

Saxmundham Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Saxmundham Town council at the Market Hall on Monday 9 July 2018 at 7.15pm

Present: Cllr P. Dunnett, Chairman
Cllr R Plant, Vice Chair
Cllr Mrs A. Eves
Cllr J. Fisher
Cllr M. Golding

Cllr Mrs Jardine
Cllr Miss P. MacKay
Cllr M. Turner
Cllr J. Smith

In Attendance: Maddie Gallop, Town Clerk/RFO
Imogen Green, Assistant Town Clerk

63 members of the public

PUBLIC FORUM: A number of members of the public attended due to the publication of the Local Plan.

- Allegedly land available has been omitted from the Local Plan and residents have checked with landowners and have been informed that land is available
- Residents wished to know why land has not been shared across various sites in Saxmundham
- The residents requested support from the Town Council in opposing this proposed build
- If the proposed build on the Layers goes ahead a resident allegedly said it would be a 47% growth in our town
- Residents thought that proposed building on the Layers is a terrible planning decision as it will join Saxmundham to Benhall
- The Town Council were questioned about whether they understood the residents concerns and also whether the Town Council would support them in opposing this proposed build on The Layers
- There will be a period of eight weeks for Consultation and we have until 14th September to respond
- An enquiry was raised about why infrastructure could not be put in place before any building is begun. Builders do not have a duty to contribute to any infrastructure
- A meeting of the Cabinet will take place tomorrow, 10th July at SCDC 6.30pm where residents are allowed to attend
- A request for names and contact number of member of the Cabinet was asked for
- The public stated they were against 90% of the proposed build
- The document did not cover the need for employment locally
- The Town Council will need to formulate a plan and respond to this proposal – we have until the 14th September 2018 to do this
- Our Neighbourhood Plan is not in situ yet as it takes between three to four years to complete

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- The Town Council have no powers to stop various proposed building unless there is a legal argument against it. It appears that planners have reached a view that landowners did not respond to certain letters and residents feel there is an issue there. A member of public offered to pay legal fees to investigate this.
- Traffic congestion at the traffic lights at South Entrance/Church Hill are already totally congested
- The public were advised to respond directly to SCDC regarding their views
- The majority of the public left the hall.
- Accepting a new build of 800 houses does not mean that the infrastructure will be put in place for many years

REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Cllr R Smith had sent his apologies as he was away on business

REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: Cllr Fisher said he had been doing routine work and advised that he will attend a Cabinet meeting tomorrow, 10th July.

Cllr Dunnett said that the Local Plan is the most important item to be discussed and there are eight weeks for the public to gather information and respond directly to SCDC.

The Boundary Commission are consulting up until the 27th August on the proposed wards for the new East Suffolk Council which is likely to have 55 Councillors from May 2019.

AGENDA

5269. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

- To receive amendments to the register: **None declared**
- To receive declarations of pecuniary interest in respect of items on the agenda: **None declared**
- To receive declarations of non-pecuniary interest in respect of items on the agenda: **None declared**
- To consider full/partial dispensations for pecuniary interests declared: n/a

5270. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSENT TO ABSENCE: Cllr Ewart, work commitments, Cllr J Sandbach work commitments

5271. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF 11 JUNE 2018: After a minor amendment to 5263 Cllr Plant proposed the minutes as correct, seconded Cllr Mrs Eves. Unanimously agreed.

Motion carried.

5272. CHAIRMAN'S/TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

To receive an update on progress on East Anglia Two and East Anglia One North Subjects: Cllr Dunnett advised that Scottish Power renewable had put various proposals forward. Information days will be held at Orford, Friston, Leiston, Southwold, Lowestoft and Walberswick – anyone can go along if they wish to.

5273. TO AGREE AND SIGN CHEQUES FOR THE TABLED EXPENDITURE AS CIRCULATED FOR BOTH THE TOWN COUNCIL AND THE MARKET HALL. Cllr Mrs Jardine proposed approval for all cheques, seconded Cllr Golding. Cllr Smith abstained. **Motion carried on majority.**

5274. TO AGREE THE MAY AND JUNE 2018 STC AND MARKET HALL BANK RECONCILIATIONS: **Deferred**

5275. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE OF THE PROPOSED OFFICE MOVE TO THE OLD POLICE STATION: The Assistant Town Clerk advised that once the office doors have been completed the office move will hopefully occur at the end of July.

