC Open Forum

None.

41/25TC Sea Link Development Consent Order Examination

- a) The Council received a report from the Town Clerk outlining the next steps in the examination process.
- b) The Council received and considered a summary of the Empowering Nature community consultation. It was noted that there was broad support for the initiative; however, the following improvements were agreed:
 - i. To add an introductory paragraph stating that the Town Council is opposed to the siting of converter stations near the town but recognises that responsible leadership requires preparation for all outcomes.
 - ii. To clarify that Empowering Nature sets out a conceptual vision, which will be subject to detailed design and appropriate assessment to ensure deliverability and to avoid any adverse impacts on local landowners, neighbouring parishes, or designated ecological sites.
 - iii. To remove the front cover image and the map.
 - iv. To amend the phrase 'Saxmundham to the sea' to 'Saxmundham to the coast'.

Signed _____ Date _____

iv. To amend the title to ‘Empowering Nature – Protecting Saxmundham’.

It was **unanimously resolved** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to make these changes, circulate a revised version for approval, and include the final version as an appendix to the Town Council’s Sea Link Relevant Representation. *(Annual Delivery Plan 2.10)*

- c) Cllr Jeremy Smith proposed several minor amendments to the draft Relevant Representation. It was **unanimously resolved** to accept these changes.

Cllr David Humphreys proposed the removal of the section titled ‘Constraints on Sustainable Town Growth’. It was **resolved by a majority vote** to accept this amendment.

It was **unanimously resolved** to approve the Relevant Representation as amended and to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to make the agreed changes, circulate a revised version for approval, and submit the final document to register the Town Council as an Interested Party. *(Annual Delivery Plan 3.13)*

The Council recorded a formal vote of thanks to all those involved in the preparation of the Relevant Representation.

- d) Cllr Geraldine Barker, Cllr John Findlay, Cllr David Humphreys, and Cllr James Sandbach, with Cllr Jeremy Smith designated as a reserve, indicated their willingness to represent the Town Council at the Open Floor Hearing and Issue-Specific Hearings. Their participation will be confirmed following publication of the examination timetable by the Examination Authority. *(Annual Delivery Plan 3.13)*

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

Sharon Smith
Town Clerk/RFO

Signed _____ Date _____