

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 9TH JULY 2024 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Miss A Owen – Mayor of Sudbury, in the CHAIR
Mrs M Barrett Mr A Osborne
Mr P Beer Mrs J Osborne
Mr N Bennett Mr T Regester
Ms J Carter Mr A Stohr
Mr S Hall Mr A Welsh
Ms E Murphy Mr N Younger

In attendance: Mr C Griffin – Town Clerk
Mr D Deeks – Administration Manager and RFO
Ms L Smith – Babergh District Councillor

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs P Berry-Kilby

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Mr P Beer, Ms J Carter, Mr A Osborne, Miss A Owen and Mr T Regester declared they were Babergh District Councillors.

Councillors Mr P Beer and Ms J Carter declared that they were Suffolk County Councillors.

3. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

No declarations of gifts or hospitality were received.

4. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensations had been received.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 11th June 2024 be confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

6. TO REVIEW ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Town Clerk gave an update on the individual items that needed to be addressed by committees under Standing Order 5(J).

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk's report be noted.

7. TO CO-OPT A NEW MEMBER TO FILL THE CASUAL VACANCY CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR M OLYVER.

Four candidates had applied for co-option onto Sudbury Town Council, but one of them had subsequently withdrawn. The names of the three remaining candidates were listed on the agenda, but one candidate, Mr Leighton Williams, had not been able to attend and had not submitted any further details for the members to consider. Therefore, only two candidates remained to be considered for co-option.

Each candidate gave a short presentation on what they could offer as a town councillor and were then asked questions by the members. The members then voted by a show of hands.

Candidate	Votes
Mr Kevin Graham	8
Mr James Jeager	4

RESOLVED

That Mr Kevin Graham be co-opted as a member of Sudbury Town Council to replace Cllr M Olyver.

The Mayor moved the County Councillors' reports forward in the agenda as Cllr J Carter needed to leave early and Cllr P Faircloth-Mutton had sent his apologies.

10. REPORTS

- a) County Councillor's Report – County Councillor Ms Jessie Carter summarised her report, which is included at page 472, and asked if members had any questions. Members raised the following points.
- Waldingfield Road had road works which were left in place when there was nobody working. This appeared to be an example of poor organisation. Could this work be completed more quickly and then the temporary traffic lights removed immediately afterwards?
 - The drain outside the Christopher Centre in Gainsborough Street remained blocked and the road continued to flood during periods of heavy rain. This had been reported many times on the Suffolk Highways tool.
 - The problem with lorries parking overnight on Churchfield Road continued. However, a change to the traffic regulation order (TRO) for this area could take up to two years as consultation may be required.
 - Could road work be coordinated better as the one-way system in Sudbury could easily become congested?

Cllr J Carter was thanked for her report and left the meeting at this point.

8. TO DISCUSS FORMING A JOINT WORKING GROUP WITH THE SUDBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO DISCUSS IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWN CENTRE.

The Chairman of the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, Mr Robin Bailey, attended the meeting with other members of the Chamber to propose forming a joint working group to discuss improvements to the town centre. Councillors discussed the merits of this proposal and noted that a number of members had serious concerns about how the Chamber had lobbied Suffolk County Council over the experimental traffic control order for Market Hill. The Chamber emphasised that they were unashamedly pro-business and it was their role to lobby on behalf of businesses in Sudbury. Councillors emphasised that they wanted a better relationship with the Chamber and that they should explore the options before committing to a formal working group.

RESOLVED

To hold a one-off exploratory meeting with representatives of the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce to identify areas where both parties could cooperate on developing proposals for improvements to the town centre. If this exploratory meeting decides to recommend forming a working group, it should produce draft terms of reference for approval by the full Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce. The Town Council's representatives at the exploratory meeting will be Cllrs Miss A Owen, Mr N Bennett, Mr S Hall, Mr P Beer, Ms E Murphy and Mrs J Osborne.

9. TO APPROVE ATTENDANCE AT THE SUFFOLK BUSINESS BOARD WORKSHOP TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW SUFFOLK ECONOMIC STRATEGY.

Members noted that the newly formed Suffolk Business Board were holding an economic strategy workshop in Sudbury on 17 July. This workshop was intended to bring together key stakeholders from diverse sectors, including business leaders, policymakers, and academics, to collaborate on developing a forward-thinking strategy, leading to a compelling economic strategy and action plan for Suffolk. The Business Manager would attend to represent the Town Council and report back.

RESOLVED

To approve the attendance of the Business Manager at an economic strategy workshop in Sudbury.

10. REPORTS

- b) Policing Report – PC Deon Ramdhanie, a community police officer for Sudbury, attended the meeting and gave a verbal report highlighting;
- That they expected a spike in incidents as the summer school holidays began and footfall increased.
 - The CCTV had been very helpful in supporting the police and had been used 68 times recently.
 - There were QR codes around town for reporting anti-social behaviour (ASB).
 - A drug suspect had been arrested and now bailed awaiting justice.
 - The Delphi site was still a concern and would continue to be visited.

