



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MILDENHALL HIGH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MAIN HALL, THE JUBILEE CENTRE, RECREATION WAY, MILDENHALL**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 7pm**

Present:

Cllr. Alecock	Cllr. Martin
Cllr. Bowman	Cllr. Neal
Cllr. Bloodworth	Cllr. Peachey
Cllr. Bristow	Cllr. Shipp (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr. Busuttil (Mayor)	Cllr. Sulman
Cllr. Littlechild	

Also in attendance were County Councillor L Stanbury and one (1) member of the public.

**124. APOLOGIES AND ACCEPTANCE FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Brotchie and Leaman. No apologies were received from Cllr. Sykes.

Cllr. Shipp apologised as he had to leave the meeting at 7.40pm.

Cllr. Roman has a dispensation not to attend Council meetings until the end of 2021, due to ill-health.

**125. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr. Shipp: West Suffolk District Council.  
Cllr. Alecock: West Suffolk District Council.  
Cllr. Neal: West Suffolk District Council.  
Cllr. Littlechild: Item 133.1 pertaining to payments.

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**126. TO RECEIVE APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021 FROM THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 with some grammatical changes. Proposed by Cllr. Bloodworth and seconded by Cllr. Bristow. All in favour.

**127. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**128a. REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

Cllr. Busuttil reported that she recently attended the Community Showcase event at the Jubilee Centre and has also been recording some radio adverts to promote this, an upcoming Craft Fair and Merry Mildenhall.

Also attended were two Remembrance Day services at the memorial in Mildenhall and the Armed Forced Remembrance Day in Bury St. Edmunds at the Abbey Rose Gardens.

**128b. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr. Shipp reported attending the Thanksgiving Service at the Cathedral on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**129. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Cllr. L. Stanbury reported on extra Covid support being made available from the County Council to address areas of need particularly regarding the booster programme.

Extra support and funding is shortly to be forthcoming regarding bus services in the area.

The DCO for the Sunnica Energy Farm Development has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. A Statement of Adequacy from several statutory bodies is now being prepared regarding the consultation process which is a matter of some concern, particularly with the Parish Council Alliance Group which has been set up to oppose the scheme and many members of the public. However, there are many more stages to go for all groups and bodies to comment and interrogate the information provided.

There is also funding for tree planting in Suffolk, particularly regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy Scheme.

The development of 1,300 homes in west Mildenhall is also in a consultation stage and will

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run until the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The Town Council was asked to advertise this as widely as possible and to encourage people to submit their views appropriately.

Cllr. Stanbury has also been working with the Town Manager with the Cemetery Extension project on the Thetford Road particularly regarding the speed limits and the process involved in making this as safe as possible.

The Mallards Bridge is still hoped to be completed by the end of 2021, although problems had been experienced with Covid, UK Power Networks and other projects taking priority in the area.

Cllr. Shipp asked about the consultation regarding the west Mildenhall development and voiced disappointment that the session in the town was on a weekday between 3 and 6pm which would exclude working people. Cllr. Stanbury stated that he would speak to officers involved to see if this can be made more accessible.

### **130. REPORT FROM DESIGNATED DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Cllr. Neal reported on the upcoming planned demolition of both the old College Heath Road Council Offices and the Swimming Pool on Recreation Way, which should take place early in 2022. The Trevor Haggard Gardens would absolutely be retained in it's entirety.

A wild flower garden has been planted at Douglas Park by District Councillors along with new bins around the town.

Cllr. Neal has also been invoiced in addressing problems with the entrance to the Mildenhall Hub with a yellow box junction, as well as disability access issues at the building itself with the parking bays being too far away.

Membership of the health facilities at the Mildenhall Hub is up 38% with swimming participation up 44%, casual swimming actually up 107%. The Library usage is up 42%.

Unfortunately there has been 133 incidents of fly-tipping in the area.

Cllr. Busuttill asked about the usage and partial closure of the Bus Station. It was reported that no definitive plans were finalised, but that the station would certainly not be reopening with a member of staff.

### **131. REPORT FROM POLICE**

Cllr. Busuttill reported that the meeting with Inspector Shipton did not take place, although questions had been forwarded to him from Members.

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**132. REPORT FROM RAF MILDENHALL BASE**

Sq. Leader Al Balmer was not in attendance.

County Councillors L. Stanbury left the meeting at 7.24pm.

**133. FINANCIAL MATTERS 2021/22**

**133.1 To receive and note the bank reconciliation up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.**

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

**133.2a Approval of Accounts – Payments – 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

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

**133.2b Approval of Accounts – Receipts – 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

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

**133.3 To receive the list of current debtors to the Town Council**

The document was received and **NOTED** with one current debtor to the Town Council for £130. A letter before action was in the process of being sent.

**133.4 To discuss and agree a donation to the Crime Prevention Panel**

Cllr. Sulman proposed a donation of £100, seconded by Cllr. Alecock, all in favour.

**133.5 To discuss and agree a donation to the King's Church**

Cllr. Bowman proposed a donation of £150, seconded by Cllr. Littlechild, all in favour.

