

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 12st January 2022
at 8.00pm
at
Champions Manor Hall

Present:

Councillor O'Brien (Town Mayor in the Chair)
Councillor Massey (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Thompson
Councillor Shearring
Councillor Bentley
Councillor Eley
Councillor Miller

Councillor Humphrey
Councillor Birch
Councillor Wilson
Councillor Crosbie

In attendance: Town Clerk, Open Spaces Officer, 1 member of the South Woodham Ferrers Health & Social Care Group & 1 member of public

C275 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Councillor Roberts, Sismey, Kelly, John, Lobar & Lake

C276 Dispensation Considerations

None received.

C277 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Birch declared and Interest in Item 7 Health and Social Care Club report.

C278 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.

C279 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Wilson

Seconded: Councillor Thompson

Vote: **Carried**

C280 Public Questions

A verbal report was received from the Chairman of the Health and Social Care Group item 7 on the Agenda.

One member of public gave a verbal report on the history of Beeland and his presence on the site with his hives and thanked the Council for their support. Councillor O'Brien updated Council and confirmed new signs have not been placed at the site by the Town Council. The Town Council have the Title Deeds for Beeland and this is now in the hands of Town Council solicitors and the discussion cannot proceed further. Councillor Humphrey asked if the honey was sold from this site and it was confirmed that it was for bee rearing only.

C281 Health and Social Care Report Group Report

The written report from the Health and Social Care Group was received and an update provided from the Chairman regarding the current Covid situation and impact this is having on the NHS and staffing concerns. The Chairman thanked the Chair for attending and for a very comprehensive report.

C282 Reports from the Committee and Working Party Chairman

282.1 Environment and Open Spaces Committee

Environment Committee

It was noted that a meeting was held on 10/11/21

Garden of remembrance

To increase all prices at the Garden of Remembrance by 5% to support the increasing overheads of the garden.

River Front signage

To write to Essex Highways and express the Town Councils disappointment with the change of the previously agreed and paid signage to the Riverfront and to request a full refund.

Safer Essex Roads

To ask Essex Highways that the whole of Ferrers Road speed limit be reduced to 30 mph and to consult with residents and schools regarding speed limits in school zones being reduced to 20mph.

282.2 Leisure and Community Committee

It was noted that a meeting was held on 15/09/21 & 17/11/21

Re tenders for Replacement Bowls Green

Re tender for a synthetic bowls green with a broader remit to enable more companies to tender, full details and specifications of surface to be provided for comparison purposes.

Christmas Fayre

To continue with the Christmas Event 2021

Annual Awards

This event goes for consideration to Policy & Resources Committee and the amount is increased to £2,500.00 for the event.

Result of the bowling green surface tender.

The proposal that we accept option B, Dales Sports Surfaces Ltd.

Christmas Fayre report.

Both the bandstand and main stage have been arranged with stalls, an ice skating rink and an open Santa's Grotto with appropriate

security for the event together with extra waste collection arrangements in place with total costings for the day.

282.3 Planning Committee

It was noted that meetings were held on 29/09/21, 27/10/21 & 24/11/21.

No items to report to Council

282.4 Policy and Resources Committee

It was noted that a meeting was held on 20/10/21 & 08/12/2021

To report maintenance works being carried out at Champions Manor Hall, All planning applications and matters relating to Strategic Growth Site 10 Development North of Burnham Road to be considered by the Development and Infrastructure Committee.

Replacement of Bowls Green

Civic Awards

282.5 Development and Infrastructure Committee

It was noted that a meeting was held on 22/9/21, 15/11/2021 & 06/12/2021

Submitted comments on the Army and Navy consultation
Comments submitted on 21/01/2021/OUT

C283 Annual Audit

The External auditor's certificate and opinion for the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2022 was received and **NOTED** by the Committee.

C284 Budgets and Precept 2022-2023

284.1 The Council was asked to consider and agree the Council's budget for 2022/23 as recommended at Policy & Resources on 8th December 2021 PR245. A budget of £449,435 was agreed

284.2 A gross precept of £436,913.92 was proposed for submission for 2022/23 to Chelmsford City Council.

Proposal To increase the precept by 2% any shortfall should come from General Reserves during the year and vired from Earmarked Reserves at the end of the financial year.