- Engagement activities with schools and parents would continue to help keep children off the streets and to encourage them to have fun through safe activities.
- The theft of purses and wallets was a concern in the town centre. Shops would be advised on security and shoppers could collect a free lanyard from the police to attach their purses or wallet to a larger object, e.g. a heavy shopping bag.
- No further information had been received on ANPR but the Police and Crime Commissioner would be visiting Sudbury soon and might be able to give an update.
- Ring door bell cameras had proved helpful in a number of occasions in providing evidence to support police enquiries.

RESOLVED

That PC Deon Ramdhanie be thanked for his report.

- c) Babergh District Council (BDC) report – District Councillor Mr T Regester summarised his report, which is included at page 473.
- Cllr Deborah Saw had taken over as the leader of Babergh District Council as planned in the coalition agreement.
 - The portfolios in Babergh had been renamed to ensure that they had the same names as those used by Mid-Suffolk District Council, as they both shared the same officers.
 - Babergh were developing a policy to improve the energy efficiency of Listed buildings including solar panels on adjacent buildings. This may be further affected by national planning changes introduced by the new government.

Members raised the following points.

- The bus station public toilets were closed due to drainage issues. Could there be an update on the plans to fix these toilets and to keep them open?
- Would the new leader change the decision on increasing parking charges in the car parks? This was due to be discussed at a meeting on 2 August.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mr Tim Regester be thanked for his report.

- d) Mayor's announcement – A List of the Mayor's announcements is at page 474.

RESOLVED

That the Mayor be thanked for her report.

- e) Public Forum –
- A member of the public, who had previously submitted a freedom of information (FOI) request asking about how many data breaches the Town Council had had recently, asked why a number of Town Council policies were 6 years out of date. He believed that there

were still references to the old 1998 Data Protection Act, which had been superseded by the 2018 Data Protection Act. He then acknowledged that he had already had a meeting with the Administration Manager who had explained the process for revising policies. *After meeting note: The Council's Data Protection Policy was re-checked and the member of the public was correct; there was a typo on page 7 where the date '1998' had been written instead of the correct '2018'. This would be brought back to the next Policy Committee to be corrected.*

- Another member of the public stated that a data request which should have taken 28 days had taken nearly a year. He then asked how long emails were kept and was there a policy on this? Was there a policy for compliance? He stated that he did not use emails, but that he had received a number of letters from the Town Council in response to his data requests. However, he did not feel that they answered his concerns, but rather, led to him having more questions.
- Another member of the public asked the Mayor how she was settling in. She thanked him for his question and replied that things were going well.

11. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Planning, Development and Highways on the 17th June and 1st July 2024

The Chairman recommended noting the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

Leisure and Environment on the 25th June 2024

The Chairman recommended noting the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

Finance on the 2nd July 2024

The Chairman recommended noting the minutes.

It was RESOLVED to note the minutes.

12. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MILL ACRE FROM LEISURE AND ENVIROMENT COMMITTEE.

The Mill Acre working group which had met on 25th June recommend that the full council adopt the 4-stage plan below to redevelop Mill Acre at an estimated cost of £145,000 excluding VAT, subject to successful funding applications to external donors.

- Memorial plinth to be designed and built.
- Bird viewing platform to be designed and built.
- Trees to be planted around Mill Acre.
- Boating pond to be converted into a children's play area

RESOLVED

That the recommendations from the Mill Acre working group copied above be adopted.

13. TO APPROVE THE PLANS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE FRONT OF THE TOWN HALL.

The Town Clerk updated members on the plans for the renovation of the front of the Town Hall.

RESOLVED

To delegate authority to the Finance Committee to approve the commitment of funds and letting of contracts for the renovation of the front of the Town Hall if required before the next planned meeting of the full council in September.

14. TO APPROVE THE PLANS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE TOWN HALL BOILER

The Town Clerk updated members on the plans for the replacements of the Town Hall boiler.

RESOLVED

To delegate authority to the Finance Committee to approve the commitment of funds and letting of contracts for the replacements of the Town Hall boiler if required before the next planned meeting of the full council in September.

15. TO APPROVE THE PLANS FOR THE REPAIR OF THE TOWN HALL ROOF ABOVE THE PUBLIC ENTRANCE.

The Town Clerk updated members on the plans for the repair of the Town Hall roof above the public entrance.

RESOLVED

To delegate authority to the Finance Committee to approve the commitment of funds and letting of contracts for the renovation of the Town Hall roof above the public entrance if required before the next planned meeting of the full council in September.

16. TO APPROVE SETTING UP A TOWN COUNCIL GAZEBO IN THE MARKET FOR MEMBERS TO ENGAGE WITH THE PUBLIC.

The member discussed having a gazebo on the market for members to engage with the public.

