

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 29th July 2014.

PRESENT: Councillor Miss E A Betts (Town Mayor)
“ Mrs S Allen
“ Mrs S M Doy
“ Mrs K P Flodin
“ R D Temple
“ S J Tobin
“ Mrs M C Tucker
“ J A Windell
“ J R Winter

Also attending: High Steward, Town Clerk, one member of the police, and two members of the press.

Bill Jenman of Touching the Tide introduced himself and provided details of some of the projects that he was involved with. Mr Jenman advised that approximately 850 people had recently attended a Touching the Tide event that had taken place at the Boating Lake last month. Mr Jenman advised that during August there is an archaeology event taking place in Southwold which members of the public are invited to join in with. These projects are just some of the ones that they cover throughout East Anglia.

Mr Jenman advised that Touching the Tide have a community grant scheme, applications for the next round need to be submitted by the end of September. Mr Jenman took questions from councillors. Discussion took place about the areas open for the archaeology dig and Mr Jenman confirmed that he was talking to Waveney District Council with a view to gaining permission to use one of the greens, to add profile to the event. An approach may also be made to Suffolk Secrets, with a view to encouraging their tenants to take part.

Discussion took place about the Touching the Tide grant. Cllr Windell asked whether the project relating to repairs of the cannons on Gun Hill would be an appropriate project, together with the memorial garden. Mr Jenman advised that both projects would appear to fit the criteria and advised that quotations and a budget would need to be sent in with the application form. Thanks were extended to Mr Jenman.

BUSINESS

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Baggott, Cllr Bradbury and Cllr Ladd.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
 - a) *To receive any declarations of Personal Interest regarding the agenda.*
Cllr Doy, Cllr Flodin and Cllr Allen declared a personal interest in item 5(a) and
(b) Planning.
 - b) *To receive any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.*

There were no declarations.

c) *To note the decision of the Town Clerk regarding requests for dispensations relating to this agenda.*

Not applicable.

d) *Councillors to be reminded of the requirement for them to individually update their Register of Interests as appropriate.* Noted.

3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 24th June 2014 were confirmed and signed.

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 had provided a written report – a hard copy of which is attached to the Minutes.

(b) **To receive a report from Waveney District Councillors:** WDC Cllr Allen advised that the Southwold & Reydon Society had written to the Planning Department at Waveney District Council regarding the High Street. Waveney District Council had responded and advised the Southwold & Reydon Society that they should make contact with the Town Council/Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Allen advised that she had received a copy letter from a resident who had written to the Planning Department at WDC in relation to 81 Victoria Street. The resident expressed their disappointment that a planning permission for this property had been granted last year. Cllr Allen confirmed that she had also been disappointed that the planning application had been approved.

Cllr Allen advised that she had today received an email from Dr Coffey MP asking whether Southwold would be entering the “Great British High Street Competition”. Closing date end of August. After discussion it was suggested that the Chamber of Trade/My Southwold be asked to consider and respond to the email from Dr Coffey.

(c) **To receive a report from the police representative:** PCSO Gary Wallace provided the police report a hard copy of which is attached to the Minutes. The report indicates that crime has reduced in Southwold by approximately three quarters as the same time last year and discussion took place as to whether this was due to the installation of the CCTV camera. The police felt that this could be at least part of the reason.

PCSO Wallace mentioned that the placing of signs along the highway was an offence of anti-social behaviour and is punishable by a fine of £80. He advised that the police regularly remove signs from the roads leading into Southwold and that the real problematic area is the triangular grass verge from the A12.

It was suggested that a note be placed in the Journal and Gazette highlighting this offence.

- (d) **To receive comments from Southwold electors:** No comments from Southwold electors.

The Meeting reopened

5. **To receive reports from Committees:**

a) *To receive the written report of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on Tuesday 24th June 2014 .*

b) *To receive the written report of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on Tuesday 15th July 2014*

Cllr Windell asked for the Minutes to be taken as read. This was proposed and seconded and approved unanimously.

6. **To receive reports from Working Groups:**

a) *To receive the verbal report of the Harbour Working Group.* Cllr Windell advised that this will be the last report of the Working Group as following the joint meeting with WDC on 28th July, it had been resolved to form a Joint Committee made up of WDC and STC councillors which will act as the “Initial Strategic Board” for the Southwold Harbour Lands. Cllr Windell thanked his fellow councillors for their professionalism at the joint meeting of 28th July and commended them on how well informed they had been with regards to the matters for discussion. Thanks were extended by the Town Mayor to the Working Group for all of their hard work on behalf of the Town Council. Cllr Windell confirmed that STC now needs to consider its members for the Initial Strategic Board and this will be discussed further at a future date.

b) *To receive the verbal report of the Neighbourhood plan working group meeting of 8th July 2014.*

Cllr Windell advised that the Meeting of the 8th July had discussed the format for community engagement. Cllr Windell advised that several topics will initially be consulted on, although the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to concentrate on 3 or 4 planning policies in the first instance, although subsequent Neighbourhood Plans could be developed to include extra items. The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will take place on 12th August 2014 and all councillors were invited to attend.

