

## **FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2008, at Felixstowe Town Hall

Present: Councillors: Deacon [Mayor], Bryant, Chambers, Dangerfield, Garfield, A Goodwin, J Goodwin, Ninnmey, Savage, Sennington, Slemmings, Smith, Stokell and Webb.

#### **313. MINUTE'S SILENCE IN HONOUR OF MIKE GOODMAN AND ANN RODWELL**

The Council observed a minute's silence in memory of Mike Goodman and Ann Rodwell, former Mayors of Felixstowe.

#### **314. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public asked where the Town Council stood in the light of the Government's attempt to address the economic downturn by encouraging public realm developments in view of the fact that Suffolk Coastal District Council had allowed its preferred developer of the South Seafront area to delay commencement of the project until 2010. In addition in the interim period it was the intention of Suffolk Coastal District Council to secure, board up and demolish properties instead of using the properties for temporary housing.

At the request of the Mayor the Chairman of the Plans Committee replied that he was also a member of Suffolk Coastal District Council but it was the tradition of the Town Council to encourage dual membership of the Town and District Councils. The development at the South Seafront was originally for leisure use. The dual housing/leisure use was on the basis that the profit from the housing would finance the leisure use and the leisure use was therefore dependant on the profit from the housing. In the current economic climate the housing development would generate much less cash. The decision taken by the cabinet member at Suffolk Coastal District Council was therefore correct. The demolition on the site would remove an eyesore; the toilets and houses were an eyesore and a possible danger.

A member of the public pointed out that five years ago there had been 84 NHS beds in Felixstowe. Felixstowe had been told that both the then hospitals were safe but it transpired that this was not true. He asked whether Felixstowe Hospital was being used for Felixstowe residents and whether representations were being made to the NHS about this.

At the request of the Mayor the Chairman of the Community Services Group replied that this was a long standing ongoing problem. The Town Council was working hard to get answers from the NHS about the usage of beds at the Community Hospital but did not yet know if there were going to be any more beds. There would be a report from the Community Services Group at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and in the meantime the Group was putting in a lot of work on this subject.

A member of the public referred to the Core Strategy documents which were about to be published by Suffolk Coastal District Council. She asked what venues had been booked for consultation concerning the strategy.

The Mayor responded that the Town Council had not yet booked a venue and would be looking at this in the near future. At the request of the Mayor the Chairman of the Plans Committee replied that Suffolk Coastal District Council would be organising a travelling road show, tentatively on a Friday and Saturday in Felixstowe, although a venue had not yet been booked. It was the intention to have a very accessible venue in the town centre. As an outcome of the decision by the Suffolk Coastal District Council Task Group there were changes as to how the siting of houses in the Felixstowe and Trimley area would be dealt with. As a separate exercise Suffolk Coastal District Council had commissioned independent consultants to identify sites and they would be consulting the public as well. It was important to emphasise that these were two separate processes.

A member of the public thanked Felixstowe Town Council on behalf of the Cavendish Park Community Association for its work during the previous year. He wished the members and staff of the Town Council a very happy Christmas.

**315. PRAYERS**

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev'd Phillip Garbett, Christ Church, Cavendish Park.

**316. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Deacon, Bryant, Dangerfield, Garfield, A Goodwin, Ninnmey, Savage, Sennington, Slemmings, Smith and Stokell declared a personal interest in item 318; in items 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 223, 224, 226, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 268, 269, 276, 277, 278 and 279 of the Plans Committee report; in items 321(a), 321(b), 321(d), 321(e), 321(f) and 321(g); in items 282, 283, 285, 289(a), 289(c), 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 296, 297, 298 and 301 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee report and in items 229 and 230 of the Newsletter Editorial Committee report as members of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Councillors Deacon, Bryant, Dangerfield, Garfield, A Goodwin, Ninnmey, Savage, Sennington, Slemmings, Smith and Stokell declared a personal interest in application C08/0836 and item 258 of the Town Members Committee report as members of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Councillor J Goodwin declared a personal interest in item 318; in items 249, 253 and 267 of the Plans Committee report; in items 321(a), 321(b), 321(c), 321(d), 321(f) and 321(g); in items 229 and 230 of the Newsletter Editorial report; in items 282, 283, 285, 289(a), 289(b), 289(c), 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 296, 297, 298, and 301 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee report as a member of Suffolk County Council.

Councillor Webb declared a prejudicial in application C08/1713 as the employer of the neighbour of the site.

