

DISS TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the **Town Council** held in the **Council Chamber** at **Diss Corn Hall** on **Wednesday 11th January 2023** at **7.15pm.**

Present: Councillors D. Collins
M. Gingell
S. Kiddie
A. Kitchen
K. Murphy
S. Olander (ex-officio)
R. Peaty
L. Sinfield
E. Taylor (ex-officio)
G. Waterman
J. Welch
J. Wooddissee

In attendance: S. Villafuerte Richards (Town Clerk)
S. French (Deputy Town Clerk)
A. Jamieson (Responsible Finance Officer)
District Councillor Minshull

FC0123/01 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from councillors Browne (health) and Robertson (holiday).

FC0123/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

FC0123/03 MINUTES

There was a suggested amendment regarding minute reference FC1222/10. It was noted that the Executive committee had given delegated authority to the RFO to transfer some funds that were not going to be utilised by the Council in the short term into a higher interest account but as this was not clear from the Executive minutes, members were asked to consider the approval of the transfer for clarity. The transfer proposal from the RFO identified 8 long term Earmarked Reserves projects totalling £96,116, which once transferred would leave £754,453 in Barclays accounts, well above the Council's stated level of security and liquidity requirement in Financial Regulations of 6 months of precept. It was

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 9th November 2022 with the amendment to item FC1222/10 regarding bank accounts were approved as a true record and were signed by the Town Mayor.
2. That £96,116 of Earmarked Reserves relating to projects C, D, H, K, L P, U & Y is transferred to Diss Town Council's Nationwide Savings account.

(Action: RFO; immediately)

FC0123/04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members considered a resolution under Standing Orders 3d to 3h to suspend the meeting to receive reports from the County and District Councillors, on behalf of the Police, and to hear comments from members of the public on items to be discussed on the agenda.

County / District Councillor Kiddie sent his apologies due to ill health. District councillor Minshull provided an update. The Managing Director of South Norfolk visited Diss recently and was impressed by what he saw. The forthcoming elections require everyone who votes in person to provide photo ID (driving licence / passport) for the first time. Residents without such can apply to the District Council for a photo ID card or register for a proxy / online postal vote.

The Octagon building which houses District Officers receives more weekly visits than their former home in Long Stratton. The planning application for the new Aldi store has been received and will come forward for consultee comments in due course.

The Diss leisure centre now operates a food swap shop where long life produce can be dropped off and collected by residents.

FC0123/05 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There was none.

FC0123/06 FINANCE

- a) The bank outgoings for December 2022 were noted.
- b) The Income & Expenditure reports for December 2022 were noted.
- c) The Earmarked Reserves for December 2022 were noted.

FC0123/07 BUDGET 2023-24

Councillors considered the budget and precept request for the 2023-24 financial year. At the Full Council meeting held on 21st December, all recommendations in report 46/2223 including the precept request for 2023/24 were agreed. The precept request must be submitted to South Norfolk Council by the 16th January 2023.

It was noted that residents of Norfolk are being asked if the Police and Crime Commissioner should increase the police precept of council tax for the coming year. Based on a proposed 5.2% increase, a Band D property would pay an extra £14.94 or 29 pence per week. It was agreed that the councillors attending the Police meeting on Friday could feedback and draft a response to the consultation as necessary and before 16th January. It was

RESOLVED: To approve the precept demand to South Norfolk Council of £591,978 or £208.59 representing a 0% increase for each Band D householder for 2023/24.

(Action: RFO; immediately)

FC0123/08 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

A draft Schedule of Meetings was considered. It was noted that it had been agreed at the November meeting of Council that 9 Full Council meetings per Mayoral year would continue to be scheduled. It was

RESOLVED: To approve the draft Schedule of Meetings for the Mayoral Year 2023-24.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

FC0123/09 STRATEGIC PLAN

Members considered the allocation of Officers and councillors to the remaining strategic plan objectives and reviewed accordingly. It was

RESOLVED: That the Clerk would contact relevant councillors / Officers to review involvement, objectives and timescales for review at the March meeting of Council.

(Action: Clerk, relevant cllrs & staff; by 9.03.23)

FC0123/10 DRESS CODE

Members considered amendments to the Council's dress code. Cllr Waterman felt that the amendments reflected his comments. It was

RESOLVED: to approve the amendments to the Council's dress code.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

FC0123/11 PROGRESS REPORT

Councillors noted the progress on decisions made at last meeting of Council.

FC0123/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of Full Council is scheduled for Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 7.15pm.

Meeting Closed 8pm.

Post meeting, there was discussion regarding several matters including the Carnival sub-committee applying for funds from the Diss Surveyors Allotment Charity, upgrades to the town maps and consideration of applying for awards as a Town Council such as Green Flag status for the Park and The Local Council Award Scheme.

Councillor Taylor
TOWN MAYOR