

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council meeting held on
Tuesday 19th March 2024
at 7.30pm
at Champions Manor Hall

Present:

Councillor D Eley (Mayor)
Councillor Perham Lake (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor Price	Councillor Shearring
Councillor Birch	Councillor Kelly
Councillor O'Brien	Councillor Piesse
Councillor Bentley	Councillor Ferry
Councillor Thompson	Councillor Sherlock
Councillor Wilson	Councillor Naslund
Councillor Roberts	Councillor Crosbie

In attendance: Town Clerk, five members of public

C588 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Councillor Massey, John, & Humphrey

Absent: Councillor Sismey

C589 Dispensation Considerations

None received.

C590 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Roberts declared a non-registerable interest in Agenda Item 12 Village Hall agreement.

C591 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Piesse

Vote: **All in favour**

C592 Co-Option Vacancy

The new councillor applicant introduced themselves to Council and answered questions from councillors.

Proposal: It was **AGREED** to accept Pauline Price to stand as a councillor by Co-option for the Woodville Ward.

Proposed: Councillor Eley

Seconded: Councillor Roberts

Vote: All in Favour

C593 Public Questions

No questions raised in the public agenda item. The Chairman agreed for public representation at the start of each agenda item in accordance with standing order 3f Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.

C594 1st Woodham Scout Group

Two members of the 1st Woodham scout group explained the current lease for the scout hut and grounds is for 25 years with 10 years left to run. The 1st WF scout group wish to construct a new building on the site and need to apply for grants to fund the project. A recent grant for a new kitchen refused due to the short time left to run on our current lease.

The Council as landlords requested the Town Clerk take professional advice regarding extending the lease period and liaise with the 1st Woodham Scout Group before discussing at a future meeting if required.

7.53pm two members of public left the meeting

C595 Bowls Club

Two members of the Bowls Club gave a presentation to Council regarding a request for a Summer House at Champions Manor Hall.

Proposal: To set up a sub committee which will report to Council to look at all options in conjunction with the Bowls Club.

Proposed: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Thompson

Vote: carried

2 votes against

8.50pm Councillor Roberts and Birch left the meeting

8.52pm two members of the public left the meeting

C596 Tree Works

Following the recommendation for tree work by Planning & Environment Committee on 27th February 2024 and a financial report provided by the Town Clerk.

Proposal: To agree to proceed with the required tree works in accordance with our insurance and duty of care as a Town Council. A balance of £3010.30 to be taken from the EMR Projects Fund. In accordance with financial regulation 4.2 Street Furniture & Signage the budget allocation of £4000.00 for 2023/24 to be moved to an EMR Tree Survey Work.

Proposed: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Ferry

Vote: carried

1 Abstain

C597 Reports from Committees attached to the agenda

were **NOTED**.

597.1 Planning & Environment Committee

It was **NOTED** that a meeting was held on 30/1/2024 & 27/2/2024.
The Chairman had no further update.

597.2 Events, Community & Leisure Committee

It was **NOTED** that a meeting was held on 13/2/2024.
The Chairman expressed thanks to the Town Clerk and staff for their hard work on all the forthcoming events.

597.3 Finance & Projects Committee

It was **NOTED** that a meeting was held on 5/3/2024.
The Vice Chairman had no further update.

C598 Distinguished Honours Award

Committee considered 3 nominations 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 all three awards this year. Council **NOTED** 2023-24 awards will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on 23rd April 2024.

All nominations chosen will be contacted to confirm they are happy to accept the award.

Proposal: To agree the award to Douglas Green

Proposed: Councillor Eley

Seconded: Councillor Kelly

Vote: **All in Favour**

Proposal: To agree the award to David Shea

Proposed: Councillor Eley

Seconded: Councillor Perham Lake

Vote: **carried**

2 Abstain

Proposal: To agree the award to Stuart & Sandra Cutlan

Proposed: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Sherlock

Vote: **carried**

C599 Village Hall Agreement

Council considered the draft agreement completed by the Village Hall between themselves and the Town Council.

Proposal: To set up a working party with the Village Hall to review the documentation.

Proposed: Councillor Eley

Seconded: Councillor Thompson

Vote: **All in favour**

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

Proposed: Councillor Eley

Seconded: Councillor O'Brien

Vote: All in Favour

C600 Lease Blue Cage

The Town Clerk updated committee with the current position and action going forward. Awaiting professional advice.

C601 Clerks Report

The Clerks report attached to the agenda was **NOTED**.

