

Swaffham Town Council

Minutes of the **Full Town Council** meeting held on **Wednesday 10th October 2018** at **6.30pm** the Council Chamber, Town Hall Swaffham.

Present: Mayor Cllr C Houghton (in the Chair)

Councillors: Mr S Allen, Mr R Bartram, Mrs W Bensley, Mrs J Buckley-Stevens, Mrs B Bowler, Mr P Darby, Mrs T Jennison, Mrs S Lister, Mrs S Matthews, Mr L Scott, Mrs J Skinner, Mrs A Thorpe.

Deputy Town Clerk: Mrs C Smith
Minute Taker: Ms K Furnass

BDC: Cllr I Sherwood
Public: 10

Prayers were led by Cllr Thorp.

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jennison registered an interest in Agenda Item 7.2

There were no other declarations of interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.31 p.m. for public participation.

See *Appendix 3*

The meeting was resumed at 6.45 p.m.

3 Mayor's Report

- 3.1 The Mayor reported that he had attended his first Twinning trip. It was a very welcoming event that celebrated 50 years of twinning with the signing of a new Charter. He had attended a Samaritans meeting and was amazed at what he had learnt, a very interesting and eye-opening meeting. The Mayor also attended the official opening of the new Co-op Funeral Services in Swaffham, tomorrow he will be meeting with the Guide Dog Society.

3.2 Urgent reports at Mayor's discretion:

The public meeting on Monday evening was well attended. The Town Clerk gave a presentation and a Q & A section followed. There were many misconceptions on what exactly was happening, and a wide variety of questions were raised. The Mayor re-iterated that the Council were only applying for permission to borrow the money and if, and only if permission were granted, would they then go to the next stage and apply to borrow the money.

The meeting had been called at this early stage due to social media coverage. Not enough information was available to answer many questions raised, and permission may not even be granted so there may not be a need to hold a second meeting. Before the Council make the decision on the three options available, and when all the information is gathered, it was proposed in principle to hold a second public meeting.

It was agreed that before the Council make the decision on the three options available, and when all information is gathered, a second public meeting would be held.

As with Monday's public meeting there would be the opportunity to put forward beforehand any questions to the Town Clerk. It was thought that the meeting would probably be held in January 2019 before the Budget meeting.

Initials: _____

4 Reports from Police and Principal Authorities

4.1. Police

PC Jo Higgins sent in her apologies with her updated crime figures.

4.2. County Councillor

No report received.

4.3. Breckland District Councillors

Cllr Matthews provided her reports – *See Appendix 4*

Cllr Sherwood reported on the Leisure Centre Feasibility Study - the first meeting will be in September with the final report ready in January 2019, it is all happening very quickly. It is not known yet how much money will be involved but hopefully the study will confirm the need for facilities in Swaffham. The study may include the need for a swimming pool but as land has been set aside by the Town Council, and hopefully the next elected Council will agree again, it may be another possible way forward.

Cllr Sherwood was asked about using the Leisure Centre toilets for the Park Run. He replied that this was a matter for the school, but he didn't think it was possible.

5 Minutes of the previous meetings

After a slight amendment recording Cllr Bartram as attending, the minutes of 12th September 2018 Town Council meeting were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

6 Town Hall Report by the Deputy Clerk

The Deputy Clerk read highlights from David Jacklin's email on the following items - to note only.

