

## SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Southwold, at 8.00pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013.**

PRESENT: Councillor S J Tobin (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
“ Mrs S Allen  
“ Mrs T E Baggott  
“ Miss E A Betts  
“ I R Bradbury  
“ Mrs S M Doy  
“ Mrs K P Flodin  
“ M Ladd  
“ J A Windell  
“ J R Winter

Also attending: High Steward, Town Clerk, one member of the media and three residents.

### BUSINESS

1. **Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tucker and Cllr Temple.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
  - a) *To receive any declarations of Personal Interest regarding the agenda.*  
Cllr Flodin declared a prejudicial interest in item 14(b) on the Agenda.  
Cllr Doy declared a personal interest in item 5(a) Planning.  
Cllr Allen declared a personal interest in item 5(a) Planning.  
Cllr Ladd and Cllr Tobin both declared prejudicial interests in item 11(c).
  - b) *To receive any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.*  
All councillors declared a DPI in relation to the discussions on precept 14/15. .
  - c) *To note the decision of the Town clerk regarding requests for dispensations relating to this agenda.*  
The Town Clerk confirmed that dispensation had been granted to all councillors in relation to their DPI on precept 14/15.
  - d) *Councillors to be reminded of the requirement for them to individually update their Register of Interests as appropriate.* Noted.
3. **Minutes:** (i) There was one amendment to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013 - on page 2 item 4(d) the sentence “Southwold & Reydon Society had declined the application” to be amended to “Southwold & Reydon Society had objected to the application”. **It was RESOLVED by all to approve these Minutes with this one alteration.**
4. **Standing Orders:** It was proposed, seconded and,

**RESOLVED: That Standing Orders be suspended for the consideration of the following item.**

- (a) **To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor M Ladd:**  
Cllr Ladd advised that there was nothing to report from Suffolk County Council since the last meeting.

*Questions for Cllr Ladd:* There were no questions for Cllr Ladd.

- (b) **To receive a report from Waveney District Councillors:**  
Cllr Allen advised that there was nothing to report from Waveney District Council since the last meeting.

*Questions for Cllr Allen:* - Cllr Allen was asked about the tamarisk by the Pier – it was considered that this had been severely cut back and was not likely to recover. Cllr Allen advised that when the contractors return after Christmas some remedial gardening work will be carried out and she will advise them of this matter.

- (c) **To receive a report from the police representative:**  
There was no report available.

- (d) **To receive comments from Southwold electors:**  
A member of the Southwold & Reydon Society expressed concern about the percentage increase in rents in the High Street and the damage that this could potentially cause the High Street. This matter was mentioned in relation to the Town Council in its role as landlord and the Society advised that the Council should have a duty of care to independent traders within the High Street.

*Meeting reopened*

5. **To receive reports from Committees:**  
a) *To receive the verbal recommendations of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013.*  
No Planning and Development Committee was held on this date.
6. **To receive reports from Working Groups:**  
a) Cllr Winter presented his book entitled “Will They Ever Learn?” to the Town Council.  
b) *To receive a verbal report from the Joint Harbour Working Group members.*  
Cllr Windell advised that a joint meeting had taken place with Waveney District Council and some initial financial figures had been presented. This is work in progress and more details will be available at future meetings.
7. **To receive update from Town Mayor of events attended/ matters to report including:**  
*Severe flood warning emergency on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013* – the Town Mayor paid compliments to the Emergency Group for all the work that they and local organisations did in relation to the emergency situation on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013.  
*Xmas Lights Switch on* – the Town Mayor thanked all of those involved in the organisation of the Christmas Lights Switch on. Special thanks were provided to the main sponsor Adnams Plc.

Forthcoming Events:

WDC Christmas Carol Service – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013

8. **Mayoral Civic Charity/Organisations**

Southwold Sailors Reading Room

Southwold and Reydon Corps of Drums

The Mayor advised that charity work was continuing for these two local organisations.

9. **To receive reports from the Town Council representatives on other bodies/organisations, of meetings attended:**

a) *Christmas Lights Event* – Cllr Ladd thanked all the community for their work in assisting with the organisation and running of this event. Adnams Plc had been the main sponsor and had provided the funding. To date the cost of the event was in the region of £8000.

10. **Standing Orders:** It was proposed, seconded and,

**RESOLVED: That Standing Orders be suspended for the consideration of the following item.**

a) **To receive a report from the police representative:** PC Green advised that 12 incidents had taken place since the beginning of November but most of these related to thefts and damage to the beach huts. In addition to the beach huts other incidents included the detection of drugs, a common assault, a burglary of another building, and the theft by an employee. Criminal damage had also been caused to a vehicle.

There were no questions for the police.