C602 Mid & South Essex Care Services/St Peters Hospital Consultation

Council reviewed the information from the working party and thanked the councillors for all their time and hard work. It was **AGREED** Councillor Sherlock and Price to meet to discuss a final complete response for agreement at an extraordinary Council meeting on the 26th March 2024.

C603 Review of Financial Regulations & Policies

Proposal: To **AGREE** the Financial Regulations as recommended by the Finance & Projects Working Party on 26th March 2024.

Proposed: Councillor Eley

Seconded: Councillor Perham Lake

Vote: All in Favour

Proposal: To **AGREE** the Environment & Waste Recycling Policy as recommended by the Planning & Environment Committee on 27th February 2024.

Proposed: Councillor Eley

Seconded: Councillor Shearring

Vote: All in Favour

Proposal: To **AGREE** the new CCTV Policy as presented.

Proposed: Councillor Eley

Seconded: Councillor Shearring

Vote: All in Favour

C604 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 Eley updated the Council in the absence of Councillor Massey on the following:

Essex County Council

- At the County Council's Cabinet Meeting on February 27th, it was agreed that the booking system for Household Waste Recycling Centres would be made permanent. While the decision may be unpopular locally, the county-wide public consultation received over 18,000 responses, with 58% of respondents were in favour of keeping the booking process for cars.
- Residents are still invited to sign up for the Solar Together scheme for group purchase of solar panels and batteries. Over 4,000 households have already signed up for this year's scheme which should save each household at least 25% off a standard installation.
- The trees planted around Town a few weeks ago were, as previously advised, part of the Urban Forest initiative. The County Council will maintain the trees for the next three years.
- I still haven't had an update on the delamination at Clements Green Lane, I share residents' frustrations.

All County Councillors have been asked to attend a briefing on March 27th regarding a radical new approach to local highways and footpath repairs. As a result, Local Highways Panel meetings have been postponed until after March 27th.

Chelmsford City Council

- The Chelmsford Policy Board met last week to discuss the latest revision of the City's Local Plan.

This includes proposals for 3,000 homes in a new 'garden village' at Hammonds Farm near Little Baddow, with a further 1,500 homes in the period beyond 2041.

- The Plan still allows for 1,220 homes north of the Burnham Road here in South Woodham Ferrers.
- A special meeting of the City Council has been called for March 20th to discuss the proposed development at Waterside. The meeting is not open to the public.

Councillor Sherlock updated Council on the following:
05th February 2024

I attended a full day Carbon literacy training at Freighter house and have now received my certificate.

21st February 2024

CCC Full council meeting - nothing to report from this meeting

28th February 2024

I subbed for Cllr Rose Moore and attended Essex Waste partnership and ECC County Hall.

01st March 2024

I attended Anglia Ruskin University in my role as Climate & Ecology Ambassador to watch the new film from Save the Children about a hopeful view on life in 2040, with the impacts of climate change.

13th March 2024

I attended the Essex Police Quarterly Meeting in the chamber at Chelmsford city Council.

14th March 2024.

I am a member of Policy board and attended this meeting where the Chelmsford local plan was voted to be put forward for consultation.

Councillor O Brien updated Council on the following:
Gave an update on the Policy Board meeting attended on for 14/3/2024 regarding the New Local Plan.

Councillor Eley updated Council on the following:
The City Council has been busy finalising the budget since Christmas and residents should have received their new Council Tax bills.

Over the past month. I have attended the PFCC Public Meeting at the Civic Centre, Chelmsford, the PFCC Community Safety Expo at Boreham House, Boreham, Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel at County Hall Chelmsford, One Board Meeting at Civic Centre, Chelmsford and last week, Essex Police Quarterly Meeting in the Civic Centre, Chelmsford. The overall theme is that ASB and domestic violence has been on the decrease over the last year. However, motor vehicle theft and theft from motor vehicles has seen a recent increase. Particularly in South Woodham Ferrers and two other areas of Chelmsford. Inspector Sam Girdlestone urged residents to "Report, Report, Report", any criminal activity they witness, either by telephone on 101 and if it is a non-emergency. Or online via <https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report>. This allows them to build up a picture of crime in a specific area to allow them to make targeted responses.

C605 Town Mayors Announcements

The list of recent events attended by the Town Mayor was **NOTED.**

C606 Media Release

- Bleed Kits when registered with the Ambulance Service
- New Councillor Pauline Price
- Distinguished Honours Awards

C607 Next Meeting

Next meeting is to be held 26th March 2024 at 7.00pm

There being no further business to discuss the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 10.03pm.

Signed
(Chairman of the Meeting)

Date: 26th March 2024