Councillor Smith declared a prejudicial interest in item 218 of the Plans Committee report as the neighbour of the site.

Councillors Garfield, A Goodwin, J Goodwin, Savage, Sennington, Stokell, Webb and the Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in item 218 as friends and colleagues of the neighbour of the site.

Councillor A Goodwin declared a prejudicial interest in application C08/1784 as a resident of the area.

Councillor J Goodwin declared a prejudicial interest in application C08/1784 as a resident of the area.

Councillor Smith declared a prejudicial interest in item 246 of the Plans Committee report in so far as it referred to applications C08/0688 and C08/0689 as the neighbour of the site.

Councillors Garfield, A Goodwin, J Goodwin, Savage, Sennington, Stokell, Webb and the Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in item 246 of the Plans Committee report in so far as it referred to applications C08/0688 and C08/0689 as friends and colleagues of the neighbour of the site.

Councillors Deacon, Bryant, Dangerfield, Garfield, A Goodwin, Ninnmey, Savage, Sennington, Smith and Stokell declared a prejudicial interest in application C08/1843 as members of Felixstowe Town Council, the owner of the adjacent Langley Avenue.

Councillor Garfield declared a prejudicial interest in application C08/1901 as a member of the St Mary's Church PCC.

Councillor Stokell declared a prejudicial interest in application C08/1901 as the owner of a nearby property.

Councillors Bryant, A Goodwin and Stokell declared a personal interest in application C08/1893 as Felixstowe Town Council's representatives on the Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association.

Councillor Webb declared a prejudicial interest in application C08/1925 as a trader in Felixstowe town centre.

Councillor Webb declared a prejudicial interest in application C08/2024 as a trader in Felixstowe town centre.

Councillor Webb declared a prejudicial interest in application C08/1207 as a trader in Felixstowe town centre.

Councillor Stokell declared a prejudicial interest in item 321(d) as a relative of owners of property involved in the Core Strategy consultation.

Councillor Stokell declared a prejudicial interest in items 296 and 298 as a transport provider in the town.

Councillor Webb declared a prejudicial interest in item 299 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee report as the owner of a retail outlet in Felixstowe.

The Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in item 293 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee report as a Governor of Orwell High School.

The Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in items 220 and 261 of the Plans Committee report as a resident of the area.

Councillor A Goodwin declared a prejudicial interest in items 220 and 261 of the Plans Committee report as a resident of the area.

Councillor J Goodwin declared a prejudicial interest in items 220 and 261 of the Plans Committee report as a resident of the area.

**317. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Gorski.

**318. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2008**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 1<sup>ST</sup> October, 2008 were confirmed as a true record and the Chairman authorized to sign them.

**319. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor proposed that a formal resolution be minuted of appreciation for the work for Felixstowe Town Council of Ann Rodwell and Mike Goodman who both died recently and that formal letters of appreciation and condolence be sent to Gordon Rodwell and Chris Goodman. It was therefore unanimously:

<b>RESOLVED</b> that Felixstowe Town Council records its deep appreciation for the work for the Town Council of Ann Rodwell and Mike Goodman.
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<b>RESOLVED</b> that formal letters of appreciation and condolence be sent to Gordon Rodwell and Chris Goodman
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The Mayor referred to a list of engagements: 02.10.08 – Launch of the Seaside Special at the Spa Pavilion; 04.10.08 – St John's Church, Harvest Festival; 05.10.08 – MSC Felixstowe Half Marathon; 11.10.08 – 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mr Charles Felgate, Deputy Mayor; 12.10.08 – Tasting the Earth at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Deputy Mayor; 12.10.08 – Woodbridge Civic Service, Deputy Mayor; 13.10.08 – Opening of Boots Pharmacy, Orwell Road, Deputy Mayor; 17.10.08 – Amberfield School, Founders' Day; 19.10.08 – Sudbury Civic Service; 20.10.08 – St John's Church, licensing and installation of the Rev'd Robert Hinsley; 22.10.08 – Haven Container Ports Exercise 111' Schools event; 23.10.08 – 27.10.08 - **Civic Visit to Wesel**, the following engagements took place: 23.10.08 lunch with the Administration of Stadt Wesel, 24.10.08 visit to domestic incinerator plant at Asdonkshof Kamp-Lintfort, opening of Hanse Fest and dinner with Felixstowe/Wesel Association, 25.10.08 visit to Rhine Bridge construction site and Hanse Fest procession, 26.10.08 church service at Willibrordi-Dom, lunch with the Mayors of Wesel and Salzwedel and the Mayor of Ketrzyn, Poland and trip to the new Roman-Museum, Xanten; 24.10.08 – South Pacific, Stage Door production, Deputy Mayor; 25.10.08 – Orwell District Scouts, firework display, Deputy Mayor; 27.10.08 – Harvest House annual charity sale, Deputy Mayor; 28.10.08 – ESTA, Autumn meeting; 29.10.08 – Graduation ceremony, University Campus Suffolk; 02.11.08 – Gala Charity Concert organised by the High Sheriff of Suffolk at Snape; 07.11.08 – East Suffolk Association for the Blind, presentation of new rifle for Felixstowe blind shooters; 07.11.08 – Remembrance Sunday, rehearsal; 8<sup>th</sup> Felixstowe Scouts, awards evening; 08.11.08 – Festival of Remembrance at the Spa Pavilion; 09.11.08 – Remembrance Sunday at the United Reformed Church; 10.11.08 – Memorial Service for Mike Goodman; 11.11.08 – Two minutes silence at the War Memorial; 12.11.08 – East Suffolk Mind, AGM, Mayoress only; 14.11.08 – Launch of Felixstowe/Trimley walks leaflet; 14.11.08 – Causton School, presentation of Felixstowe in Flower certificates; 19.11.08 – Felixstowe Carnival Association AGM; 21.11.08 – Memorial Service for Ann Rodwell; 25.11.08 – Felixstowe Friendly Visiting Service, Christmas