**133.6 To receive and discuss the proposed budget for 2022/3**

Cllr. Busuttil reported on the budget setting process and how it had already been through the relevant standing committees. The budget was presented for information purposes at this stage so all Members can receive and absorb the information and ask any relevant questions or table amendments. The paper will then be represented at the meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to be voted on for adoption.

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There being no questions at this stage the report and figures were **NOTED**.

**134. GENERAL MATTERS**

**134.1 Update from Town Manager regarding Action Sheet**

The document was presented and **NOTED**.

**134.2 To receive a verbal update regarding the Environment Agency Riverbank Project**

Cllr. Busuttil presented the drawings for the potential works on the riverbank and Jubilee Field, possibly including paths, a pond and picnic tables. It was suggested that an open public meeting be held early in the new year to involve the public to communicate and receive ideas.

Cllr. Sulman asked what committee was currently considering this project which was confirmed as Amenities and Operations Committee.

It was also explained that the drawings were possibilities of what might be achievable once the Environment Agency begin the work to naturalise the River Lark and what the Town Council could contribute in the way of ideas for the improvement of the area and Jubilee Field which would improve amenity.

This would also involve the involvement of all stakeholders in the area. But it was thought important that the Town Council start to formally solidify their thoughts and wishes for the area through the appropriate committee.

**134.3 To receive a verbal update on Welcome Back Funding**

Cllr. Busuttil gave a brief update on the recent Community Showcase on the 4<sup>th</sup> November and the upcoming Craft Fair on the 27<sup>th</sup> November. Lots of work was also going on regarding Merry Mildenhall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December and a collaboration market event on the 19<sup>th</sup> December which would involve Christmas activities and events. This has led to the pausing of the Loyal Free Scheme until the new year.

**134.4 To receive a verbal update on the Cemetery Extension Project**

Cllr. Bowman gave an update on progress made which has been substantial. The grounds work was underway, involving the movement of many tonnes of earth and the tree's have now come down creating the new access splay. Weather had been good, but it was thought that the drainage was good enough in the area to cope with

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any significant rainfall. The next milestone would be the w/c 13<sup>th</sup> December when the macadam surface would be laid for the car park.

Problems had been experienced with the movement of the 30mph speed limit, but this was currently in hand.

**135. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**135.1 To receive the minutes from the meetings of this committee from the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECEIVE** the minutes with no alterations. Proposed by Cllr. Sulman, seconded by Cllr. Peachey all in favour.

**136. AMENITIES AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**136.1 To receive the minutes from the meeting of this committee from the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes, proposed by Cllr. Bristow, seconded by Cllr. Sulman, all in favour.

**137. ESTABLISHMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**137.1 To receive the minutes from the meeting of this group from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The minutes of the meeting were **ACCEPTED**, proposed by Cllr. Sulman, seconded by Cllr. Busuttil, all in favour.

**137.2 To receive the recommendation from this committee regarding producing a Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr. Sulman gave a report on the recommendation to start to pursue the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and the pros and cons were discussed, including what a plan could and could not be and what it could address or preserve.

Concerns were raised over the resources this might take up and the impact on both staff and Members. Concerns were also raised over the engagement process with the town and the formation of the Steering Group which would be hard to initially get off the ground.

It was then **RESOLVED** to begin work to produce a Neighbourhood Plan in January

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2022, after the Cemetery Extension is complete and Welcome Back Funding work is more settled. Timeline to be initially agreed by the Establishment and Policy committee and then run by a steering group, involving councillors, the Town Manager and interested residents.

Proposed by Cllr. Sulman, seconded by Cllr. Neal, seven in favour and one against, two abstentions. The motion was therefore carried.

**138. Merry Mildenhall Working Group**

**138.1 To receive a verbal update from Cllr. Leaman**

Cllr. Leaman was not present, but work was going very well and a brief meeting was taking place on Zoom on the 26<sup>th</sup> November to pick up any last minute concerns.

**139. To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration of the following items in view of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted. If resolved, such items to be dealt after the item that confirms details of the next meeting.**

This was so **RESOLVED**. One member of the public left the public at 8.05pm.

**142. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

Cllr. Busuttill reported that a consultation meeting regarding the development in west Mildenhall would take place in the Jubilee Centre on the 15<sup>th</sup> December between 1 and 2.30pm for Councillors only and then a public session from 3pm to 6pm.

Cllr. Neal reported on the Parish Council Alliance meeting which involved the parishes from the old Forest Heath District Council, this involved discussions on greater purchase and influencing powers.

**143. Date of Next Full Council Meeting**

This next meeting of the Full Council will be on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7pm, in the Main Hall of The Jubilee Centre.

**140. To receive approval of confidential minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the confidential minutes from the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 as presented. Proposed by Cllr. Bowman and seconded by Cllr. Bristow. All in favour.

**141. To receive and discuss a contract comparison**

This item was deferred to the Amenities and Operations Committee in February 2022.

The meeting then closed at 8.21pm.

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