

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Southwold, held at the Town Hall, Southwold, on Tuesday 31st January 2012.

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

Also attending 5 members of the public, 2 members of the press, SCC Cllr J R T Goldsmith and Sgt N Tompsett.

BUSINESS

1. **Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Ladd.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Mrs S M Doy declared a personal interest in item 6(d)(i) Planning. A prejudicial interest in 6(d)(i) was given by Cllr Mrs T E Baggott. Cllr Mrs S Allen as a member of WDC's Development Committee declared a personal interest in items 6) Planning.
3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 3rd January 2012 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 J R T Goldsmith:** – Cllr Goldsmith advised that the meeting with Guy McGregor regarding traffic matters had still to be arranged.

There were neither questions from councillors nor any question from members of the public to Cllr Goldsmith.

- (b) **To receive a report from Waveney District Councillors:** – Cllr Allen advised that there was a consultation taking place next Wednesday between 10am and 1pm at the Town Hall for the two potential designs for Ladies Walk to be viewed. This is a public consultation and posters advertising the event will be placed around the town.

Questions from Councillors: Cllr Temple asked about the work on the harbour wall and when this was due to start as it had been scheduled to start at the end of January but there was no sign of any works taking place yet. Cllr Allen advised that she will find out more information on this matter.

There were no questions from members of the public to Cllr Allen

- (c) **To receive a report from the police representative:** – (a) Sgt Tompsett provided his report to the meeting. A hard copy of the report is held with the minutes of the meeting. Sgt Tompsett advised that any sightings of the gentleman mentioned within the police report are to be notified directly to the police. Sgt Tompsett advised that no individual matters had been raised at the priority setting meeting but with the level of metal thefts at present, the patrols of churches will increase. Sgt Tompsett advised that Cllr Doy had attended the SNT meeting and will be providing a report to council. With regard to the restricted bus sign order for North Parade, Sgt Tompsett asked that consideration be given to access to North Parade for Tillys bus. Cllr Allen requested that council considering making Tillys bus an exception to the order and to notify Suffolk County Council accordingly. There were no further questions from councillors.

There were no questions from members of the public.

- (d) **Public comments to Town Councillors:** There were no comments from members of the public.

Cllr Goldsmith advised that he would like to comment on matters from the Policy & Finance Minutes as follows:

- (a) Localism Bill – Cllr Goldsmith considered that this was a golden opportunity for members of the council to take on assets and responsibilities.
- (b) Annual Town Meeting /Shoreline Management Plan - Cllr Goldsmith has asked that this matter have more coverage in the press and he is awaiting the EDP to contact him so that he can express concern about the present Shoreline Management Plan. Cllr Goldsmith advised that he will remain a Suffolk County Councillor for a further 18 months and this matter will be one of his main areas of concentration.

Cllr Allen advised that a new group has been set up jointly by Suffolk Coastal/WDC and that shoreline management will be discussed within this group.

Cllr Tobin proposed that a letter of support be sent to Suffolk County Council to support Cllr Goldsmith's views regarding the shoreline management of the area. After full discussion it was:

RESOLVED: To send a letter to Suffolk County Council supporting Cllr Goldsmith's views.

Meeting reopened

5. **To receive reports from Committees - to receive the report of the meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 17th January 2012:** Cllr Miss E A

Betts proposed the Minutes were received and accepted and Cllr J R Winter seconded this.

RESOLVED: That the Report be received and its recommendations adopted.

Re Item 7 – Localism Bill. Cllr Winter asked that Southwold Town Council consider asking for the return of the boating lake.

Cllr Winter advised that the Town Council has the right of the foreshore and that part of this includes the beach huts/kiosks/promenade etc. It was suggested that Southwold Town Council should register an interest in taking back these assets also.

Councillors agreed that the Town Council should be allowed the return of assets that earn money, as well as those that are a cash drain. It was noted that if the Town Council were able to be given any of the beach huts, this could well alleviate the need to precept in future years.

Discussion took place regarding the benefits/opportunities for taking back such assets. Concern was raised that the Town Council would need to be clear on its responsibilities if discussions were to be held about the promenade and foreshore, as the Town Council would not wish to be responsible for the defences as this could be extremely costly. Cllr Winter advised that the foreshore and the sea defences had been maintained within the past few years and that these are in good condition. After full discussion it was proposed that a letter be sent to Waveney District Council, advising that the Town Council would like to find out more about the return of assets, with discussions to include the beach huts and the boating lake.