lunch; 26.11.08 – Opening of MSC offices at Ransomes Europark; 28.11.08 – Christmas visit to 14 Montague Road; 28.11.08 – The unveiling of the Commemorative Stone to mark the restoration of Felixstowe Town Hall; 28.11.08 – Christmas visit to Lindley House; 29.11.08 – Christmas visit to St Mary's Nursing Home; 29.11.08 – Lighting up Day; 02.12.08 – Presentation by The Port of Felixstowe to the Lions Club for the Christmas tree; 03.12.08 – Felixstowe International College, Christmas concert.

The Mayor thanked his Deputy Mayor for her help during this period. It had been a particular busy time with many outstanding events. In particular he mentioned the visit to Wesel and to the domestic waste incinerator plant near to Wesel. This had been interesting and spectacular. It was a huge site. It provided electricity for 21 thousand homes and heating for 10 thousand home. It used both domestic and imported waste for this function. He and the Mayoress had very much enjoyed the opening of MSC's offices. MSC pumped a lot of money into Felixstowe's economy. The reopening of Felixstowe Town Hall had been a highlight. The Christmas lighting up had been excellent and he thanked the Lions Club for all their hard work.

### **320. PLANS COMMITTEE**

Items 215 – 279 of the meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 were presented by Councillor Smith, Chairman of the Committee.

Item 256 – C08/1122 Erection of 6 houses and 6 flats (submission details under Outline Planning Permission C04/1214). Revised scheme at land at junction with Garrison Lane and High Road West, Felixstowe.

The Chairman pointed out that the Town Council had seen many versions of this application. The Town Council had strongly recommended refusal. Unfortunately the Development Control Committee had approved this application in spite of his and Councillor Savages' efforts at the meeting of the Committee.

Item 261 – C07/1521 Felixstowe Town Football Club, Dellwood Avenue, Felixstowe. Proposal:variation of condition 2 of planning permission C1727/3 to allow 6 floodlight columns to remain in place without being retracted during the football season.

The Chairman referred to the appeal concerning this application which had taken place in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall. He had taken part in the site inspection at the Town Ground together with members of the Football Club and Suffolk Coastal District Council. The Inspector had indicated that there would be a quick decision.

Item 276 – C08/2024 change of use from A1 shop/café at 59 Hamilton Road

The Chairman told members that the applicant had circulated a number of successful appeals with this application. Since the Puccino's application there had been a new Government Circular which was relevant to this application. The Development Control papers which had just been published were recommending approval for Caffe Nero. This took into account the new government guidance 3/2005 which referred to coffee shops in the context of viability of town centres. In the use class classification coffee shops were now "sui generis". The David Lock report also referred to the vitality and viability of the town centre and Suffolk Coastal District Council had taken note of these new policies and documents.

**RESOLVED** that with the above amendments the report of this Committee be approved.

**321. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Felixstowe Freight Quality Partnership Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2008  
Members noted the minutes of the first meeting of the Felixstowe Freight Quality Partnership at which the Town Council had been represented by Councillor Gorski.

