

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2023
at 8pm
at
Champions Manor Hall

Present:

Councillor Eley (Town Mayor)
Councillor Shearring (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillor Thompson
Councillor Massey
Councillor Birch
Councillor Wilson
Councillor Sherlock

Councillor Ferry
Councillor Perham Lake
Councillor Kelly
Councillor Crosbie
Councillor John

In attendance: Town Clerk and one member of the public

C444 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Councillor Humphrey, A.A Humphrey & O'Brien

C445 Dispensation Considerations

None received.

C446 Declarations of Interest

None received.

C447 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 6th February 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Crosbie

Seconded: Councillor Kelly

Vote: **Carried**

C448 Public Questions

One member of public present to comment on Agenda Item 9

Proposal: To move agenda item 9 forward on the Agenda

Proposed: Councillor Thompson

Seconded: Councillor Ferry

Vote: **Carried**

C449 Planning Application at Land Northwest of Hamberts Farm, Burnham Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford-21/01961/OUT

Council discussed the communication sent by MP John Whittingdale and the verbal report from a member of Woodham Infrastructure Group.

Proposal: Write to the MP immediately attaching our previous report and highlighting our concerns that the economic prosperity and faction of the Dengie is at risk and we further support in principle any similar objections proposed by United Dengie Councils.

Proposed: Councillor Massey

Seconded: Councillor John

Vote: **All In Favour Carried**

8.25pm The member of public left the meeting

C450 Distinguished Community Service award 2022-2023

Committee considered 5 nominatuions circulated with the agenda. It was noted 2/3rds of Town Council members present need to consider and agree nominations. It was **AGREED** to nominate two awards this year, one posthumously.

Council **NOTED** 2021-22 awards will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on 17th March 2023.

Proposal: To agree the award posthumously to Mr Tony Graham

Proposed: Councillor Eley

Seconded: Councillor T Perham Lake

Vote: **Carried**

Proposal: To agree the award to Raymond Towey

Proposed: Councillor Wilson

Seconded: Councillor Eley

Vote: **Carried**

C451 Reports from Committees attached to the agenda were NOTED

451.1 Events Community & Leisure Committee

Councillor Crosbie commented that both Coronation events are currently being advertised and all Councillor help would be appreciated on the day.

451.2 Planning & Environment Committee

Councillor Shearring nothing to add to attached information on agenda.

451.3 Finance & Projects Committee

Councillor Thompson commented that an update on Councillor Email addresses will be available at the next Finance & Projects meeting on 18th April 2023.

C452 Policies

Council reviewed the policies recommended by the Finance & Projects Committee on 7/3/2023. Minute reference FP94.

452.1 Standing Orders

Proposed: Councillor John

Seconded: Councillor Shearring

Vote: All In Favour

452.2 Financial Regulations

Proposed: Councillor Thompson

Seconded: Councillor Eley

Vote: All In Favour

452.3 Grants Policy

Proposal: To remove the word match from Qualifying Criteria (3) on the policy to read must look to attract funding.

Proposed: Councillor Birch

Seconded: Councillor Shearring

Vote: All In Favour

C453 Outside maintenance Contract

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report on the current outside maintenance contract and the recommendation from Planning & Environment Committee to continue with a two year rolling contract on the grounds of quality and price.

Proposed: Councillor Kelly

Seconded: Councillor John

Vote: All In Favour

C454 Items Noted by Council

- The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Friday 17th March 2023.
- Charity bake sale for the Turkish earthquake victims to be held on the Bandstand on 10th March 2023 from 9am-3pm.
- Eyott Flood Barrier – update from Eyott Sailing Club that all is working well. Picture attached. All councillors welcome to visit and thank you for all support.

C455 Meeting Schedule 2023-24

Proposal: To approve the Meeting Schedule as recommended by the Finance & Projects Committee on 17/1/2023 Minute Ref FP81

Proposed: Councillor Thompson

Seconded: Councillor Humphrey

Vote: Carried

C456 Chelmsford City Council / Essex County Council

To consider report(s) to Council from City Councillor/County Councillor concerning matters of interest to South Woodham Ferrers.

- Councillor John updated the Council on the following:
Chelmsford City Council
Chelmsford City Council meeting Regulatory and Advice Committee meeting. Incidents are taken very seriously and taxi drivers licenses are reviewed and the magistrates courts makes a final decision.
- Councillor Massey updated the Council on the following:
Essex County Council
Essex County Council has, this week, introduced a trial booking system at all its household waste recycling centres, this follows a trial introduced at Rayleigh recycling centre in May 2022.

Rayleigh Recycling Centre was chosen as the initial test site as the size and location of the site was causing significant queues and congestion within the area. Since the booking system was introduced, we have seen a significant reduction of queues and have received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from residents who participated in a survey in Autumn 2022.

Following feedback received at Rayleigh we have introduced the capability to book same day slots, and if the trial is successful then its likely that an App will be produced.

Booking systems have been operating successfully in many other counties including Hampshire, Kent, Suffolk and West Sussex.

Across the 21 recycling centres operated by Essex County Council, we will offer nearly 40,000 visits per week in summer, and nearly 35,000 visits each week in winter.

There is no restriction on the number of bookings you can make as long as the waste you are disposing of is household waste.

Since launching both the Van and Rayleigh booking systems, we have received no reports of increased fly-tipping incidents in the county. Last year, DEFRA carried out research on the matter, and found no evidence of a correlation between introducing bookings at recycling centres and an increase in fly-tipping, in some areas it actually decreased.

The trial will be fully evaluated in Autumn 2023. If the evaluation suggests that the introduction of a permanent booking system is under positive consideration, the council will launch a consultation on the preferred option and any alternative options. Any permanent proposals following the outcome of the evaluation and consultation will be subject to a separate decision.

The project will be discussed at the County Council's Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee later this week and we expect to further engage with Scrutiny later this year.

C457 Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies by Lead Councillors

An update from Councillor Kelly on the Health and Social Care Group was **NOTED**.

C458 Town Mayors Announcements

Council **NOTED** a recent list of events attended by the Town Mayor.

C459 Media Release

No items for media release.

C460 To resolve to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, as the following item contains confidential information.

Proposed: Councillor John

Seconded: Councillor Birch

Vote: Carried

C461 Staffing

Private & Confidential

Committee discussed update from the Town Mayor Councillor Eley.

C462 Next Meeting

Next meeting is to be held 28th March 2023.

There being no further business to discuss the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

Signed
(Chairman of the Meeting)

Date: 28th March 2023