- A "without prejudice" cut back has been programmed for the hedge between Merryweather Road and Sandringham Way. As with also the hedge at Heathlands to Bayfield Way.
- Letters have been sent to the Surgery and the Conservative Club asking them to clear the ivy along the footpath, and to a resident to clear overhanging hedges.
- The Boundaries team have been asked to investigate the hedge/boundary on the footpath on Cley Road leading through to Queen Street flats.
- Replacement railings at the traffic lights are being chased.
- Issues raised at Admiral Wilson Way have been inspected and will be attended to. The matter of gravel is an issue for residents to address themselves.
- The repairing of the footpath along the Norwich Road has started this week.

a) Notes from the meeting with Highway Engineer David Jacklin 2nd October 2018

These were previously circulated with the agenda packs.

b) Parish Partnership Scheme - the Transport and Access Focus Group had identified 3 possible projects. Councillors will be presented with any viable schemes at the next Town Council meeting to decide whether to grant match funding.

c) Beacons of Light - the beacons of light event had been developed in conjunction with the Royal British Legion and was discussed at Open Spaces. A simple ceremony, at the War memorial, of prayers led by Rev Allan, reading out of the names on the War memorial, following on at the Assembly Rooms, with the lighting of the Beacon, playing of the last post and reveille. This will also be coordinated with the ringing of the Church Bells at 7.05pm and the Town Crier's "Cry for Peace". Final timings will be confirmed after a planning meeting with Town Council, RBL and Church representatives on 16th October.

d) Dads Army Day – a successful event was held and a round up report will be circulated with the Market Committee papers next week.

e) MTI Funding Market Stalls – confirmation has been received of a £19,000 grant towards the Watton and Swaffham Market Stalls Scheme. A meeting has been set up for next week between the two towns to move this project forward.

Initials: _____

- f) Hedgerow on South Side of Sporle Rd – the land owner has agreed to replace the hedgerow in the coming planting season.
- g) Turbine Way Traveller Encampment - the police and Breckland have informed us that travellers have arrived at land on Turbine Way, they have been issued with notices to leave.
- h) Digital Agenda Papers – Councillors are asked to contact the office with feedback on how the receiving of Agenda papers is going.

6.2. Councillors questions relating to ongoing business:

Cllr Matthews asked for the footpath from Filby Road up to the schools to be cleared of pine needles, they are a danger to pedestrians especially when wet.

Cllr Bowler also asks for the footpath in front of the Manor House to be cleared regularly.

These will both be added to the next Highways meeting.

Cllr Bartram asks if protective posts can be placed at the back of parking bays from Icelands up to the Greyhound P/H to protect pedestrians from vehicles overshooting the parking bays, with some even using the footpath as a road.

This will also be taken to the next Highways meeting.

Cllr Scott asked for a copy of the picture of the cobbles found during the work on the Buttercross and for a copy to be sent to Dr Gatusso. He also asked for the Deputy Clerk to check if the letter to BDC in regard to the CPR had been done.

Cllr Matthews would like it noted that a digital clock had not been rebuked by the Church.

7 Finance

7.1. Accounts for payment for October 2018

The interim list was posted online with the Agenda pack and an updated list was circulated to Councillors at the meeting - *Appendix 1*

It was agreed to accept the accounts for September 2018

- 7.2 Request from NARS for a donation – The Grants Policy is to be reviewed at the 29th October Full Council Finance meeting. It is recommended to defer a decision on this request until after the Policy is reviewed, it would then be placed on the 14th November agenda.

It was agreed to defer the consideration of this request to the November agenda.

8 Receive Correspondence or Information

8.1 General

- a) To consider appointing a Footpath Warden – Cllr Scott gave a brief explanation of the concept behind this position and proposed for Mr David Ormerod to be appointed.

It was agreed for Mr Ormerod to be appointed Footpath Warden.

It was suggested that Mr P Harris, who has walked a lot of these paths, and the Icen Partnership, were also contacted for their input. It was agreed that information gathered will help in registering the footpaths and also clearing issues could be picked up.

- b) To consider confirmation of the timetable for the Town/Parish and District Council elections on Thursday 2nd May – It was proposed to hold the first meeting of “Do you want to be a Councillor” on 12th December 2018, 5.00-6.00pm just before the Full Council meeting, with the second one on 28th February 2018

It was agreed to hold the “Do you want to be a Councillor” meeting on 12th December 2018 at 5.00-6.00pm, with the second one on 28th February 2019.