- b. Community Resilience Workshop  
Councillor Bryant reported that the second draft of the Suffolk Community Resilience Concept had now been published and comments were requested as soon as possible. It seemed very involved and it appeared that the Town Council would need a full time member of staff or Councillor if the Concept was implemented. It was important that there was good communication among Councillors and within Felixstowe but in view of the great complexity the Town Council would need to consider whether it wished to carry on with its involvement.

Members discussed the Community Resilience Concept and agreed that it was too complex to be of any use to the Town Council. Members agreed to delegate the response to Councillor Bryant and the Clerk.

- c. Ambulance Response Times in Felixstowe  
Members noted a letter from the Chairman of NHS Suffolk to the Mayor who had expressed concern about the very unfortunate incident in Felixstowe in October when a gentleman died following a car crash in the town. The letter went on to say that the investigations into this tragic incident revealed that the Ambulance Service was alerted by the Police that there had been a road traffic accident in Felixstowe where a patient had crashed his vehicle, possibly as a result of a myocardial infarction. Ambulance control graded the call appropriately as an RTC and a rapid response vehicle and an ambulance were deployed from Ipswich to attend the scene. The vehicles arrived on the scene after an elapsed time of 16 minutes, which is well within the 19 minute response time target for a category B call. The paramedic then took over treating the patient and he was taken by ambulance to A&E at Ipswich Hospital. From the evidence it would appear that the response times of the paramedic and the ambulance crew were consistent with all the Department of Health guidelines and targets currently in force across the country.

Members discussed this issue and ambulance response times. A member who had witnessed the incident told members that the police on the spot had worked very hard. Members agreed with the Mayor that ambulance response times in Felixstowe were a matter of real concern and it was agreed to refer this issue to the Community Services Group.

- d. LDF – Core Strategy Consultation

*Following his declaration of a prejudicial interest Councillor Stokell left the room during discussion of this item.*

Members considered a letter from representatives of the Save Felixstowe Countryside to the Mayor. The letter stated that Save Felixstowe Countryside were writing in advance of the forthcoming Suffolk Coastal LDF Core Strategy

Consultation, which they understood would commence in mid December. They understood that the impending consultation would be in two parts – the Core Strategy, which would contain much of the detail considered in the last consultation, and Specific Site Allocations. They understood that while being centred across the Suffolk Coastal district, this consultation was particularly relevant to Felixstowe as the bulk of new housing had been allocated to Felixstowe. The letter went on to say that they understood that Felixstowe Town Council would be invited to contribute to this consultation, and its response would be a major influence on the final outcome of where these houses would be built. In advance of this Save Felixstowe Countryside wished to remind Felixstowe Town Council of the impact that would be felt by everyone if the wrong decision were made. The letter explained that the present population of around 30,000 would increase by more than 12%, with potentially 3000 extra cars clogging up already congested roads in the town centre and the sea front. The same number of extra lorries using just one trunk road in and out would also cause chaos for commuters both in to and out of the town. That was without the commensurate increases in crime and anti social behaviour which Felixstowe had more than enough of at the present time. It was pointed out that Town Councillors did not need reminding that this is one of the biggest issues to face Felixstowe in 20 years. It was stated that residents were being asked to sacrifice their last remaining piece of countryside to service a need identified by the District Council which had consistently misrepresented its statistics on projected household sizes and projected extra jobs to satisfy its exaggerated claim that 1740 houses are needed just for Felixstowe to stand still. The letter went on to say that Save Felixstowe Countryside were aware that since the last consultation at least one Councillor had changed their mind in the face of such strong public opposition, and regretted “toeing the party line” in responding to the consultation. Therefore, this time, Save Felixstowe Countryside were asking each and every Councillor to look deep into their conscience, leaving aside political issues, and ask themselves if they truly believed that this level of growth was right for the residents of Felixstowe, the people they served. It was pointed out that it is not too late to change the planners’ minds – all it took was for Councillors to put what was best for the Felixstowe peninsula ahead of what was good for themselves or their political party. It was stated that in spite of assurances already received, this was the last chance Felixstowe had to have a real and meaningful consultation. Up until now, it was felt that all there had been a stage managed public meeting and people writing in with their views. It was felt there had been no direct interaction between concerned residents and the decision makers. Save Felixstowe Countryside urged Councillors to meet with their constituents and discuss their needs and anxieties – arrange a “surgery” and invite them along to debate these important issues.