Proposed: Councillor K Bentley

Seconded: Councillor D Eley

Vote: Carried

C285 Defibrillator Project

It was noted that 3 of the 4 defibrillators have now been installed and the ESO is carrying out weekly checks and reporting. This project was funded

by Councillor Massey and his contribution from Essex County Council for 2021. Committee thanked Councillor Massey.

C286 Chelmsford City Council / Essex County Council update

Councillor Bentley, Chelmsford City Council: Community Governance review will go to consultation in February 2022. Special Council Meeting on 8th December 21 agreed a Local Development Scheme for 2022 and Marsh Farm DinoPark was discussed and passed on 10/1/22.

Councillor Massey, Chelmsford City Council: Work is about to commence to pedestrianize the public road in front of Shire Hall.

- **Councillor Massey, Essex County Council:**
Essex County Council have published their draft budget and are asking for a total increase of 4.49% or £60.21 for Band D.
This is made up of a 2.99 per cent council tax increase (including 1% specifically for adult social care), plus a further 1.5 per cent for Adult Social Care that was deferred from last year during the pandemic.
The Budget proposes:
investment of £1.3 billion over the next four years on major infrastructure projects, such as new schools and large road improvements
£200 million spending commitment toward our net zero targets and achieving the Everyone's Essex commitment to a high-quality environment
£10 million in funding for Levelling Up - the Levelling Up programme was launched last week and videos of the launch are available online.
- **Arts & Culture Fund**
ECC have, this week, launched the County's Arts & Culture Fund which has unlocked £1,000,000 funding to support the creative and cultural sectors in Essex.
The Fund is open to individual artists and organisations, community groups, charities, trusts, and public and private sector organisations wanting to deliver arts and cultural projects in Essex
Funding grants from £2,500 to £30,000 will be available to provide support to the arts and cultural sector across Essex, applications will be accepted until the end of February.
- **Fenn Creek**
Councillor Massey updated from ECC regarding Fenn Creek confirming that they are continuing to discuss this with the Environment Agency - I have forwarded this to Town Council officers.
The initial fault, the sluice on the Eyott's peninsular was estimated at £20k to fix, but this was not completed before the weather deteriorated.
Repairing the breach at Eyott's yacht club has been 'guesstimated' at between £30k and £100k, but discussions continue between the Country Parks team, the Public Rights of Way team and the Environment Agency.
- **Potholes**
The County Council, just before Christmas, completed emergency repairs to the potholes on Hullbridge Road between the level crossing and the Sainsbury's roundabout.

More permanent repairs were scheduled, and permission gained from Network Rail but the diversion roads were - and are still - pre-booked for OpenReach fibre optic upgrades. Councillor Massey will continue to press for the proper repairs to Hullbridge Road to be completed in due course.

- **Oaklands Meadows**

For information, Councillor Massey to meet - with our MP John Whittingdale - the County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, to discuss the Highways implications of the proposed 'Oaklands Meadows' development and acquaint him with local highways issues. Councillor Massey to report back to members.

Standing Order 3.x was suspended to allow the meeting to exceed more than 2 hours.

C287 Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies by Lead Councillors

287.1 South Woodham Ferrers Village Hall Trust Management Committee – Councillor Humphreys reported a meeting is scheduled to discuss the Queens Jubilee and car park refurbishments.

287.2 South Woodham Ferrers Playing Fields Management Committee – No meetings have been held

C288 Town Mayor's Announcements

Councillor O'Brien reported that an event had been attended at the William De Ferrers School. Pupils won numerous awards. The Seniors Christmas Party was a great success and enjoyed by all that attended.

C289 Media Release

- Precept
- Councillor Vacancies
- Comments submitted from The Town Council for Oaklands Meadows

C290 Next Meeting

Next meeting is to be held 9th March 2022.

There being no further business to discuss the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 10.04pm.

Signed
(Chairman of the Meeting)

Date: 9th March 2022