



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

Thursday 9th December 2021 – 7pm

Present:

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

Also in attendance was the Town Manager and Sq. Leader Al Balmer.

144. APOLOGIES AND ACCEPTANCE FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Martin. No apologies were received from Cllr. Sykes.

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

145. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Shipp: West Suffolk District Council.
Cllr. Alecock: West Suffolk District Council.
Cllr. Neal: West Suffolk District Council.

A request from Cllr. Roman for a further three month dispensation due to ill-health was **GRANTED**, all in favour.

146. TO RECEIVE APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25th NOVEMBER 2021 FROM THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting on the 25th November 2021 with some grammatical changes. Proposed by Cllr. Shipp and seconded by Cllr. Bowman. All in favour.

147. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

148a. REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Cllr. Busuttill reported had recently attended the Civic Carol Service on the 6th December 2021 and also a Civic Reception at RAF Lakenheath.

148b. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr. Shipp reported that he had also recently attended Merry Mildenhall which was very successful.

149. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. L. Stanbury was not in attendance

150. REPORT FROM DESIGNATED DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Neal reported on a recent consultation meeting at the Mildenhall Social Club regarding the proposed development in west Mildenhall, which had lots of positive and progressive input and suggestions. He encouraged everyone present to engage with the process.

Cllr. Bowman asked how many residents had attended this event, Cllr. Neal reported this as being between 40 and 50.

Cllr. Busuttill asked if there had been any progress on the Bus Station, which there had not been.

151. 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.

152. REPORT FROM RAF MILDENHALL BASE

Sq. Leader Al Balmer reported on his attendance at the recent Remembrance Sunday Service.

He also reported on plans for a proposed development to be carried out using US funding over the next five to ten years which may include the moving of the main gate to Eriswell Road with the associated movement of the roundabout. This funding and any further plans is expected in the spring of 2022.

Cllr. Busuttill asked if the base were involved in the development in west Mildenhall consultation, as this movement might significantly impact on these plans. Sq. Leader Balmer confirmed that the base had been involved.

Covid jabs were mandatory on the base with a current take up of 99% and very low transmission rates, with service personnel helping with the Track and Trace effort.

153. FINANCIAL MATTERS 2021/22

153.1 To receive and note the bank reconciliation up to 30th November 2021.

It was requested that the Town Manager email to all Members the details for the main account after this was inadvertently left out of the packs.

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

153.2a Approval of Accounts – Payments – 1st to 30th November 2021

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

153.2b Approval of Accounts – Receipts – 1st to 30th November 2021

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

153.3 To receive the list of current debtors to the Town Council

The document was received and **NOTED** with there being no current debtors to the Town Council.

153.4 To consider a grant application from the Mildenhall Allotment Association

It was then **RESOLVED** to appoint the contractor detailed in the grant application to carry

out the works of installing two solar powered pumps to the Lark Road and Riverside Allotment plots and the invoice to be paid by the Town Council, proposed by Cllr. Leaman seconded by Cllr. Alecock, all in favour.

154. FINANCIAL MATERS 2022/3

154.1 To receive and discuss the proposed budget for 2022/3

Cllr. Busuttil presented the document which was originally presented to the Council in November 2021 for information purposes.

Cllr. Busuttil requested that a further £500 of income be added to account for possible income via the new electric car charging points. All were in favour.

It was also confirmed by the Town Manager that the tax base for the coming year had been set at 2,254 an increase from 2,166 from the previous year.

This would increase the tax burden on a band D property from £106.77 to £130.34.

There being no further questions or proposals for changes it was then **RESOLVED** to set the budget for the 2022/3 financial year at **£293,702** and to authorise the Mayor and Town Manager to sign the precept request form and submit to West Suffolk Council. Proposed by Cllr. Leaman, seconded by Cllr. Shipp, all in favour.

155. GENERAL MATTERS

155.1 Update from Town Manager regarding Action Sheet

The document was presented and **NOTED**.

155.2 To review the 2020/3 Strategic Plan and Action Plan

Cllr. Busuttil presented the document which details the strategic objectives and associated approved actions for the current administration.

It was agreed to add the recent Twinning to the document and to remove one high street bank and one supermarket after recent closures.

It was also **AGREED** that this document should be used as a template to build on for the next Strategic Plan to be completed by the next administration from 2023 to 2027, and that this action should be added to the Action Plan for the 2022/3 civic year. Proposed by Cllr. Shipp, seconded by Cllr. Busuttil, all in favour.

155.3 To the quarterly LCRS Risk Management report

The Town Manager presented the report which details all managed risks which the Council are responsible for. There being no uncontrolled risks the Chair signed the document with the agreement of all those present.

155.4 To discuss the west Mildenhall development consultation drop-in sessions

The Chair confirmed that the consultation event which had been planned and advertised for the 16th December in the Jubilee Centre had been cancelled by Suffolk County Council due to Covid-19 concerns.

While this was agreed as being very frustrating the Council had been offered an online consultation meeting early in the new year and the extension date for consultation responses had been extended by a week to the 17th January.

It was confirmed that the Council's contractors had prepared a technical note regarding the transport issues involved which would serve as the Council's response. The Town Manager would liaise with the contractor after the online consultation event to provide any further updates.

Councillors were also encouraged to respond individually and to forward any concerns or additions to the official Council response to the Town Manager as soon as possible.

155.5 To discuss engagement strategies for riverbank work

It was **AGREED** to delegate the work for this to the Amenities and Operations Committee, all in favour.

156. Merry Mildenhall Working Group

156.1 To receive a report from Cllr. Leaman

Cllr. Leaman reported that the event went very well and the public responded very well to the first event held in some time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Cllr. Leaman thanked all Councillors, members of staff and volunteers who helped.

The Chair thanked Cllr. Leaman for all his work in organising the event, which was echoed by all those present.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

157. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr. Peachey reported on a homeless person who had been found sheltering in a hut at the Thetford Road Cemetery. The Town Manager confirmed that both the police and a homeless charity had been informed.

Cllr. Peachey further reported on a problem with a bollard on Church Walk. It was also confirmed that Alex Wilson of West Suffolk Council is looking into it and would report back soon.

The Town Manager reported on the recent change to working practices due to the recent change in government guidance, and also that the NHS would again be running booster vaccine clinics from Council buildings.

Cllr. Leaman asked for an update on a recent land management issue that was raised by a member of the public. The Town Manager reported that he was in contact with officers from Suffolk County Council and the member of the public in an attempt to resolve this.

158. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

This next meeting of the Full Council will be on 27th January 2022 at 7pm, in the Fenland Room of The Pavilion.

The meeting then closed at 8.10pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....