The Mayor informed members that he had arranged a meeting in the North Ward. He urged other Councillors that on such an important issue they should meet their constituents. A member from the West Ward stated that the Councillors from the West Ward had used Cavendish Community Church and St Marys, Walton as consultation venues. He asked that the documentation should be made available in hard copy in the library, perhaps in the coffee bar.

e. Recycling and Refuse Collection Arrangements

Members noted details provided by Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd of the recycling and refuse collection arrangements over the Christmas and New Year period in Felixstowe.

- f. Local Government Review – Survey of Town and Parish Clerks  
Members considered correspondence from Suffolk Coastal District Council enclosing a survey addressed to Town and Parish Clerks concerning the Local Government Review. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the survey on behalf of the Town Council.
- g. Felixstowe Futures – Appointment of Members to the Bent Hill/Convalescent Hill and Hamilton Road/The Triangle Shared Space/Public Realm Improvement Project Board  
Members considered a report to the Felixstowe Futures Strategy Group concerning the appointment of members to the Bent Hill/Convalescent Hill and Hamilton Road/The Triangle Shared Space/Public Realm Improvement Project Board. The Clerk informed members that the Town Council was being invited to appoint two members to the Board. Councillors Bryant, Savage and Sennington were proposed as the Town Council's representatives to the Board and following a ballot it was:

**RESOLVED** that Councillors Savage and Sennington be appointed as Felixstowe Town Council's representatives to the Bent Hill/Convalescent Hill and Hamilton Road/The Triangle Shared Space/Public Realm Improvement Project Board

### **322. NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Items 227 – 231 of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 were presented by Councillor Savage, Chairman of this Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the report of this Committee be approved.

### **323. TOWN MEMBERS COMMITTEE**

Items 256 - 259 of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 and items 270 – 275 of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 were presented by Councillor Stokell, Chairman of this Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the reports of this Committee be approved.

*Councillor Slemmings joined the meeting at this point.*

### **324. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Item 283 - Accounts

**RESOLVED** that the accounts from 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2008 – 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 amounting to £179, 127.84 presented to this Committee be approved.

Item 285 – Budgetary Monitoring

The Chairman told members that the Town Council was trying to find additional resources to promote a website for the Town Council.

Item 286 – Freedom of Information Act – Publication Scheme

**RESOLVED** to adopt the Publication Scheme as appended to these minutes.

Item 287 – Standing Orders

**RESOLVED** that Financial Standing Orders paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4 of the Town Council be amended to read:

6.3 The RFO shall examine invoices in relation to arithmetic accuracy and shall analyse them to the appropriate expenditure heading. The Clerk shall take all steps to settle all invoices submitted, and which are in order, promptly.

6.4 A list of all payments in accordance with paragraph 6.3 above shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the Council.

Item 289 (a) – Report of the meeting of the Community Services Group (Health Councillors) of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008

A member asked whether the Town Council had any assurance in correspondence from the PCT that most of the occupants of beds at the Felixstowe Community Hospital were from Felixstowe. The Chairman of the Community Services Group responded that the Town Council did not yet have an answer but was in the process of asking about the use of the beds at the hospital.

Item 290 – Local Government Reorganisation

A member told the Council that on the previous day he had been informed that the judicial review concerning the Local Government Review in Breckland District Council had been upheld by the judge because the consultation period had been too short. It now appeared that the final reply by the Boundary Committee would not be published on 31<sup>st</sup> December. However, the meetings organised by Suffolk Coastal District Council in January would still continue with the District Council's budget as the main item on the agenda.

Item 293 – Building Schools for the Future

*Following her declaration of a prejudicial interest the Clerk left the room during discussion of this item.*

**RESOLVED** that the following response be sent to Suffolk County Council: Felixstowe Town Council feels that the planning of future school provision should be based upon the needs of the community. This is a wider discussion than current educational requirements. Consequently, Felixstowe Town Council makes two specific comments in response to the 'Schools for the Future' consultation.

Full recognition of forecast demographic change in the Felixstowe peninsula should be taken. We would particularly commend the 'Felixstowe Futures' report in this context.

Planned provision of educational facilities within the Felixstowe peninsula should be integrated with other relevant strategic planning themes. These should include (but, not exclusively) housing, transport, infrastructure and employment developments.'

We would also inform you that there are serious concerns regarding access to both existing sites at Deben High School and Orwell High School. It is, therefore, essential that a more comprehensive appraisal is made (as outlined above) before any of the consultation proposals are developed further.

**RESOLVED** that with the above amendments the report of this Committee be approved.

CHAIRMAN