7. **To receive update from Town Mayor/Deputy Mayor of events attended/matters to report including;**

a) *26th June 2014 – High Sheriff’s party*

b) *28th June – Arts Festival Events*

c) *5th July 2014 – Blyth Valley Radio Anniversary*

d) *13th July 2014 – Methodist Church Anniversary service*

e) *13th July 2014 – Family Fun Day at the Pier*

f) *18th July 2014 – Reception at Felixstowe Academy*

g) *20th July 2014 – Great Run Local*

h) *25th July 2015 – St Barnabas*

i) *25th July 2015 - Circus*

Future events:

a) *3rd August 2014 – St Edmundsbury Choral Evensong*

b) *3rd August 2014 – WW1 Service at St Edmunds Church*

c) *4th August 2014 – LIGHTS OUT at the War Memorial – lay flowers on behalf of*

the town. Discussion took place about the laying of flowers, and it was felt that it would be appropriate to lay fresh flowers from local gardens. The Allotment Association to be asked whether they would have any that the Town Mayor could lay.

d) 12th August 2014 – Model Yacht Regatta

e) 13th August 2014 – Catholic Church Fete

f) 23rd August 2014 – Sunset Ceremony

g) 21st September 2014 – URC Harvest Festival

h) 21st September 2014 – RAF Battle of Britain Service

Mayors Support for Local Organisations – Sole Bay Care Fund and Alfred Corry Lifeboat Museum –

Jam and Marmalade Stall – Sat 9th August 2014

Mayors Ball – Sat 11th October 2014.

8. **Correspondence:** to note the items as detailed in the general correspondence file together with;
- a) *The William Alwyn Festival 2014* - noted
- b) *Letter from British Red Cross re Medical Loan Service* – Council were advised that there is the possibility that the Red Cross Mobility Unit may be provided space at the new Health Centre.
- c) *SCC – consultation on Review of Childrens Centre Services in Suffolk* – noted.
- d) *SCC – consultation on Suffolk Advisory Parking Standards* – It was suggested that the Planning & Development Committee and Highways & Footpaths Working Group respond to this consultation.
- e) *Letter from NALC – Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth – 9th March 2015* – Cllr Temple suggested that this request be considered by the Policy, Accounts & Best Value Working Group. Cllr Tobin suggested that the request be voted on at this meeting as all of the information had been supplied with the agenda and papers. On the proposal of Cllr Tobin, seconded by Cllr Flodin, it was **RESOLVED to approve the request to raise the Commonwealth Flag, 6 in favour 2 abstain.**
9. **To receive reports from the Town Council representatives on other bodies/organisations, of meetings attended including:**
- a) *SNT – to receive report.* Cllr Doy provided a verbal report from the last SNT meeting.
- b) *Family Fun Day – 13th July 2014.* Cllr Allen advised that the event had been successful, although it was a shame that it had rained during the afternoon which had obviously affected visitor numbers. The Boating Lake and the Putting Green have suggested that should an event be held next year, perhaps the Town Council would consider amending the date to the school holidays. Cllr Windell suggested that if this was going to be the case, then perhaps it could be during the period when the gallopers are at the Klondyke.
- c) *Opening of outdoor gym equipment at Klondyke – 13th July.* Cllr Windell advised that the new equipment is proving to be very popular and that he has now been asked to consider placing some at Tibbys Green. This to be considered further at a future Working Group meeting. The meeting was advised that a lady has complained about the noise from the carousel but it would appear that this is the resident who complains each year. Measures have been taken by the carousel owners to muffle the noise, and letters were sent from the Town Hall advising local residents of the dates when the carousel would be operative.

d) *Allotment Assoc – to receive report.* Cllr Doy provided an updating report to the meeting.

e) *Arts Festival – to receive report.* Cllr Tobin thanked everybody who had been involved in the Arts Festival for making it such a successful event. Cllr Temple thanked Cllr Tobin for all of his work as Chair of the Arts Festival this year congratulating Cllr Tobin for providing a legacy which will stand for many years.

10. **Code of Conduct 2014** – it was proposed by Cllr Allen, seconded by Cllr Tobin and approved by all that the revised Suffolk Code of Conduct be adopted with immediate effect.

11. **Financial Matters**

a) *To receive the Accounts for Payment for June 2014 (circulated to members).*
The Accounts for Payment were noted and approved.

12. **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.

Cllr Tobin advised that PCSO Wallace and the High Steward, Graham Denny have researched the land ownership with regards to the pill box on the Reydon side of Mights Bridge. This would appear to come under the ownership of the fishing lakes and a working group is being established to look into this matter further. Cllr Windell reminded the meeting that the pill box probably stands on the harbour lands.

13. **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 Report and Recommendations from the Landlords Working Group meeting of 14th July 2014. Recommendations included relate to 1) Existing tenants, 2) Kilcock Toilets, 4) Town Hall works 5) Red Cross, 6) Town Council workshop, 7) Gardner Road car park works, 8) Tibbys Green

Recommendations from the Confidential Report of 14th July 2014 from the Landlords Working Group approved.

14. **Date of next Town Council Meeting:**

Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 8.00pm at the Town Hall.

TOWN MAYOR 30th September 2014