*Meeting reopened*

11. **Neighbourhood Planning:** - *To confirm the Area Designation for a Neighbourhood Plan.*

Cllr Windell advised that after much discussion with third parties including Waveney District Council and outside Neighbourhood Planning Consultants, and following consideration of the matters arising from the Town Plan, it was the recommendation of Southwold Town Council that the area designation for a Neighbourhood Plan for Southwold should be the parish of Southwold. In summary it was felt that the planning issues being encountered in Southwold are extremely different to those being highlighted in Reydon and that the planning policies required by each Neighbourhood Plan would be significantly different. Discussion took place as to whether the area would be the geographical boundary of the parish or be retained within the harbour wall. **After full discussion it was RESOLVED that the area designation would be the parish boundary of Southwold. Unanimous.**

12. **Financial Matters**

a) *To receive the Accounts for Payment for December 2013 (circulated to members).*

**It was RESOLVED by all to approve the Accounts for Payment for December 2013.**

b) *To confirm Donation for Southwold and Reydon Corps of Drums.*

**It was RESOLVED by all to approve the donation of £1000 to the Corps of Drums for the payment of their rent for the year 2013/14, it was also RESOLVED to approve a donation of £500 to assist the construction of a website for the Southwold & Reydon Corps of Drums.** Mention was made that the Corps of Drums should also apply to Reydon for funding as the Band covers both parishes.

Cllr Ladd advised that he would also consider a £500 donation towards the website from the County Council Locality Funding.

Cllr Ladd and Cllr Tobin took no part in the following discussion or vote on this matter.

c) *To confirm donation for works undertaken for STC for each shuttle bus driver.*

**It was RESOLVED by all to approve a donation as a Christmas gift for the work undertaken for each shuttle bus driver throughout the year. It was RESOLVED by all that a voucher for £25 would be provided for the four regular drivers, together with a voucher for £20 for the occasional drivers. Approved unanimously.**

Cllr Ladd and Cllr Tobin took no part in the discussion or vote on the above and will not be receiving a gift.

*Cllr Tobin and Cllr Tobin returned to the meeting.*

d) *To confirm expenditure for improved measures for Town Hall.*

**It was RESOLVED unanimously to approve expenditure for improved security measures for the Town Hall.**

e) *Southwold Town Council Precept 2014/15.*

**It was RESOLVED by all that following the budget meeting and consideration of the expenditure for the year 2014/15, a precept of £0 would be set for this period. Unanimous.**

13. **Correspondence:** to note the items as detailed in the general correspondence file together with;

a) *SALC Waveney Area Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> December Bungay Council Chamber – Noted.*

b) *East Suffolk Partnership Forum (ESP) – Noted.*

c) *Sports Relief Mile – To consider whether STC could facilitate.* Discussion took place as to whether STC could facilitate the Sports Relief Mile. Councillors felt that they were keen to support such an event, but in view of the Arts Festival being organised for 2014 there would not be sufficient Town Hall resources available to facilitate the Sports Relief Mile this year. Agreed by all.

d) *NHS England – Application for a relocation of premises after outline consent has taken effect, from York Road to Sole Bay Health Centre.*

**It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve this application.**

14. **Urgent Business:** to act upon any matter of a non-financial urgency, within the meaning of the Standing Orders, which may be brought to the attention of the Town Council with the consent of the Town Mayor previously obtained.
- a) *Arts Festival* – it had been suggested that as part of the Arts Festival various organisations could have a choir in the Festival. Council were asked to consider whether they would be able to join in with this event.
- b) *Blyth* – Cllr Allen advised that she had been delighted with the work that Natural England and the Environment Agency had been able to carry out with regards to the emergency on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December. There had been two breaches opposite the Harbour Inn and the Environment Agency will repair these breaches. Other breaches were in the Nature Reserve and as soon as this has drained the breach will be repaired. Local landowners will be working with the Environment Agency to make the necessary repairs. Landward slips to the banks will be dealt with in the New Year. Cllr Allen advised that all agencies are working very well together. Thanks were extended to Cllr Allen for all of her work on this matter.
- In relation to the closure of the A12 at Blythburgh, Cllr Ladd advised that Suffolk County Council had acknowledged the disruption caused to businesses and traffic flow in relation to this closure and will be meeting again soon to discuss how this disruption can be alleviated in the future.

14. **Exclusion of Public and Press:** Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following;

- a) To receive the confidential minutes of the Southwold Town Council meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

**It was RESOLVED by all to approve the Confidential Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

- b) To consider the confidential report relating to item 2 and 3 of the Landlords Working Group meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

**It was RESOLVED By all to approve the Confidential report relating to items 2 and 3 of the Landlords Working Group meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

- c) To receive a confidential verbal report from the Harbour Working Group.  
**Information received.**

15. **To confirm date of next Town Council Meeting:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

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TOWN MAYOR 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014