The Town Council were advised that Beccles Town Council had missed out on the opportunity of the return of Beccles Quay and that time may be of an essence. The Town Council were advised that WDC should not take the blame for the present situation regarding the boating lake.

RESOLVED: On a vote of 6 in favour, with 4 abstentions, that Southwold Town Council would write to Waveney District Council expressing an interest in starting discussions to find out more about the possible divestment of Southwold assets, and that initial discussions should include the beach huts and the boating lake.

6. To receive reports from working groups:

- a) *To receive the verbal report of the meeting of the Town Plan working group.*

Cllr Tucker advised the meeting that the group had met last week to discuss the general areas that may need to be considered within the Town Plan process. The next meeting of the Town Plan working group is on 7th February 2012.

- b) *To receive the verbal report of the meeting of the Events working group.*

Cllr Allen provided a draft outline of the activities that are being proposed for the Diamond Jubilee weekend. The meeting of the Events working group had seen a record attendance from town businesses, harbour and sports groups who would like to be involved in these activities. The draft outline will be collated and made available, and at the present time the activities include the following:

Saturday 2nd June High Street to be closed 11am – 11pm with a band in the Market Place from 7 – 11pm. *Sunday 3rd June* a church service at 10.30am. ‘Big lunch’ to be promoted for community involvement. In the afternoon there will be activities at the harbour including a flotilla from Southwold pier. *Monday 4th June* will include the Lions fete as well as sports clubs providing events on The Common. In the evening there will be fireworks, cannons and barbeque at Gun Hill, with an outside broadcast by Blyth Radio. *Tuesday 5th June* will include a town tea at St Edmund’s Hall together with activities at the pier, prom and beach.

- c) *To receive the verbal report of the meeting of the QPS working group.*

Cllr Windell advised that the work relating to Quality Parish Status is proceeding and that this includes the website. An Annual Report will need to be completed in June 2012.

- d) *To receive the verbal report of the Planning working group and their recommendations for the following applications for development permission and to confirm the Town Council response for each:*

Cllr Baggott left the meeting.

- (i) DC/12/0060/FUL and DC/12/0057/LBC – Retrospective Application for amended rear door and glazed roof design, 2 South Green, for Adnams.

The planning working group recommended approval.

RESOLVED: To approve the application.

Cllr Baggott returned to the meeting.

7. **To receive WDC decisions on previous planning applications:** Nil.

- 7a) **To receive planning correspondence - Suffolk Coastal District Council Pre-submission Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document December 2011. To receive Planning working group recommendations on this plan with responses by 7th March 2012.**

Cllr Tobin requested permission for the planning working group to submit a response to the consultation on behalf of Southwold Town Council.

RESOLVED: To agree that the planning working group could respond to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council.

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

- a) *To receive a verbal report from the Allotment Holder representative -To consider any recommendations arising from the report.*

Cllr Doy provided a verbal report from the Allotment Holders’ Meeting. Councillors were advised that the big gate has been hung, but there have been some burglaries around the allotments. A tree will be donated by the Allotment Holders’ for the Diamond Jubilee and a location has been approved. The Allotment Holders’

wish the Town Council to note that there are still potholes along the road at the side of the allotments and these seem to be getting worse.

Cllr Allen advised that there has been an accumulation of rubbish in the ditches which seem to have come from the allotments, and requested that the allotment holders be asked to ensure that the rubbish is cleared from our marshes and taken away. Cllr Doy will report this to the next meeting of the allotment holders.

- b) *To receive a verbal report from the Healthy Living representative -to consider any recommendations arising from the report.*

Cllr Baggott advised that there had been no meeting since September however a local pharmacy has secured the contract for the centre and Norfolk & Waveney PCT are progressing the funding. Cllr Allen advised that she had understood that a budget had been set for 2012/13 and 2013/14 and that the project may therefore be able to be completed by the end of 2014.

- c) *To receive a verbal report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team representative - to consider any recommendations arising from the report.*

Cllr Doy advised that she had attended a meeting of the Southwold & Halesworth Safer Neighbourhood Team and council were advised that this is an opportunity for the Town Council to have matters placed on the agenda should there be any policing matters of concern.

