

MINUTES of the SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2024 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Peter Harman – Town Mayor
Councillor Ann Duke – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Anita Barham
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Richard Lees
Councillor Hazel Stephens

ALSO PRESENT:

Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)
x5 Members of the public

ABSENT:

Councillor Alan Reach

454/23-24. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.

The Town Mayor explained the arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting.

455/23-24. PASSING OF MR TOM MADDISON.

The Town Mayor informed the meeting of the recent passing of long serving Dartford Borough and Kent County Councillor, Mr Tom Maddison.

As a mark of respect, the meeting stood for a minutes silence.

456/23-34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Peter Harris, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lesley Howes, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dawn Johnston, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Claire Pearce, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Elizabeth Wickham, due to other commitments.

RESOLVED:

That the reason/s for absence, for the above Town Councillors, be formally accepted and approved.

457/23-24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

As per Standing Order 34 c) the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point to allow members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business being transacted at the meeting.

458/23-24. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON 15 FEBRUARY 2024

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 15 February 2024 be confirmed as a true record and be signed.

459/23-24. PAVILION PROJECT.

Members considered the update report on the pavilion project.

After lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed that a Working Group be formed with the following Terms of reference:

The membership of the Working Group would be made up of the following:

1. Councillor Anita Barham
 2. Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
 3. Councillor Lorna Cross
 4. Councillor Ann Duke
 5. Councillor Peter Harman
- That the Working Group formulates costed ideas for the building, including the option of a phased build approach, for consideration by full Council.
 - That the Working Group gives the opportunity to members of the community, that had expressed interest in offering support to rejuvenate the building, to put forward ideas/suggestions.

Further to the first meeting the Working Group, invitations would be extended to the Leader of Dartford Borough Council and to Mr Gareth Johnson MP to discuss any support they could offer for progressing the project.

Members then discussed the financial implications of the existing building and after being proposed, duly seconded it was unanimously agreed that the steel sheeting in place securing the site (currently on hire) be purchased, as detailed in the report, with this expenditure being taken from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds previously allocated to this project.

RESOLVED:

1. That the outcome of the appeal meeting from YIF be noted.
2. That the work undertaken on securing other funding sources and the current position of borrowing from the PWLB be noted.
3. That the work undertaken as part of the initial feasibility works regarding the Town Councils short-term strategy be noted.
4. That the work undertaken as part of the initial feasibility works regarding the Town Councils long-term strategy be noted.
5. That the current financial implications of the building to the Town Council be noted, and that the steel sheeting, currently on hire, be purchased from the contractor.
6. That a Working Group be created to formulate options for the building, with terms of reference and membership as detailed.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)