

## SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM, TOWN HALL, SUDBURY ON TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.00PM**

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Present: Mrs S Ayres, Deputy Mayor of Sudbury, in the CHAIR.

Mrs J Antill	Mr S Hall
Mr S Barrett	Mr A Osborne
Mr N Bennett	Mrs J Osborne
Mr S Clarke	Mr J Owen
Mr L Cresswell	Mr J Sayers
Mr R Drury	Mr R Spivey

Mrs J Howells	Town Clerk
Mr C Spence	Suffolk County Councillor
Mr M Bills	Gainsborough's House

4 members of public

#### **1 APOLOGIES**

**Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Mrs S Page and Mr N Irwin. Miss J Connah was absent but no apologies were received.**

#### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**In accordance with guidance from Babergh District Council's Standards Committee, Mrs Ayres, Mr Barrett, Mr Cresswell, Mr Osborne 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.**

#### **3 DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

**No declarations were received.**

#### **4 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

**No requests for dispensation had been received.**

#### **5 MINUTES**

At the January Full Council meeting members were concerned about the delay in receiving Service Level Agreements from BDC for the management of the Advice Centre, Tourist Information Centre and Public Toilets.

Members also discussed the possible merger between Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the following statements be added to the January Full Council minutes:**

**Officers from BDC be requested to attend the March Full Council meeting to discuss Service Level Agreements for the Advice Centre, Tourist Information Centre and Public Toilets if they have not been received for discussion by the Finance committee at the March 2018 meeting.**

**That discussions take place at a future Full Council meeting regarding the possible merger between Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils once a full business case for the proposal has been received.**

**That subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

**6 UPDATE ON GAINSBOROUGH'S HOUSE**

Mr Mark Bills attended the meeting to update members on progress with the ambitious plans to extend Gainsborough's House. The cost of the project will be £8.7m with pledges for £8.1m already received.

Babergh District Council have gifted the land needed for the redevelopment but Mr Bills conceded that there will be a tough couple of years ahead.

Contribution and support from Suffolk County Council would help enormously. Mr Owen and Mrs Antill agreed to meet with Mr Bills to discuss ways in which the County Council can become involved. Visitor numbers are continuing to rise and it is anticipated that these will double once the work is completed.

**RESOLVED**

**That Mr Bills be thanked for attending the meeting and congratulated on the progress achieved so far.**

**7 REPORTS**

**a) County Councillor Reports**

Councillor Owen reported as follows:

- The 8<sup>th</sup> February meeting was a budget ratification with very little else on the agenda. The meeting was addressed by Prof. David Collins who is a Professor of Business Studies at the University of Suffolk
- Public questions raised at the meeting included safe routes to schools; concessionary bus passes; school travel where a petition of over 8000 signatures had been received
- Budget – savings cut of £23.9m – main savings coming from adult & community services (£12m), highways & infrastructure (£1.34m).
- Council tax increase of 2.99% plus 2% ring fenced for adult social care resulting in an overall increase of 4.99% - equivalent of £1242.54 for a band D property
- The adult care precept for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 can now be raised by 3% rather than 2% with a limit of 6% over the three year period to 2020
- There has been a staff reduction in Suffolk schools of over 5000 since 2010
- SCC will be borrowing £21m to be spent on 1000 miles of roads in Suffolk over the next three years. Suffolk has over 4000 miles of roads that it is directly responsible for
- SCC bid to run a 100% pilot for the business rate retention in 2018/2019 was successful

Councillor Spence reported as follows:

- Anxiety at SCC at having to make massive cuts
- Signage for CAB in place at Acton Lane and Waldingfield Road

Members asked about new highways equipment being trialled in Cambridgeshire which is able to mend pot holes quickly and efficiently. Equipment is very expensive and unlikely to be purchased by SCC.

Members asked about progress regarding the Sudbury bus station planning application.

Mr Drury advised that SCC were being obstructive in allowing money to come through for Wool Towns projects.

**RESOLVED**

**That Mr Drury emails details regarding Wool Town funding in order for Mr Owen and Mr Spence to investigate further**

**That Mr Owen investigates the situation regarding plans for the Sudbury bus station**

**That Mr Owen and Mr Spence be thanked for their reports and the contents NOTED.**

b) **District Councillors report** – Mr Barrett reported as follows:

- As reported by Mr Bills, BDC has gifted the former Labour Exchange building to Gainsborough's House for redevelopment
- Following a Leisure Review it has been agreed to continue supporting South Suffolk Leisure – Mrs Tracey Loynds and her team to be congratulated on work done at both Sudbury Kingfisher and Hadleigh Leisure complexes. Investment in the Kingfisher complex is on hold pending a review but £2.4m investment will take place at the Hadleigh complex
- Rate support grant has been reduced and fewer houses being built in Babergh has resulted in a loss of new homes bonus.
- A 5% increase in council tax has been proposed
- The Local Plan has been put back due to staff issues – the recent public consultation raised many questions which need to be addressed
- No further news regarding the Belle Vue House site but proposals will shortly go before Cabinet
- The Deputy Chief Executive, Mrs L Barker, has been made redundant
- The Civil Enforcement proposals are on schedule with the District Council but Government is delaying progress

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Barrett be thanked for his report and the contents NOTED.**

c) **Policing Issues**

- Concern was raised over speeding in Melford Road – members requested to know what had been done with information gained from a recent speed survey carried out by the police
- Drug dealing is becoming more prevalent in Sudbury. Mrs Osborne has arranged a meeting with PCC Mr Passmore, to discuss concerns

d) **Public Forum**

At 7.50pm members of the public were invited to ask questions pertaining to Sudbury. The meeting resumed at 7.55pm.