- c) To consider correspondence regarding the Buttercross works and the siting of the UKPN electrical cabinet - a copy of the correspondence between Mr J Stacey and Mr Parsons had previously been emailed to Cllrs. A factual statement on the progress of the scheme was also posted by the Town Clerk.

Many issues were raised in the following discussions by the Councillors including siting of the cabinet, its appearance and how to utilise the structure. Other issues raised included:

- Whether all the cobbles would be cleaned after the work was completed?

Initials: _____

- The cost of lighting and seating.
- How disappointed some Councillors were that it had been approved by Mr Gayton.

The Deputy Clerk will look at the costs of the lighting and benches and report back but informed the meeting that these decisions had already been previously approved by them when the combined price was accepted.

Although it was agreed that nothing could be done now it was proposed that a letter needed to be sent to Mr Gayton and Power Network to express their disappointment that Swaffham's heritage had been spoilt by the siting of the UKPN cabinet.

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should write a letter to Mr Gayton and UK Power Network to express their disappointment that Swaffham's heritage had been spoilt by the siting of the UKPN cabinet.

Options were also considered on what could be done to minimise/enhance the look of the cabinet. It was suggested to wait until the work was complete and not to make a rash decision. Councillors were asked to come up with ideas and email them into the office.

- d) To consider a request for litter bins at the end of halfacre footpath - Cllrs were asked to consider funding litter bins in this area, the cost per bin would be around £175 plus installation costs. Breckland have confirmed they have no objection to a bin at one end of the path – New Sporle Road end.

It was proposed to ask Tesco's one more time to litter pick the area but in principle to agree to purchase a litter bin if the request was not upheld.

It was agreed to ask Tesco's one more time to litter pick the area but in principle to agree to purchase a litter bin if the request was not upheld.

8.2. Breckland Council

- a) To note only the transfer of a part of The Shambles to Swaffham Town Council - The adverse possession application will now be pursued.

- b) To consider notification of the Market Towns Initiative funding from Breckland- Cllrs are asked to note the confirmation of the £20,000 grant for the Town Centre Scheme.

8.3. Norfolk County Council

No items for consideration.

9. Correspondence or Information

A list of all other correspondence was noted - *Appendix 2*.

Councillors had concerns about the yellow pages being posted on line. This may raise issues with GDPR.

10. COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP reports:

10.1. Committees

Planning Committee – Cllr Scott commented on a recent pre application presentation by the Plymouth Brethren for Sporle Road.

10.2. Working Groups, Task Groups or Topic Groups

To receive current WORKING GROUP reports (Twinning Liaison, Museum Heritage, Allotment Partners, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Christmas Lights, Swaffham/Watton Liaison)

The Steering Group – The group had been debating about submitting the Neighbourhood Plan in November or waiting until the Local Plan is signed off in March 2019. This has now been agreed to sign off and will be on the agenda for the November meeting.

11. Reports by Representatives from Outside Bodies

Swaffham Heritage - Cllr Thorp gave her report. *See appendix 5*

Anglia in Bloom – Cllr Bowler gave her report. *See appendix 6*

Relief in Need – At the last meeting the resignation of the Chairman, Mr Cannon had been received. Cllr Jennison was appointed new Chairman. The resignation of trustee Mrs Noble has since also been received. It was proposed for Cllr Lister to be appointed as new trustee.

It was agreed for Cllr Lister to be appointed as new Trustee.

NALC – Cllr Matthews gave her report. *See appendix 7*

12. Dates of forthcoming meetings and to receive any items for a future agenda:

Market Committee	Mon	15 th Oct	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Xmas Lights Working Group	Mon	15 th Oct	5.00pm	Council Chamber
Allotment Sub Committee	Tue	16 th Oct	5.00pm	Council Chamber
Full Council Finance	Mon	29 th Oct	6.30pm	Council Chamber
NP Steering Committee	Tues	30 th Oct	10.00am	Council Chamber
Planning Committee	Tue	30 th Oct	1.30pm	Council Chamber
Full Council	Wed	14 th Nov	6.30pm	Council Chamber

13. ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT (PUBLIC BODIES) 1960:

Confidential Business following the exclusion of the public and press

13.1 Personnel Report

Cllr Bensley provided a short update on staff related issues.

