

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ASSEMBLY ROOM ON MONDAY 19TH JULY 2021 COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM

Committee members present: Mr N Bennett - in the chair

Mrs S Ayres (Left the meeting at 6.35pm)
Mr T Cresswell
Mr S Hall
Mr A Osborne
Mrs J Osborne
Miss A Owen
Mr J Sayers
Mr J Thomas

Mr C Griffin – Town Clerk
Mrs J Budd – Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs J Fisher – Tree Warden

1. **Substitutes and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs S Ayres, who had to leave immediately after the presentation to Mrs Fisher. Mrs Osborne was substitute for Mrs Ayres.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Mr T Cresswell, Mr A Osborne, Mrs J Osborne and Miss A Owen declared that they were Babergh District Councillors.

3. **Declarations of gifts and hospitality**

There were no declarations of gifts or hospitality.

4. **Requests for dispensation**

No requests for dispensation had been received.

The Mayor attended the meeting to present Mrs Jill Fisher with some flowers. Mrs Fisher has been the Council's Tree Warden for many years but was now retiring from this role. Members thanked Mrs Fisher for her dedication and commitment to this role.

5. **Minutes**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 7th and 21st June be approved. These had been adopted at the July meeting of the full council.

6. **Tree Warden**

Mrs Fisher, a Tree Warden for Sudbury Town Council attended the meeting to inform members of her reasons for retiring from this role. A copy of Mrs Fisher’s report is shown at minute page 487.

RESOLVED

That the Arboriculturist for Babergh District Council, Mr D Pizzey, be invited to attend a meeting of the Planning committee to explain how decisions were made relating to trees and who could enforce any requirements.

That District Councillor Mrs E Malvisi, the Cabinet Member for the Environment, also be invited to attend.

That Mrs Fisher be thanked for all that she has completed during her time as a tree warden.

7 **Annual forecast of revenue and capital receipts.**

The Planning Committee were requested to discuss their annual forecast of revenue and capital receipts in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.1.

RESOLVED

That this committee did not expect to have revenue or capital receipts, but that it be noted that this had been reviewed as required in the Financial Regulations.

8. **Planning applications**

DC/21/02081 **Proposal:** Householder planning application – Creation of a dropped kerb.
Location: 65 Cats Lane, Sudbury. CO10 2SQ.

RECOMMENDED – APPROVE.

DC/21/03692 **Proposal:** Application for consent to display an advertisement(s): Installation of 4no. new digital freestanding signs and 1no 15” digital booth screen.

Location: McDonald’s Restaurant, Northern Road, Chilton Industrial Estate, Sudbury. CO10 2YH.

RECOMMENDED – APPROVE.

DC/21/03907 **Proposal:** Full Planning Application – Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Location: Units 4 & 5 Ballingdon Hill Industrial Estate, Sudbury. CO10 2DU.

RECOMMENDED – APPROVE.

DC/21/03920 **Proposal:** Application for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (BT363) – Fell 1no Walnut. Reduce the crown of a Horse Chestnut by 3 metres (30%).

Location: 133 Clermont Avenue, Sudbury. CO10 1ZN

RECOMMENDED – REFUSE – Strongly refuse the felling of a healthy Walnut Tree. APPROVE the reduction of 30% to the Horse Chestnut.

DC/21/03930 **Proposal:** Householder Planning Application – Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

Location: 36 York Road, Sudbury. CO10 1NF

RECOMMENDED – APPROVE.

9. **Accident ‘black spot’ York Road**

Councillor Bennett had received the following email:

You are no doubt aware of the difficulty turning into York Road from the west side of Queens Rd. Personally I know of three accidents in the last year at this junction. Fortunately there have not been, as far as I am aware, any injuries although the latest accident on the 28th June resulted in the airbags activated in one vehicle and extensive damage to both. Ideally I feel that vehicles should not park on the left side heading up York Rd. but realise this is probably going to difficult to implement with resistance from residents. Although vehicles do on occasion park on the double yellow lines this is not really the issue as it very difficult to exit the junction safely even with no vehicles illegally parked.

I believe the problem could be alleviated to a large extent by placing a traffic safety mirror on the telegraph pole on the corner of York Rd and the east side of Queens Rd giving visual access to vehicles coming down York Rd. This coupled with a solid white line at the junction and prominent ‘Give Way’ signage would be a low cost and effective improvement to the safety at this junction.

I would be grateful if you could consider this proposal and pass it on to the relevant authority (not sure whether this is Suffolk Highways or local council)

RESOLVED

That this issue be reported to Suffolk County Council as well as asking the two County Councillors to follow it up.

That this matter be placed onto the highways list.

10. **Highway List**

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that there was nothing to report on the highway list.