- d) *To receive a verbal report from the ESTA representative - to consider any recommendations arising from the report.*

Cllr Tobin advised that the East Suffolk Transport Association are looking at the mis-match of the timetables for buses and trains. Council were advised that the group are now part of the 'going green' project which is acting as an umbrella organisation for all of the local transport association groups. Anglian Bus is working very closely with the group to try to eradicate some of the present issues. Cllr Tobin advised that the most pressing issue was the lack of a Sunday service from Southwold to Lowestoft and that the group feels that there is real need for this especially in view of a lack of transport to the James Paget Hospital.

- e) *To receive a verbal report from the Harbour Lands Trust representative -to consider any recommendations arising from the report.*

There was no report from the representative.

- f) *To receive a verbal report from the Millennium Foundation representative - to consider any recommendations arising from the report.*

Cllr Doy provided a verbal report from the meeting of the Millennium Foundation Trustees which took place on 30th January. Lighthouse guides are required for the coming season together with a new administrator. These vacancies will be advertised on local noticeboards and in the press. The work on the decking is to start next week. A marmalade stall is to be held on Easter Saturday. With reference to the temporary car park, the splay and ramp will be installed in the week beginning 1st March. Permission for a car park is temporary for 28 days per year. However the cost of a hard surface for this car park is presently out of reach of the

Trustees, and therefore cars will be allowed to park on the existing surface only as long as the surface remains dry and hard. Cars will be charged at £3 a day. Monies received from the car park will be put aside to provide a harder wearing surface.

- g) *To receive a verbal report from other meetings attended by councillors to include to consider any recommendations arising from the reports.*

Beach Hut Users – Cllr Windell advised that WDC have agreed to supply a large skip and the beach hut users will clear the back of the huts of rubbish. With regards to bins along the prom – this is an ongoing issue. The existing bins are not suitable for this area and as discussed at previous meetings, bins around the town and the prom will be reviewed and in some circumstances swapped around. Consideration will then need to be given as to whether any further bins are required.

Cllr Tucker advised that it was not clear what bins are the responsibility of the retail kiosks and whether these kiosks are paying for the removal of their waste. Cllr Windell advised that WDC are presently looking into this matter.

Cllr Tucker also advised that there seemed to be more cars/vehicles on the prom and asked that this be looked into.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that a letter be sent to WDC regarding the problem of cars regularly accessing the promenade.

Voluntary Sector Networking – Cllr Betts advised that she had attended a meeting at the Kirkley Centre for the Voluntary Sector. A talk had been provided by the Red Cross about the care that they can provide for people who are discharged from hospital but who need care in their own home. Another talk had been provided on domestic violence. A survey has been carried out on children aged 15-16 and the survey showed that a large number of children had witnessed domestic violence in the home.

Cllr Tobin advised that exercise Snowstorm will be taking place on Friday at 7pm.

9. **To receive Suffolk County Council notification of the Suffolk County Council (North Parade, Southwold) (Prohibition of Entry for Buses and Coaches) (Experimental) Order 2012.** Cllr Allen suggested that Tilly's bus be requested as an exception to this Order. The Town Council will try to establish whether Tilly's bus is to continue for the 2012 season.

RESOLVED: Letter to be sent to Suffolk County Council asking that Tilly's Bus be an exception to this Order.

10. **To discuss appointment of honorary freeman/freewoman of Southwold.** The NALC briefing confirming the power of the Town Council to create honorary freeman/freewoman had been provided to councillors. The Town Council power to create such an honorary title was noted. Nominations are to be provided to the Town Clerk. It was agreed that nominations could be forwarded for consideration at any time.

RESOLVED: That the title of honorary freeman or freewoman could be provided "for services to Southwold", and that this could honour voluntary work over a number of years.

11. **Correspondence:** Noted.
12. **Urgent Business:** Nil.
13. **Date of next Town Council Meeting:** Tuesday 28th February 2012 at 7.30pm at the Town Hall.
14. **Exclusion of Public and Press:** to resolve to exclude the Public and Press in accordance with Standing Order 69 to consider the following Confidential Matters;

To receive update on strategic partnership arrangements for Olympic Torch Relay.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

TOWN MAYOR 28th February 2012