5276. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: Cllr Smith gave an update on this:

- On the 27th June a public meeting was held to discuss the future of housing in Saxmundham.
- Our town will grow over the next 2 decades – we need to look at ranges of numbers of new dwellings
- 'No' to the 'Greater Sax' option (over 1000n new homes)
- 500-800 by 2036 – depends on the infrastructure
- New development needs to benefit the Town centre

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- Advice on water and utilities
- Need to hear more young people's voices
- The steering group will meet on the 23rd July to discuss all points
- Planners have not received a response from the landowners who live up the hill which is a crucial factor for a decision for 800 more houses
- Issues for any development at the back of the Free School would be the crossing of the railway bridge as it is crucial if land is to be linked behind
- A legal challenge up the hill – more land could be available for development – we could make a better argument for this

An open morning in the Market Hall on Saturday 14th July – all welcome

5277. TO DISCUSS, IN PRINCIPLE, THE TOWN COUNCIL BEING PART OF THE PROPOSED NEW COMMUNITY HUB AT STREET FARM ROAD (brief note on this agenda item created by R. Plant): The plans to create a community hub in Street Farm Road are accelerating and given Saxmundham Town Council's summer recess it would be prudent to agree in principle whether the Town Council would want any office space within Street Farm Road's new plans. Cllr Plant advised that he thought this would be a good idea and if we got a nil cost or peppercorn rent it would be advantageous as Saxmundham Town Council would be isolated elsewhere. The Old Police station could be disposed of or leased on behalf of the community. Plans for Street Farm Road are at an advanced stage. Cllr Plant proposed that in principle we agree to relocate in what will be a hub and it is essential that the Town Council are part of that hub.

Cllr Mrs Jardine said that a proper Risk Assessment needs to be done and Cllr Smith thought a financial appraisal with options for the Police station regarding rental etc needs considering. In principle if the Town Council are excluded from the plan at Street Farm Road we will always be excluded. Cllr Plant's previous proposal was seconded by Cllr Smith who said that we should say yes with an option of saying no. Unanimously agreed.

Motion carried.

5278. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS OTHER BODIES INCLUDING WORKING PARTIES:

- Cllr Golding had spoken to Paul Oxley of Greater Anglia with regard to the Saxmundham railway station. He offered to go and speak to them with others e.g. Robert Scrimgeour, Councillors and the Arts group. If Greater Anglia engage with us we estimate 2500 to 3000 users of the train and it is indicative of the Local Plan to stress the importance of the railway. The Arts group have been on social media. The roof and first floor of the station have been pulled down. Cllr Golding hoped to have more news before long.
- Cllr Plant said that for the Council to move forward a training date needs to be set with all Councillors present. He advised that himself and Cllrs Mrs Jardine and the Assistant Town Clerk met with M.S.Oakes last week but no-one else from Men's Sheds was able to attend. We have a grant in our earmarked reserves for Men's Sheds and two residents are keen to continue. It would be better to run it as an independent committee.

Leiston have some keen members and would welcome the opportunity to liaise with Saxmundham. Cllr Fisher thought we should give it another go.

5279. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL (2 July 2018): Cllr Smith said that the purpose of having objectives is to form the basis of Business Planning eg budgets. It is intended to be a focal point including a three- year budget process. Cllr Mrs Jardine said that the new financial system allows us to obtain a whole lot more information than the previous one.

Cllr Golding will ensure that the Communications Policy will be discussed at the September TC meeting and he is currently investigating a new website.

Cllr Mrs Jardine asked whether we could agree the content of the report in principle and in detail – a blue print of the way forward. It is a positive document that we should be working from. Cllr Mrs Jardine proposed we adopt these set of principles. Seconded Cllr Golding.

Unanimously agreed. **Motion carried.**

5280. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 10th September 2018

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5281. To pass a resolution to exclude the public under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the following business being transacted:

Members of the Public left the building.

5282 TO RECEIVE A SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS RELATING TO THE CLERKS CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT:

Meeting ended at 9.40pm

Signed.....

Dated.....