

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the online Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 8.00pm

Present:

Councillor Massey (Town Mayor in the Chair)

Councillor Kelly	Councillor Ferry
Councillor Birch	Councillor Humphrey
Councillor Shearring	Councillor Crosbie
Councillor O'Brien	Councillor Bentley
Councillor Roberts	Councillor Eley
Councillor Miller	Councillor Thompson
Councillor John	Councillor Wyatt
Councillor Sismey	

In attendance: Town Clerk, Town Clerk Assistant and two members of the South Woodham Ferrers Health & Social Care Group.

C174 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Councillor Burman.

C175 Dispensation Considerations

None received.

C176 Declarations of Interest

None received.

C177 Code of Conduct

Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct to fellow Councillors and Officers with members who continuously breach being removed from the meeting.

C178 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Councillor John

Seconded: Councillor Kelly

Vote: **Carried**

C179 Change of order of Agenda items

The Chairman proposed a switching of the order of discussion of items 9 and 10 together with item 14.3 being moved to Public Questions which was unanimously agreed.

C180 Public Questions

Members of the South Woodham Ferrers Health & Social Care Group gave an update of the increased Covid-19 vaccinations with provision in the imminent future within the town with the N.H.S. dealing with the provision and distribution of vaccines to centres. Crouch Vale Medical Centre will see the merging of Brickfields and Kingsway Surgery staff going forward. The representative for the group advised that updates for all issues dealt with are published on their website.

C181 Election of Members of the Council Committees/Sub-Committees and Working Parties for 2020-21

181.1 Masterplan Committee - Proposal to appoint Councillor Birch

Proposed: Councillor Massey

Seconded: Councillor John

Vote: Carried

181.2 Appointments to other Committees/Working Parties

It was proposed that Councillor Humphrey to join the Planning Committee:

Proposed: Councillor Humphrey

Seconded: Councillor Roberts

Vote: Carried

It was proposed that Councillor Shearring, Thompson and Birch join in the formation of the Infrastructure Working Party Group.

Proposed: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Massey

Vote: Carried

C182 Reports from the Committee and Working Party Chairman

182.1 Environment and Open Spaces Committee

It was noted that a meeting was held on 22/12/20 with Councillor Bentley giving an update of the following issues:

- Riverfront signage
- Refurbishment of riverfront benches
- Covid memorial due February 2021
- NALC questionnaire

182.2 Leisure and Community Committee

It was noted that a meeting was held on 24/11/20 with Councillor Crosbie giving an update of the following issues:

- Ping pong table
- Bowling green
- BMX John Cox
- Essex Youth Fund

182.3 Planning Committee

It was noted that a meeting was held on 25/11/20 and 4/1/2021 with Councillor Roberts giving an update.

182.4 Policy and Resources Committee

It was noted that a meeting was held on 1/12/2020 with an update on the following issues being given by Councillor Massey:

- Grant awarded to South Woodham Ferrers Bowls Club
- Progressing with the Defibrillator for Heralds Way
- Review of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders by Working Party
- Deferment of the Cleaning and Maintenance Contracts
- Scouts/Guides/ATC granted a Rent Break

182.5 Masterplan Committee

It was noted that a presentation was held on 11th January with Councillor O'Brien gave an update for quick submission which incorporated many transport issues.

182.6 Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Town Clerk reported that Chelmsford City Council have appointed Jeremy Edge as the examiner of the plan, the timeframe will not be known until Jeremy views the plan but this is anticipated to be end of March 2021.

182.7 Youth Club Working Party

Ongoing lockdown restrictions held back meetings however one is due to take place in January.

C183 Re-surfacing of the Marsh Farm Road Riverfront Car Park

Councillor Massey reported that he had requested a match funding of £7,500 from Chelmsford City Council for the resurfacing of the car park as per the two quotations attached to the agenda with Councillor Shearring questioning whether this would incur charges for usage. The committee was assured by Councillor Massey that charges are not presently envisaged.

Proposal: Item to be considered by the Environment Committee as per their terms of reference

Proposed: Councillor Bentley

Seconded: Councillor Ferry

Vote: Carried

C184 Budget and Precept 2021-2022

The Council was asked to agree the Council's new budget and Precept for 2021-2022.

184.1 It was noted that confirmation was received from Chelmsford City Council of a tax base rate of 6,078.41

184.2

Proposal: Council approves the budget for 2021-2022 with the transfer of £50,000 from Reserves to enable the Town Council not to increase the

Precept amount due to the unprecedented situation. Policy and Resource Committee to agree whether to transfer from General Reserves or the Project Fund. Precept request of £428,187

Proposed: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Sismey

Recorded Vote: Carried

For : Councillor Sismey, O'Brien, Kelly, Humphrey, John, Thompson, Eley, Birch, Miller, Ferry, Crosbie and Massey.

Against: Councillor Roberts, Wyatt, Shearring and Bentley,

Proposal: Precept is increased by 1% by £4,281 with Community Grants reduced to £7,000 and the balance of £38,719 taken from General Reserves.

Proposed: Councillor Roberts

Seconded: Councillor Bentley

Vote: Not Applicable since first proposal was carried

C185 Community Governance Review Chelmsford City Council

The correspondence and associated Terms of Reference from Chelmsford City Council as attached to the agenda was noted. To note that once the Chelmsford City Council Full Council on 9th December approved the Terms of Reference (with indicative timetable) for the commencement of a community governance review.

The City Council considers a community governance review is necessary because :-

- The central part of the city is unparished and they would like to ask whether residents wish to create new parish councils (or merge with an existing parish area) or one of the other alternatives to parishes (e.g. Area Committee, Neighbourhood/Tenant Management organisations)
- There have been and are further proposed housing developments which are likely to mean existing parish boundaries need to change
- No wholesale review has been undertaken for many years
- Governance changes in existing parishes may be needed (e.g. warding, names/style of council, number of councillors etc)

The consultation responses will be used by the Council to formulate review recommendations for consideration by Council in July 2021. Any recommendations will be subject to further consultation before any final decision is made by the Council. Chelmsford City Council aim to complete the review by December 2021.

C186 Annual Town Meeting

A proposal to delay the Annual Town Meeting from 2nd March until the 1st June 2021.

Proposed: Councillor Thompson

Seconded: Councillor Kelly

Vote: Carried

C187 Chelmsford City Council/Essex County Council

Due to the seasonal period no updates provided other than Councillor Roberts reminded members of the Policy Board meeting to be held on 14th January 2021.

C188 Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies by Lead Councillors

C188.1 South Woodham Ferrers Village Hall Trust Management Committee

Councillor Roberts reported that no meetings had taken place.

C188.2 South Woodham Playing Fields Committee

Councillor John reported that no meetings had taken place.

C189 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor presented a certificate to a young member of the town who collected for the food bank during the pandemic.

C190 Next Meeting

Next meeting is to be held on 9th March 2021.

There being no further business to discuss the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 10pm.

Signed
(Chairman of the Meeting)

Date: 9th March 2021