



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MILDENHALL HIGH TOWN COUNCIL
FENLAND ROOM, THE PAVILION, RECREATION WAY, MILDENHALL

Thursday 24th February 2022 – 7pm

Present:

Cllr. Bowman	Cllr. Leaman
Cllr. Bristow	Cllr. Martin
Cllr. Brotchie	Cllr. Shipp (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr. Busuttil (Mayor)	Cllr. Sulman

Also in attendance was the Town Manager and County Councillor Lance Stanbury.

The meeting began with a moment of silence in support for the people of the Ukraine.

The Mayor then advised that items 187.4, 190.2 and 190.3 were withdrawn, but would be presented to the March meeting of the Council.

178. APOLOGIES AND ACCEPTANCE FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Bloodworth, Littlechild, Neal, Peachey and Sykes.

179. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Shipp: West Suffolk District Council.

Cllr. Alecock has a dispensation not to attend Council meetings until the end of April 2022, due to ill-health.

Cllr. Roman has a dispensation not to attend Council meetings until the end of March 2022, due to ill-health.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

180. TO RECEIVE APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27th JANUARY 2022 FROM THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting on the 27th January 2022 with some grammatical changes. Proposed by Cllr. Bowman and seconded by Cllr. Bristow. All in favour.

181. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

182a. REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Cllr. Busuttil had nothing to report at this stage.

182b. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr. Shipp had nothing further to report.

183. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. L. Stanbury reported that the replacement of the Mallards Bridge was now complete, but that some snagging work needed to be finalised.

The Suffolk County Council budget has now been through Cabinet and the Full Council with an amendment for more money for Adult Social Care not being included. This has resulted in a 2% increase.

The Sunnica Energy Farm is now in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate with an outcome expected by the 17th March 2022. Some confusion has been experienced on social media and C Cllr. Stanbury clarified that Suffolk County Council was in support of green and sustainable energy projects, but that it was the scale (2100 football pitches) and impact on the historical landscape which it was opposed to. The County Council is officially against the development with a paper going to Cabinet on the 1st March 2022.

An Action Group march was taking place on Sunday 20th March 2022 at 9am which would start from Sainsbury's in Mildenhall, through Barton Mills and ending up in Worlington Cricket Ground where there would be speeches from two local Members of Parliament.

County Cllr. Stanbury then left the meeting at 7.18pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

184. REPORT FROM DESIGNATED DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Shipp reported that the Sunnica Energy Farm would be discussed on the 15th March 2022 after a briefing on the 2nd March 2022.

It was also reported that the budget has been agreed on the 22nd February which would mean a £11.52 per year increase on an average Band D property, this would mean that the District Council's share of the total Council Tax bill would be £212. This would bring parity across West Suffolk Council closer and would be completed by the end of the Council term in 2023.

This represents all services and also £9m for green infrastructure which includes the conversion of refuse lorries to biofuel. It would also include £100,000 for St. John's Playground and a total of £650,000 for Community Chest grants.

District Councillors will also be discussing the West of Mildenhall Development Masterplan on the 2nd March 2022 which will be brought to the attention of the Town Council later in the month.

Questions were asked about the plans for the bus station which was now a priority for the District Council with an appraisal of the toilets still being needed.

Concerns were also raised about recent vandalism at a local church and the bus station.

185. REPORT FROM POLICE

Cllr. Busuttill reported that the meeting with the new Inspector, Connor Lyon, had gone well and the problems with antisocial behaviour and vandalism was being addressed with increased prosecutions, reporting of the crimes and engagement with local schools.

Three ring leaders had been identified with approximately a surrounding group of twenty other people complicit in these acts. Several of the group were now subject to the Criminal Justice System in varying ways. It was hoped that increased and improved communications via social media and in person meetings would help to design the crime out of the local area.

The Town Manager also reported on steps being taken by the Council which included improved lighting and CCTV as well as engagement with the tenants of Council run buildings.

186. REPORT FROM RAF MILDENHALL BASE

Sq. Leader Al Balmer was not in attendance.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

187. FINANCIAL MATTERS 2021/22

187.1 To receive and note the bank reconciliation up to 31st January 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the figures as presented. Proposed by Cllr. Leaman, seconded by Cllr. Sulman, all in favour.

187.2a Approval of Accounts – Payments – 1st to 31st January 2022

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments, proposed by Cllr. Shipp, seconded by Cllr. Leaman, all in favour.

187.2b Approval of Accounts – Receipts – 1st to 31st January 2022

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the receipts, proposed by Cllr. Bowman seconded by Cllr. Brotchie, all in favour.

187.3 To note the current debtors to the Council

It was **NOTED** that there were no current debtors to the Council.

187.4 To review and adopt the Asset Register

This item had been withdrawn and will be represented to the Council in March 2022.