13.2 Issues were raised about inappropriate comments on social media and how to deal with them.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Mayor.....

Swaffham Town Council - Accounts for October 2018						7.1	
No	Payment	Name	Details	Price	VAT	Total	
Paid - 1st -10th October 2018 Town Council meeting							
310	BACS	Duff Morgan	New truck deposit	£ 1,010.64	£ 202.13	£ 1,212.77	
311	BACS	Mid Norfolk Citizens Advice	Council grant of support	£ 300.00	£ -	£ 300.00	
312	d/d	WorldPay	Monthly card fees - <i>Sept 18</i>	£ 11.32	£ 2.01	£ 13.33	
313	Card	Lloyds	Monthly card fee - <i>Sept 18</i>	£ 3.00	£ -	£ 3.00	
314	d/d	Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly fees - <i>Sept 18</i>	£ 54.15	£ -	£ 54.15	
315	Card	Kedel Trade	Plastic wood for benches in play area	£ 125.96	£ 25.19	£ 151.15	
316	Card	Amazon	Market Gazebo	£ 79.16	£ 15.83	£ 94.99	
317	Card	Amazon	Office wall calendar	£ 2.00	£ 0.40	£ 2.40	
318	Card	Amazon	Photo frames	£ 13.32	£ 2.67	£ 15.99	
319	Card	Blinds UK	Lateral blinds for small office	£ 31.89	£ -	£ 31.89	
320	Card	Amazon	A3 photo frames - Twinning Charter x 3	£ 20.46	£ 4.08	£ 24.54	
321	d/d	Netmatters	Monthly Support package - <i>Oct 18</i>	£ 132.00	£ 26.40	£ 158.40	
322	d/d	SSE Southern Electric	Pubic Toilets - electricity - <i>July 18</i>	£ 186.13	£ 37.23	£ 223.36	
323	d/d	SSE Southern Electric	Pubic Toilets - electricity - <i>Sept 18</i>	£ 116.57	£ 5.82	£ 122.39	
				<i>Sub Total</i>	£ 2,086.60	£ 321.76	£ 2,408.36
To be authorised and paid - post 10th October 2018 Town Council meeting							
324	BACS	Net Salaries	Town Council	£ 17,449.41	£ -	£ 17,449.41	
325	BACS	Inland Revenue	Tax & National Insurance	£ 5,497.89	£ -	£ 5,497.89	
326	BACS	Norfolk Pension Service	Superannuation	£ 5,387.07	£ -	£ 5,387.07	
327	d/d	Breckland Council	Town Hall - Rates	£ 1,008.00	£ -	£ 1,915.00	
			Market - Rates	£ 392.00	£ -		
			Cemetery - Rates	£ 182.00	£ -		
			Public Toilet - Rates	£ 333.00	£ -		
328	d/d	Immervox (<i>Sept 2018</i>)	Small Office - User Groups Phone 336954	£ -	£ -	£ 118.17	
			Town Council - Fax & Broadband 720469	£ 38.70	£ 9.67		
			Museum - Telephone 721230	£ 17.65	£ 4.41		
			Town Council - Telephone 722922	£ 27.79	£ 6.95		
			Town Council - Alarm 724968	£ 10.40	£ 2.60		
329	226	Swaffham Town Council	Petty Cash	£ 189.56	£ -	£ 189.56	
330	BACS	A1 Motor Store	Dad's Army event - <i>banners/road signs</i>	£ 60.00	£ -	£ 60.00	
331	BACS	Anglian Chemicals	Public Toilets general supplies	£ 177.20	£ 35.44	£ 212.64	
332	BACS	Archant	Market article - <i>Theford, Brandon & Watton Times</i>	£ 50.00	£ 10.00	£ 60.00	
333	BACS	ATS Euromaster	Ride on Mower repairs	£ 13.10	£ 2.62	£ 15.72	
334	BACS	Haward Horological Ltd	Church Clock - call out	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	
335	BACS	Iceni Partnership	Poppy event - <i>swaffham newsletter advert</i>	£ 26.80	£ 5.36	£ 32.16	
336	227	John Camish	Aug Car event - <i>brochures</i>	£ 130.00	£ -	£ 130.00	
337	BACS	KLFM Radio	Market advertising	£ 352.00	£ 70.40	£ 422.40	
338	BACS	Lyreco	General Stationery	£ 83.51	£ 16.70	£ 100.21	
339	BACS	Nicola Barnes	HR Services - <i>Aug 18 & Sept 18</i>	£ 270.00	£ -	£ 270.00	
340	BACS	Plowright Place	Council grant - <i>Aug , Oct 18</i>	£ 600.00	£ -	£ 600.00	
341	BACS	SLCC	National Conference - <i>Town Clerk</i>	£ 365.00	£ 49.00	£ 414.00	
342	BACS	St Johns Ambulance	Aug Car event - <i>first aid cover</i>	£ 129.60	£ 25.92	£ 155.52	
343	BACS	Staff Expenses	ICT Training - <i>Ruth Oslter</i>	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	
344	BACS	Timescape	Dad's Army event - <i>1940's singers</i>	£ 250.00	£ -	£ 250.00	
345	BACS	Veolia	Waste Collection - <i>Sept 18</i>	£ 127.72	£ 25.54	£ 153.26	
				<i>Sub Total</i>	£ 35,555.00	£ 586.37	£ 36,141.37

