

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY
ROOM, TOWN HALL, SUDBURY ON TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Mr R Spivey, Deputy Mayor of Sudbury, in the CHAIR.

Mrs J Antill
Mr S Barrett
Mr N Bennett
Mr T Burrows
Mr L Cresswell

Mr S Hall
Mrs J Osborne
Mr J Owen
Mr J Sayers

Mrs J Howells
Mrs J Budd
Mr C Spence
Mrs S Robirosa

Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk
County Councillor
Development Manager - ActivLives

2 members of public

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor - Mrs S Ayres, Mr S Clarke, Mr N Irwin and Mr A Osborne. Mr R Drury was absent but no apologies were received.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with guidance from Babergh District Council's Standards Committee, Mr Barrett, Mr Burrows, Mr Cresswell, and Mrs Osborne declared that they are Babergh District Councillors. Mr Owen declared that he is a Suffolk County Councillor. All of these members asked that it be noted that their views expressed at this meeting would be based on information available at the time and might not be the same as those expressed at meetings involving other councils.

Mr Owen and Mr Sayers declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6.

Mrs Antill declared a non-pecuniary interest during County Councillor Spence's report relating to Citizens Advice.

3 DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

No declarations were received.

4 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensation had been received.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th January 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6 ACTIVLIVES

Mrs S Robirosa, Development Manager for ActivLives, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the work currently undertaken by them.

ActivLives in Sudbury started with group overseeing the refurbishment of Weavers Piece (Siam Gardens). This area had been subject to anti-social behaviour. The group worked with many of the people who had been responsible for causing some of the anti-social behaviour to re-vamp the area, giving them pride in what they achieved. From here the group moved onto Belle Vue Park, where every Thursday they meet to carry out work. ActivLives works with the Bridge Project, local Primary Schools, toddler groups, Sudbury in Bloom and various other organisations.

It was suggested that ActivLives may be able to undertake work to improve the floral display on the Melford Road roundabout and also install planters at the foot of the 'Welcome to Sudbury' signs in the town.

RESOLVED

That Mrs Robirosa be thanked for attending and giving members an insight into the valuable work they do.

That a link to the ActivLives website be added to the Town Council website.

7 REPORTS

a) County Councillor report – Mr Spence reported as follows:

- Detailed examination of Special Educational Needs (SEN) has been undertaken in Suffolk. It is expected that between now and 2020 an additional 300-400 SEN places will be required. Councillors visited 22 different schools around Suffolk, talking to Children and Head Teachers about what is required. The final report was agreed by Suffolk County Council. This includes 3 new special schools and 36 additional specialist units.
- Suffolk County Council Highways have been using a 'Thermal Patching' machine to fill pot holes. This machine has already been widely used and proved to be very effective.
- The consultation is starting now on the proposed Sizewell C development. 5000 additional staff will be employed in the new development.
- Due to the cost of the proposed '3 bridges' scheme in Ipswich, SCC have decided to withdraw this proposal. Investigations into ways of improving traffic flow around this part of Ipswich will continue.
- 10,000 Suffolk residents now have notices on their front doors to stop cold callers. These notices are available free of charge from the Advice Centre.
- An integration of the Fire Service has been discussed by SCC. This time there will no reduction in the number of Fire Stations or appliances, however other items are out for consultation.
- The land at Chilton Woods is now for sale to developers on the open market.
- Suffolk County Council will finalise their budget later this week. The original recommendation to cut the entire budget for Citizens Advice has been withdrawn. It has now been agreed to reduce the budget by 50% for this coming year. The clinical groups in Suffolk and West Suffolk have agreed to fund the remaining 50% for 2019/2020. The budget on all services within Suffolk County Council have been reduced.
- £3 out of every £4 received (75%) from the electorate is used on Adult Services.
- It is expected that for 2019/2020 the Council Tax increase from Suffolk County Council will be 2.99% plus an additional 1% specifically for Adult Services.

Members stressed their 'absolute disgrace' that SCC were even considering cutting funds for Citizens Advice as they provide such an important and valuable service. Councillor Spence stressed he had worked really hard to ensure some funding was still given by SCC.

RESOLVED

That SCC be requested to carry out a full and thorough investigation to determine how much money is actually saved by the public using the Citizens Advice service and therefore relieving pressure on other health or advice services.

That Mr Spence be thanked for his report.

County Councillor report – A copy of Mr Owen's report is shown at minute page 64.

- Following on from the comments regarding Citizens Advice, Councillor Owen advised that he had met with the Manager and identified lots of different issues that they deal with. It is very important that this organisation is retained. All the staff are volunteers, except for the Manager. The Labour group have submitted a motion to use 'left over' locality budget towards the funding of Citizens Advice. It is important to change the mind set of Councillors to ensure that the value of all Citizens Advice Centres is acknowledged.

Mr Owen was requested to report the following:

- The car park in Ballingdon Street needs resurfacing.
- Not all of the lights are working on Ballingdon Bridge.
- Following the completion of the road works in East Street, some the signs remain.

RESOLVED

That Mr Owen be thanked for his report.

b) Policing issues

Members were advised that Babergh and the police are aware of a couple of homeless people begging on the street.

Councillor Sayers asked whether Sudbury has its own Police Cadet Group.

RESOLVED

That officers investigate whether Sudbury still has its own Police Cadet Group.

c) District Councillors report – Mr Cresswell gave the report. A copy of the report is shown at minute page 65.

RESOLVED

That Mr Cresswell be thanked for his report

d) **Public Forum**

At 8.10pm members of the public were invited to ask questions pertaining to Sudbury. No questions were asked.

8 TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Planning & Development
7th January 2019

It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT

Planning & Development
21st January 2019

It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT

Members were advised that the Committee had recommended that the Community Wardens collect the leaves on the Croft every year. The future of Party in the Park and the Delphi Fireworks will be discussed by the new Council and part of the unused Green Cemetery will be used as 'normal' burial plots.

Leisure, Environment & Highways
29th January 2019

It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT

Finance
5th February 2019

It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT

9 TOWN CLERK'S APPRAISAL

Members were requested to appoint two Councillors to undertake the Town Clerk's appraisal.

RESOLVED

That Councillors S Barrett and R Spivey carry out the Town Clerk's appraisal.

10 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the Mayor being unwell, there were no Mayor's announcements this month, however Mrs Osborne advised members that the Sudbury Festival of Performing Arts commences next week. Mrs Osborne also appealed for volunteers to come forward to ensure the future survival of the Sudbury Festival of Performing Arts.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 8.20pm

Chairman.....