188. GENERAL MATTERS

188.1 Update from Town Manager regarding Action Sheet

The document was presented and **NOTED**.

Questions were asked about the Cemetery Extension Project which had entered the practical completion stage and work was soon to begin on the renovation of the toilet block. Attention would now turn to a management plan for the site.

It was also reported that the new cast iron benches had been received and would be installed near St. Mary's Church as planned. Requests were made to take photos of the installation for a future article and sharing on social media.

188.2 Verbal update on the Sunnica Energy Farm

Cllr. Shipp again reminded those present on the march taking place on Sunday 20th March and of the necessity of signing up as individuals to make representation.

It was reported that the Council's objections would be due to the size of the scheme, loss of farmland, traffic noise and pollution, impact on the local residents, size of the battery farm and the lack of local jobs and general foreseeable benefit to local communities.

188.3 To approve the tree work quote from West Suffolk Council

The Town Manager explained that the quote was for the already approved tree work in the Kingsway Closed Cemetery and associated maintenance plan. This was mainly due to essential health and safety work which was also made worse in the recent storms.

It was then **RESOLVED** to authorise the quote at a cost of £3,350. Proposed by Cllr. Bowman, seconded by Cllr. Bristow, all in favour.

188.4 Verbal update on Lark in the Park 2022

Cllr. Shipp reported that a third meeting had now been held of the working group and plans had been made to completely decorate the town using elements of the Welcome Back Funding.

There will be two events, the first being a fireworks display, involvement with local schools, funfair and beacon lighting on Thursday 2nd June 2022 with a much larger Platinum Jubilee themed event being held on Sunday 5th June 2022.

This event would be a street party on the Jubilee Field with food vendors, activities and features, with people also being encouraged to bring a picnic.

A bespoke beacon had been commissioned and three grant applications had been made by the Town Manager to attempt to cover the cost of the beacon, the event itself and in order to take part in the Queen's Green Canopy in the early autumn.

189. PLANNING COMMITTEE

189.1 To receive the minutes from the meetings of this committee from the 8th February 2022

Cllr. Leaman presented the minutes and it was **AGREED to ADOPT** with no changes, proposed by Cllr. Leaman, seconded by Cllr. Busuttil, all in favour.

190. ESTABLISHMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

190.1 To receive the minutes from the meeting of this committee from the 17th February 2022

Cllr. Sulman presented the minutes and it was **AGREED** to **ADOPT** with no changes, proposed by Cllr. Sulman, seconded by Cllr. Shipp, all in favour.

190.2 To appoint the Pest Control Contractor

This item had been withdrawn and will be represented to the Council in March 2022.

190.3 To review and approve the Grant Awarding Policy and Application Form

This item had been withdrawn and will be represented to the Council in March 2022.

190.4 To review and approve the Financial Risk Management and Internal Controls Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the policy with the following changes:

- Omission of named service providers.
- Exact dates of review to be taken out and replaced with frequency of review.
- Change for completion of draft minutes from 'a few days' to the legal limit of 28 days.

Proposed by Cllr. Sulman, seconded by Cllr. Busuttill, all in favour.

190.5 To review and approve the Reserves Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the policy and reserves with no changes, proposed by Cllr. Leaman, seconded by Cllr. Bristow, all in favour.

190.6 To review and approve the Retention of Documents Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the policy with the following changes:

- Point 2.2 changing from 'small percentage' to 'pertinent amount.'

Proposed by Cllr. Shipp, seconded by Cllr. Brotchie, all in favour.

190.7 To review and approve the Investment Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the policy with no changes, proposed by Cllr. Bowman, seconded by Cllr. Sulman, all in favour.

191. AMENITIES AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

191.1 To receive the minutes from the meetings of this committee from the 7th February 2022

The minutes were discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes with some grammatical changes Proposed by Cllr. Leaman, seconded by Cllr. Brotchie, all in favour.

191.2 To agree in principle to support the Environment Agency development for the riverbank and Jubilee Field

Cllr. Leaman reported on the discussion had by the committee where the drawings and general plans were considered and thought to be a fantastic addition of amenity to the town.

It was confirmed that the project itself would be run by the Environment Agency with the majority of the cost and public consultation being their responsibility.

It was agreed that this would be a great opportunity for the town with the ability to take advantage of plant machinery not normally available to the Town Council. It would lead to greater enjoyment of the facility by local residents and be a tourist attraction as well in the years ahead.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree in principle to support the proposed work by the Environment Agency with a possible financial contribution. The representative from the Environment Agency should also be asked to attend the March Full Town Council meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Busuttil, seconded by Cllr. Leaman, all in favour.

192. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

None.

193. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

This next meeting of the Full Council will be on 31st March 2022 at 7pm, in the Fenland Room of The Pavilion.

The meeting then closed at 7.50pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....