Late Bills - received after agenda issued						
346	BACS	J Barnes	Allotment Dep Refund - SL36 & 37	£ 80.00	£ -	£ 80.00
347	BACS	Busy Bee	Poppy Banner	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
348	CARD	Facebook	Dads Army day FB promotion	£ 19.96	£ -	£ 19.96
349	BACS	TK Drakes	Outside light	£ 4.99	£ 1.00	£ 5.99
350	BACS	Lawn-boy	Drive belt and blades	£ 102.47	£ 20.49	£ 122.96
351	229	Ben Burgess	Strimmer clips and heads	£ 80.06	£ 16.01	£ 96.07
352	BACS	CGM	Grasss cutting - Sept 18	£ 104.00	£ 20.80	£ 124.80
353	BACS	TK Drakes	Reset fire alarm - 28/9/18	£ 37.50	£ 7.50	£ 45.00
354	228	Swaffham Service Station	Truck and equipment fuel - Sept 18	£ 182.46	£ 36.49	£ 218.95
355	BACS	Breckland	Public Lighting - 1st installment 2018/19	£ 5,287.67	£ 1,057.53	£ 6,345.20
366	BACS	Quinn Construction	Buttercross project - valuation No 3	£ 52,081.82	£ 10,416.36	£ 62,498.18
367	BACS	E-On	War Memorial electricity - Jul - Sept 18	£ 12.90	£ 0.65	£ 13.55
368	BACS	Cooleraid	Town Hall water - Sept 18	£ 19.75	£ 3.95	£ 23.70
369	BACS	EBS	Photo opy usage - Sharps - Jul-Oct 18	£ 3.99	£ 0.80	£ 4.79
370	BACS	M Dobrowoloska	Allotment Dep Refund - SL45	£ 40.00	£ -	£ 40.00
371	BACS	GB Sport and Leisure	Net swing seat	£ 623.87	£ 124.77	£ 748.64
372	BACS	TTSR	Grave digging - Sept 18	£ 720.00	£ -	£ 720.00
373	BACS	Online Playgrounds	Wetpour resin	£ 28.00	£ 5.60	£ 33.60
TOTAL				£ 93,662.57	£ 12,167.95	£ 107,299.16