8 TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Planning & Development  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT**

Planning & Development  
29<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT**

The Chairman of the Leisure, Environment & Highways committee advised that members had welcomed the suggestion from the Royal British Legion Sudbury branch to purchase a 'silent soldier' and display handmade poppies in the town centre as part of the 100 years commemoration of the end of the First World War.

Leisure, Environment & Highways  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT**

Finance  
6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT**

The Chairman of the Policy & Resources committee advised that progress was being made on the Town Council Business Plan. This is a separate document from the Vision for Sudbury document also being developed. The Vision document is still in draft form and it is important that this coincides with work being done by the District Council on their Sudbury Vision for Prosperity document.

Policy & Resources  
6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**With the following amendments it was  
RESOLVED to ADOPT the REPORT**

**Item 8. VISION FOR SUDBURY  
RECOMMENDED**

**That Mr Barrett and Mr Drury meet with Mr McMillan to discuss the *draft* 'Vision for Sudbury' document in relation to the Sudbury Vision for Prosperity document being produced by BMSDC. Reports from Cllrs. Hall, Sayers & Mrs Osborne were noted by the committee.**

9 POLICY & RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS

Following recommendation from the Policy & Resources, members were requested to approve as follows:

- a) Adoption of the Body Worn Camera
- b) Cllrs. Simon Barrett and Robin Drury to meet with Mr Andrew McMillan, BMSDC Economic Development Officer, to discuss the Sudbury Vision for Prosperity document

**RESOLVED**

**That the Body Worn Camera Policy be ADOPTED**

**That Cllrs. Barrett and Drury meet with Mr McMillan to discuss the BDC Sudbury Vision for Prosperity document in conjunction with the draft Vision for Sudbury currently being developed by the Town Council.**

10 RE-ORGANISATION OF TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Following the co-option of several new councillors, members agreed the membership and Chairmen of Town Council committees as follows:

**RESOLVED**

**Finance**

Nigel Bennett – Chair  
Simon Barrett  
Steve Hall  
Sue Ayres  
Jenny Antill  
Luke Cresswell  
Sarah Page  
Jack Owen

**Leisure, Environment & Highways**

Jack Owen – Chair  
John Sayers  
Steve Hall  
Nick Irwin  
Robert Spivey  
Jan Osborne  
Jenny Antill  
Luke Cresswell

**Planning & Development**

Nigel Bennett – Chair  
Robin Drury  
John Sayers  
Steve Hall  
Adrian Osborne  
Sue Ayres  
Simon Clarke  
Luke Cresswell

**Policy & Resources**

Jenny Antill – Chair  
Robin Drury  
Simon Barrett  
Sarah Page  
Jack Owen  
Luke Cresswell  
Robert Spivey  
Adrian Osborne

**Human Resources**

Simon Clarke – Chair  
Nick Irwin  
Robert Spivey  
Jan Osborne  
Simon Barrett

11 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY MEETING

Members had been invited to attend a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Expenditure Policy meeting organised by Babergh District Council.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Town Clerk attends the meeting in Great Waldingfield on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**

**That Cllrs. Bennett and Hall attend the meeting in Holbrook on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**

12 SCC SURVEY REGARDING COMMUNITY SELF HELP

Members discussed the SCC Community Self Help survey. SCC is undertaking a survey to establish what work local town and parish councils currently do in their communities such as sign cleaning, grit spreading, grass cutting and other highways and open spaces tasks.

Sudbury Town Council already carry out many tasks with the help of volunteers including grit spreading, planting, footway clearance etc.

Members acknowledged that by STC Community Wardens undertaking some of these duties the work would often get done much quicker locally than by SCC using contractors. However members questioned if there would be any funding from SCC to cover the cost of the work.

**REOLVED**

**That the Town Clerk completes the SCC Community Self Help survey but asks what funding would come from SCC to support any additional work undertaken by STC Community Wardens.**

13 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the Mayor being absent no report was available.

The Deputy Mayor urged councillors to attend the excellent performances being arranged as part of this year's Sudbury Festival of Performing Arts. The music section commences on 28<sup>th</sup> February at the Delphi Centre, the Speech & Drama section starts at the Quay Theatre on 8<sup>th</sup> March and the final concert will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> March at the Ormiston Academy.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 8.55 pm

Chairman.....