RESOLVED

To approve setting up a Town Council Gazebo in the Market on one Thursday and one Saturday in the autumn to explain Town Council policy and to receive comments from the public. Members emphasised that their individual views could not be expressed during these events, only agreed Town Council positions. Members would be asked to volunteer for this task and the aim would be to have one member from each political group with the Town Clerk present to help confirm current policies.

RESOLVED

That the meeting be extended by 15 minutes so that it can continue until 9:15pm.

17. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MATTER.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2), the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in item 17 as the publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

A copy of the CONFIDENTIAL report is at Annex A (minute pages 475 to 477).

RESOLVED

To note the confidential report at Annex A.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9:11pm.

Chairman 

**Report for July 2024 to Sudbury Town Council - From
Jessie Carter (SCC Councillor)**

Date: 09/04/2024

Email: jessie.carter@suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 07955 434411

Middleton Road SID

Posts for a SID in Middleton Road were ordered in May and contractors have until the 19th of July to complete the work.

Bulmer Road

The Layby along Bulmer Road opposite No.16 – 36 is due to be remarked and is an urgent priority, there will also be a speed survey carried out in this location in Mid July.

Priory Estate – Double Yellow Lines

Double Yellow Lines have now been painted along Clermont Avenue, Chaucer Road, Crayford Road & Abbots Close, as discussed with STC highways committee

Hadleigh – Sudbury Bus Service

With effect from the 22nd of July Beestons will no longer be offering between Hadleigh & Sudbury. Chambers will be offering a service with a reduced timetable.

SEND Improvement Plans

Scrutiny Committee met on Thursday 13 June to review the council's priority action plan to improve SEND services. The plan had to be created following the poor Ofsted/CQC inspection report which was published at the end of January. The committee heard about the extra £4.4m funding to recruit more staff, including educational psychologists. There are plans to invest more money in the improvements and this will be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting in July. The Department for Education will be undertaking 'deep dive' reviews into progress, the first one into the timeliness and quality of EHCPs which is due very soon. Among the issues discussed were communication with parents and carers and responses to complaints and the importance of early intervention to support young children with needs as soon as possible.

Cold Callers

Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards have asked residents to be vigilant about tradesmen knocking on their doors to offer services, after several examples recently of cold callers persuading people to part with large sums of money for unnecessary or substandard work. The council is recommending that residents only use workmen on the Trusted Trader website: <https://trustedtrader.team/Suffolk/about-us>

Residents can also protect themselves and their neighbours by nominating their area to become a No Cold Calling Zone – there are now more than 200 of these across Suffolk. In order to nominate your road or neighbourhood, visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/suffolk-trading-standards/fair-trading/no-cold-calling-zones>

Babergh District Council report for Sudbury Town Council, July 2024 by Babergh District Councillor Tim Regester

Due to the General Election limiting what can be done and decided during the election period, there are only a few administrative issues to note and one policy objective.

1. Deborah Saw of the Green Party is the new leader of the Council as agreed in the Coalition agreement in May 2023.
2. There are changes to Portfolio holders and names of these portfolios.

	Party	Portfolio name and areas covered
Councillor Jessie Carter	Green	Housing note Cllr Ruth Hendry will be shadowing Jessie in this role.
Councillor Deborah Saw	Green	People and Place with responsibility for waste and recycling, public realm and energy infrastructure
Councillor Helen Davies	Lib Dems	Climate Change, Nature Recovery and Biodiversity including Sustainable travel.
Councillor Daniel Potter	Green	Thriving Communities with responsibility for strong and safe communities, health, wellbeing, sport and leisure.
Councillor John Ward	Independent	Finance, Assets and Investment
Councillor Derek Davies	Independent	Sustainable Economy formerly economic growth.
Councillor Sallie Davies	Green	Heritage, Planning and Infrastructure
Councillor Alistair McCraw	Lib Dems	Performance and Resilience formerly Customers, Digital Transformation and Improvement

These changes amplify the priorities identified in our Action plan whilst also mirroring the names of the portfolios of Mid Suffolk with whom we share staff, avoiding confusion.

3. Babergh is developing a policy to improve the energy efficiency of Listed buildings including solar panels on adjacent buildings.

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JULY FULL COUNCIL

My 2 charities are Eden youth project and Abi's footprints baby bank

Had a really busy month, I visited the Kernos centre which is a charity it provides counselling and support services to people with emotional and psychological difficulties.

D Day 80th anniversary lighting of the beacon well attended event, my thanks go out to the British legion and the town council staff.

Tudor school art gallery amazing art a proud parents day.

Haverhill had Suffolk day this year, we had glorious sunshine and it was a well attended event the Suffolk medal went to John Norman. Thanks to Haverhill for the invite.

Sudbury Choral society invited me to St Gregory's to listen to the lovely voices of Acton school choir.

TGS invited me to their graduation awards, thanks to TGS for the invite it was lovely to see so many happy and proud parents and school leavers.

Suffolk armed forces day was at Haverhill another excellent day thank you for the invite.