Bank Transfers

Transfer	Unity Trust Bank	From deposit to current - cover pymts		£ -
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Summary of Income - September 2018 (market rents, allotment deposits, cemetery invoices, room rentals, loan payments etc)

03-Sep-18	Cash Analysis	Cash & Cheques taken over the counter		£ 263.15
05-Sep-18	Cash Analysis	Cash & Cheques taken over the counter		£ 314.00
17-Sep-18	Cash Analysis	Cash & Cheques taken over the counter		£ 7,785.69
19-Sep-18	Cash Analysis	Cash & Cheques taken over the counter		£ 739.46
26-Sep-18	Cash Analysis	Cash & Cheques taken over the counter		£ 337.10
Total BACS		Total Additional Income received by BACS - includes Precept		£ 203,098.41
TOTAL				£ 212,537.81

Items of expenditure to be reclaimed

Age Concern	Salary	£ 3,702.79	£ 10.40	£ 3,713.19
Museum	Museum - Telephone 721230	£ 17.65	£ 3.53	£ 21.18
Sues News	Electricity - Sept 18	£ 60.90	£ 12.18	£ 73.08
TOTAL		£ 3,720.44	£ 13.93	£ 3,734.37

LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE**General**

- a) Email – Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan consultation – Don Hoey feedback
- b) Email – Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan consultation – Heygates feedback
- c) Email – Buttercross monthly project meeting notes
- d) Email – Buttercross – various correspondence
- e) Email – Duff Morgan – truck purchase
- f) Email – Transport & Access group meeting notes – 24th August 2018
- g) Email – AQAP comments by Transport & Access Group
- h) Email – Citizens Advice Mid Norfolk
- i) Email – Swaffham Dad's Army Day
- j) Email – MP Enquiry – Day's Field
- k) Email – Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre
- l) Email – Town Referendum
- m) Email – NALC – monthly updates
- n) Email – Norfolk Parish Training & Support update
- o) Email – Netmatters

Breckland Council

- p) Email – Air Quality Action Plan
- q) Email – Silver Social events programme

Norfolk County Council

- r) Email – Highways re Watton Road

Police

- s) Email – SNAP meeting correspondence

Public Participation

It was asked if the Council had received any response to the meeting held on Monday evening. It was thought that too much time had been wasted on planning, and issues got side-lined too often. In reply the Mayor said that there had been no feedback so far, but it was planned to hold another meeting at a later stage.

The Heritage Group would like the Council to know they are very dismayed that they were not consulted in any way in regard to the work on the Buttercross. It is a listed building and the brick built, electrical supply box does not fit in with the area.

There has been a lot of work already done in the NP in regard to parking - is all this work now worth the effort? The members of public were informed by the Mayor that the electrical box would be discussed at a later item on the agenda. The parking trial was something that needed to be done by BDC and was also being discussed within the Transport Group of the NP.

Cllr Sherwood introduced himself as a member of public and said he thought that the meeting was well explained. He was broadly in support and thought it was a good opportunity for Swaffham to improve and move forward for the future. The project was sound but for him he would want a promise from the Council to keep Council Tax down, Swaffham had the highest tax figure in the area.

There has been a good report in the local press about the need for a swimming pool. In the past BDC have not supported the idea. Cllr Skinner gave a brief update informing the meeting that Sport England were willing to progress but only with the support from BDC. Cllr Sherwood gave an explanation on how money was generated to provide for sport & leisure and asked people to contact him if they had any specific questions they needed answering..

It was asked if there was any movement on the Green Britain Centre? It was replied that nothing could be done until the end of the lease, January 2019.

OCTOBER BDC REPORT

We are busy preparing for our Budget and it has been revealed that we have overcome the problem of having to rely on New Homes Budget and the Rate Support Grant, so our core services are in a financially safe condition.

