

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD IN
THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 31ST JULY 2018 AT 6.30PM**

PRESENT: Mr J Owen – Chair

The Mayor, Mrs S Ayres (Ex-officio)

Mr N Bennett

Mr T Burrows

Mr S Hall

Mrs J Osborne

Mr J Sayers

Mrs J Budd – Assistant Town Clerk

Mrs M Evans – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways,
Transport and Rural Affairs

1. SUBSTITUTES AND APOLOGIES

Any member attending as an approved substitute to report giving his/her name and the name of the member being substituted.

Apologies were received from Mr R Spivey.

Mr Cresswell & Mr Irwin were absence. No Apologies were received.

Mr Bennett was substitute for Mr Spivey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Mrs S Ayres, T Burrows, and Mrs J Osborne declared that they are Babergh District Councillors.

Mrs Osborne declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11.

Councillor J Sayers declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.

3. DECLARATION OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

No declarations of gifts or hospitality were received.

4. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensation had been received.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Leisure, Environment & Highways meeting held on the 26th June 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6. HIGHWAYS

Mrs M Evans, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs attended the meeting to discuss with members the ongoing issues relating to highways. The following points were made:

- Awful winter resulted in the gritting costs doubling the budgeted amount. Gritting took place from 1st November to the 30th April.
- From 2018 all grit that is supplied will have to be placed in grit bins. No piles will be left by the side of the road. This is due to the salt decaying the area underneath the pile.
- Gritter drivers are also the operatives that would fill pot holes, therefore if they had worked all night gritting, they then didn't work during the day.
- There is to be a complete overhaul of Highway Practice, and how things are generally run.
- Currently Essex, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire County Council's charge utility companies a daily rate for road closures. This tends to encourage companies to complete the work at a much quicker rate. Suffolk County Council are working with Network Assurance to bring this scheme into place.
- During the closure of Gainsborough Road, buses are not going towards Long Melford, via Melford Road. Bus stops have not been covered up. Public have been seen waiting. Members had concerns that bus companies did not seem to be 'flexible' to alter their route whilst the road was closed. Mrs Evans will email Andrew Gee at SCC regarding this.
- Street lighting – concern was again raised on street lights being turned off over night. Members were advised that generally the crime rate had not increased since the lights had been turned off. Following the rape in Sudbury, the lights in this area have been turned back on temporarily. Ballingdon Bridge lights – these are never all working at the same time. Contact should be made with lighting expert Richard Webster at SCC.
- A surface dressing programme is currently being drawn up. This should include roads within Sudbury.
- Mrs Evans was given our highway list. She has a 'mentor' who is undertaking some of the work for her.

Members also discussed an email from a resident regarding issues of parking in Beaconsfield Road. The road is quite narrow which means when there is parking on one side, vehicles sometimes mount the kerb, resulting in damage to his boundary wall. Concern was also raised over the general state of the road surface.

RECOMMENDED

That Mrs Evans be thanked for attending and giving such a detailed discussion.

With regards to Beaconsfield Road, the resident be advised that yellow lines will not be placed along Beaconsfield Road. Mrs Evans has been advised on the poor state of the road surface and the blocked drain. She will notify the surface dressing team immediately.

That the committee prioritise the highway list and forward onto Mrs Evans.

7. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

Miss Susan Broom, Design Engineer for Kier, attended the meeting last month to discuss with members the proposed traffic regulation orders for Sudbury. Some amendments have been produced relating to Acton Lane.

- The proposed additional restriction operates daily (rather than Mon-Fri), because parking in this area will cause difficulties on any day.
- Miss Broom has shown the additional restriction over a longer distance, with the intention that it would also replace the white 'H' marking. ('H' markings are advisory markings that should only be used across vehicular accesses which would otherwise not be obvious – they should not be used to prevent parking where an access is not present). Reluctant to leave this 'H' marking in place and rely on it to prevent parking, because the day may come when someone decides it shouldn't be repainted. This situation would not occur with a Traffic Regulation Order.

RECOMMENDED

That the above amendments be approved.

8. INSTALLATION OF A FOOTPATH IN CROFT ROAD

A letter received from Mr David Tooth was discussed. Mr Tooth was requesting the installation of a footpath leading from the top of the Croft to the bottom. At the moment the public walk on the grass verge. This is fine during the summer, but is very muddy during the winter.

RECOMMENDED

That Mr Tooth be advised that unfortunately members do not believe this is a priority at the moment. There is a suitable footpath on the other side of the road leading down to Beaconsfield Road. Beyond this junction traffic is minimal therefore not requiring a footpath.

9. INSTALLATION OF A DEFIBRILLATOR

Sudbury Town Council have received funding from a member of public for the installation of a Defibrillator on the outside of the Town Hall.

Planning permission has been sought and approved.

Members were asked to approve payment of the invoice for the sum of £1872.00 including VAT.

RECOMMENDED

That members approve under the powers of the LGA 1972 s145 the purchase of a defibrillator, funding for which has already been obtained, to the value of £1872.00 incl. vat.

10. INSTALLATION OF A BENCH

Sudbury Town Council have received funding from a member of public for the installation of a new bench at the bottom on Market Hill. This will replace a bench that was previously damaged.

The funding received will cover installation as well.

Members were asked to approve payment of the invoice for the sum of £750 including VAT.

RECOMMENDED

That members approve under the powers of the LGA1972 s142 the cost of acquisition of a cast iron bench, funding for which has already been obtained, for the sum of £750 including VAT.

11. NEW BUS STOP IN WALNUTTREE LANE

Members discussed a letter received from Babergh District Council regarding a CIL Regulation 123 Fund Bid Project for a new bus stop in Walnuttree Lane, Sudbury. This application has been made by Suffolk County Council at a cost of £2500.

Members were confused as to why a new bus stop needed to be put in less than 200 metres away from an existing one, and where exactly was it going to be? Was the installation of a new bus stop part of the planning process for the development of the old Walnuttree Hospital? Currently buses do not run along Walnuttree Lane.

RECOMMENDED

That if this funding is to improve the existing bus stop in Gregory Street then members have no objections.

Would object to any bus stop being installed on the grass verge near the War Memorials.

That when Babergh send out these consultation letters, more detailed information is included.

12. MARKET CARDS AND RECEIPTS

Members were requested to approve payment of an invoice for the purchase of cards and receipts used by the Market Manager.

These are ordered every two years.

RECOMMENDED

That members approve under the powers of the LGA1972 s145 payment of invoice for £1371.95 incl. vat for the purchase of cards and receipts for use by the Market Manager.

That investigation be made into using an electronic device.

13. MATTERS PENDING

Members discussed the Matters Pending list shown at minute page .

RECOMMENDED

Item 2 – Councillor Owen has tried to contact the gentleman who was sorting this, but no response has been received. That this matter be deferred until after the elections in May 2019.

Item 3 – That pedestrian signage be an agenda item at the September meeting.

Item 4 – Work is due to start on Monday 6th August and will take about a week to complete.

Item 5 – Ongoing, however it is believed that one will be installed within the proposed extensions to the Kingfisher Leisure Centre. Changing places toilets cost around £100,000.

That all committees discuss any projects that funding could be applied for from Babergh District Council CiL funding. The next bid session is October.

The meeting concluded at 8.18pm

.....
Chairman