Councillor Hall advised members that he had received an email from the Town Clerk at Halstead Town Council regarding signage. Highways England had confirmed that they would remove ‘Sudbury’ from the signage on the A12 Borehamgate Interchange sign. This will mean all traffic will be directed on to Colchester and enter Sudbury via the A134 to the Industrial Estate rather than going through Halstead and down Ballingdon Hill into Sudbury. No updates had been received

regarding the redirection of the strategic lorry route, however it was understood that Suffolk County Council are to contact all local councils imminently regarding consultation on this.

RESOLVED

That the problem of large vehicles using East Street be placed on the highways list. It may be possible to put a weight restriction on this road that excludes buses.

That Councillor Hall be thanked for his report and keeping members updated on the progress.

The meeting closed at 7.23 pm

Signed
Chairman

First apologies that my retirement went into the press before this meeting as it was today the 19th that is my last day.

Thank you to Councillors past and present for allowing me to have a voice in protecting Sudbury's trees.

Thank you to Jodie for her patience with my many phone calls of late, plus printing the photos and interpreting my shaky handwriting.

Then to John Sayers help with his knowledge of how long some trees had been there, pre new estates.

Now if I may give some of the reasons for my decision.

This is mainly because it was giving me sleepless nights, with the un-fairness of some decisions by Babergh District Council, which seemed to be favourable to those with the most push, although laws are in place to prevent this.

Going back in time I asked David Pizzey if we could put TPO's on Trees at Walnuttree Hospital but was assured that they would be covered by being in a Conservation Area. That was BEFORE they started building. But one by one they all disappeared including the lovely 'Honey Locust Tree' and the 'Larch Tree' by the mortuary as it was in the way of a parking space!

Alan Phillips Way – Recently in that same area, after Sudbury Town Council objected to reduction of Trees facing the water meadows and I believe Babergh did as well. Later I noticed that branches had been cut off to the trunk, I took photos which Jodie put through to David Pizzey on my behalf, I then phoned him to ask did he know about this, and he told me that one of the requesting residents had phoned him and asked permission which he had granted as he said 'it wasn't much'. I asked were the trees diseased, as if they weren't diseased, this is surely setting a precedent to the rest of the row, what if they phone for permission?

With regards to the Pine Trees at Elizabeth Way which Sudbury Town Council objected to, I phoned D. Pizzey about this and was told that they had been sent new supporting evidence about this so they would probably get permission to fell. I asked on what grounds as nothing has changed from the last two or three refusals. I was told that the trees were fifty years old, (does that mean that if an oak is a hundred years old that we no longer venerate a tree for its age, but chop it down?) Also the tree was too big for a small garden, same tree same garden as last 50 years, there when they purchased the houses with TPO trees in situ.

The most recent upset for me was the chopping (no chain sawing) again of the Norway maple/acer on the footpath between the allotments and the Armes Wood/Eden Rose site. 2 yrs ago when this first happened I enquired at Sudbury Town Council to see if it was something that you were responsible for. After subsequent phone calls I was told that someone had asked for permission, so it remained a mystery until this time when Jodie was able to tell me that the previous Town Clerk had given permission. Does this mean that he can now cut the tree root whenever he please and the hedge as this has happened recently? I was told by a third party that this revealed two active birds nest. Reason was couldn't get logs along the footpath.

Also on this site are TPO trees which I asked twice that they could be identified to me when the Eden Rose took over. This did not happen as they have cut 70 trees on site. I asked David Pizzey if he would check that they were still standing. He did not visit but phoned them and was told they had only cut trees in single figures, so there it rests.

They identify themselves as a nature haven?

A beautiful tree in Kings Street said to be damaging a wall, not a house just adjoining out piece of wall was not touching the wall, and could have been saved by just using reinforcing iron to the wall or cutting off the nearest branch, but it was felled to the ground.

I could go on quoting trees that have been reduced to a skeleton or felled where the circumstances don't match the application.

A last thought as I think I might be limited to time, that people recently have been applying for work to trees that are not their land but on estate land eg. St Leonards, Salters Hall Mews. TPO trees and seem to get permission on the basis that it is not much? But still not theirs.

Councillor Murphy asked me to accompany her to Belle Vue park with the aim of getting TPO's put on those special trees. I have tried a number of times to speak to David Pizzey and left requests that he would phone me this is some weeks now and it was something I wanted to be a part of before I give up (however I believe Councillor Sayers did speak to him Thursday).

I have achieved one thing, to save 32 larch trees/Lombardy Poplars/and mixed trees in a block on the School Playing field, served TPO's.

Planted 14 trees in the Acton Lane area. 5 of which have been cut down with BDC grass cutting.

Also in this area, I have discovered who cuts the hedge. This is an ancient hedgerow protected by law, Babergh have agreed on a management plan which they will do themselves (not outside contractors) and have promised that they would let me have a copy which I will pass onto you.

My one wish would be that Sudbury Town Council could take the case of the Armes site logging business to task that they could do no more environmental damage. There is much more but I think time must be up.

On that boastful note I think my time will be up. So thankyou once again. I won't know what to do with myself now when I hear the chain saw going. I do feel sad to be going.