Our Local Plan is progressing satisfactorily, and we hope it will be signed off in March 2019. Breckland's Lottery project has supported local charities to the tune of £30k and we are urged to keep supporting it. 50p out of every £1 is given to the charities.

Our Dog Warden has won a Gold Award from the RSPCA for our Stray Dog Services.

The Market Town Initiative has awarded us a grant of £19k toward the purchase of new Market Stalls which we will share with Watton.

We learnt that a group of Dutch Businessmen have visited Norwich to meet with County and District Councils and Businessmen of Norfolk looking to improve their trade with East Anglia businesses.

Swaffham Heritage Oct 2018

- Swaffham Heritage continues to attract enough visitors to be self sufficient.
- They have expressed their dismay over the brick structure so close to the Butter-Cross.
- Su is being kept extra busy as she tries to juggle her work load between school visits and the Remembrance project being prepared online.
- The Carter Room remains the biggest attraction.
- New cabinets have been ordered for next years Remembrance project.
- Monique Slaven, who recently passed away, is to have a room named after her. Monique had been a loyal volunteer for many years.

Cllr Anne Thorp

My report is in two Parts

Part 1

Anglia in Bloom Update Meeting 10th October 2018

Following my last report dated 10th July 2018 We now have the following results, I would like to report that Swaffham once again achieved a Silver Gilt Certificate along with Downham Market with Brandon achieving Best New Entry Category.

Swaffham had three awards as follows:-

Award 1) Plowright Place received a certificate to mark the occasion.....so a big 'thank you' from all of us for your enthusiasm and hard work towards this event and for making that area of Swaffham a magnificent array of colour.

Award 2 & 3) Went to Suffield Court who received a certificate plus a special award for:- The sheltered housing/Care home Garden grow your own award, which is a very coveted and prestigious wooden carved bowl. The hard work and dedication of the Suffield Court Residents is a truly inspiring vision to see.

The beginning of October these certificates were duly presented to Plowright Place and Suffield Court.

My report Part 2

I am reporting to Council, unfortunately there has been a lack of communication prior to this event and also following this event between the organisations involved.

Considering over the last 4 years we have remained static at a Silver Gilt outcome for S.I.Bloom; and with the increasing lack of enthusiasm which is evident for this event it brings me to recommend to full Council to consider withdrawing the Councils involvement in S.I.Bloom next year and for the foreseeable future.

Never the less I would like to conclude on a positive note, to add the residents who have taken part are very enthusiastic about the benefits and the enjoyment of gardening but I am sure they will continue their quest to full fill their gardening journey whatever the outcome.

What we have in place at the moment in my opinion is not working the options as I see it are.....

Do you want to continue with a more organised working arrangement with Council involvement and change the format totally.

OR

Pass it over to the Town Team who are looking at organising a more residential gardening format.

Norfolkalk Report - Cllr S Matthews.

At our Executive, the date of our AGM was given as 22nd November at County Hall at 5.30pm. Every councillor in Norfolk is eligible to attend so I will be going should anyone like to accompany me. The important part of the meeting is we can raise matters there – either a problem that could be answered by Norfolk alc or National alc and also we can put before the meeting a resolution to go forward to the National Association to be progressed to Government as long as we have a seconder of another parish council.

Attention was paid to the forthcoming election in May and we are liaising with District Councils to help promote the role of parish councillors which led to the tricky subject training. Much passion was expressed as everyone thought it was so important to promote training so that our councils could be considered as a more professionally run body, run by well-trained councillors.

The term of office for all executive members will finish at the election and it was decided that we put to the AGM the motion that we reduce the numbers of representatives from each district to 3 from the present number of 4.

The Finance Report showed an increase of members from 301 last year to 331 this year so the huge improvement in our office is showing dividends. We are back on our feet after a few troublesome years.

