

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2024 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Peter Harman – Town Mayor
Councillor Ann Duke – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Peter Harris
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Dawn Johnston
Councillor Richard Lees
Councillor Hazel Stephens
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

ALSO PRESENT:

Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/RFO
Rev. Charlie Lloyd-Evans
x1 Member of the public

ABSENT:

Councillor Anita Barham

489/23-24. 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.

490/23-24. REVD. CHARLIE LLOYD-EVANS, PRIEST IN CHARGE AT ST MARY GREENHITHE & ST PETER AND ST PAUL SWANSCOMBE.

The Town Mayor welcomed Revd. Charlie Lloyd-Evans to the meeting, Revd. Lloyd-Evans thanked the Town Council for the invitation and led the Council in prayer.

491/23-24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Alan Reach, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Greenhithe Dartford Borough Councillor David Mote, due to other commitments.

RESOLVED:

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

492/23-24. 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.

493/23-24. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON 8 FEBRUARY 2024 AND THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ON 15 FEBRUARY 2024 AND 14 MARCH 2024.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting on 8 February 2024 and the Special Town Council Meetings held on 15 February 2024 and 14 March 2024 be confirmed as a true record and be signed.

494/23-24. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE TOWN MAYOR / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

The Town Clerk informed members that he had met with Citizens Advice, North & West Kent, regarding the installation of a video kiosk at the Old Fire Station Community Café. Following the site visit this had been agreed and would be installed in the confidential room.

495/23-24. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY, 28 FEBRUARY 2024 AND 20 MARCH 2024.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation and Environment Committee Meetings held on 7 February, 28 February and 20 March 2024 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

496/23-24. MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2024

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 21 March 2024 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

497/23-24. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2024

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 7 March 2024 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

498/23-24. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2024

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting held on 21 February 2024 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

499/23-24. YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE.

Further to minutes 123/23-24, 226/23-24 and 318/23-24 and as required by the contract members considered the final update report from CAS Training which also considered a request for funding for Youth Provision from May to December 2024.

Members discussed the merits of the service provided by CAS Training along with the financial implications to the Town Council. It was agreed that:

RESOLVED:

1. That the final updated report for the 2023 – 2024 year be noted.
2. That the Town Council contribute £5,000 towards the continued funding of the Homework Heroes youth provision between May and December 2024.

500/23-24. TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.

In response to a letter sent via the Community Safety Committee (minute 431/23-24) Members had been provided with the responses received from Kent County Council (Kent Highways), Kent Police, National Highways and Gareth Johnson MP.

After lengthy discussion members were unanimous in feeling that the main questions raised by the original letter sent by Town Council had not been addressed within any of the responses.

Members agreed for officers to contact each of the stakeholders (Kent Police, Kent Highways Service, National Highways and the MP) to ascertain their willingness to attend a future one item agenda meeting of the Town Council to discuss the points raised by the Town Council and a strategy for resolving the issues raised.

It was agreed that any request would include contact with Dartford Borough Council Parking Enforcement Team to address concerns with Swanscombe High Street during periods of congestion.

RESOLVED:

That officers contact the stakeholders detailed to ascertain their willingness to attend a future one item agenda meeting of the Town Council to discuss the points raised by the Town Council and a strategy for resolving the issues raised.

501/23-24. **PAVILION WORKING GROUP.**

Further to minute 459/23-24 the Working had met on 21 March 2024 and members had been provided with a copy of the notes from this meeting which included a recommendation that any building on the site (newly constructed or existing refurbished) be managed and operated by the Town Council directly.

Members were provided with a verbal update on the meeting of the Working Group from Tuesday 16 August 2024, which had been attended by Cllr Jeremy Kite, Leader of Dartford Borough Council.

Members were also updated on the outline proposal for the bid to the Community Ownership Fund and details of the draft Business Case included in the bid.

RESOLVED:

1. That the update be noted.
2. That any building on the site (newly constructed or existing refurbished) be managed and operated by the Town Council directly.

502/23-24. **D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY.**

Members had been informed that the purchase of "The D-Day 80 Lamp Light of Peace" had been made and that this could be used on the 80th Anniversary Day and for future Remembrance Days.

RESOLVED:

That item be noted.

503/23-24. REQUESTS TO USE TOWN COUNCIL PARKS.

The Salvation Army had submitted requests to use the following parks for pop-up youth events during the summer. Completed Event Notification Forms and a copy of Public Liability Insurance had been provided. The Salvation Army had held similar events in recent years with no issues.

Swanscombe Park – 31 July 2024 from 6 to 9pm
Heritage Park – 7 August 2024 from 6 – 9pm

RESOLVED:

That the requests be granted.

504/23-24. INGRESS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE – UPDATE.

Further to the previous update, minute 478/23-24, officers detailed the site visit that had taken place earlier in the day.

Members were updated that progress was being made on the snagging issues within the building and the planning application for the adjacent car park was still pending with Ebbsfleet Development Corporation.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

505/23-24. EXPENDITURE OVER £5,000.00.

The Town Clerk detailed the expenditure previously incurred for the higher of the anticlimbing fixtures and fittings and shutters at The Pavilion. This had formed part of the Receipt and Payments considered by the FGP on 14 September 2023.

Unfortunately, whilst this had been undertaken in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee it had been omitted to have been reported to full Council as per Financial Regulation 4 (4.1 and 4.5) which is why it had been placed on the agenda for this meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the expenditure for the hire of the anticlimbing fixtures and fittings and shutters at The Pavilion be endorsed.

506/23-24. **STAFF / MEMBER TRAINING – UPDATE.**

The following training has been scheduled / undertaken: -

x2 Groundsman / Gardeners	LANTRA - Basic Tree Survey and Inspection.	Kingswood Training - Sevenoaks
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RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

507/23-24. **REPORTS OF OUTSIDE REPRESENTATIVES.**

Members were advised that this item provided an opportunity for Members appointed as representatives on outside bodies to provide a report at the meeting.

London Resort Company Holdings Ltd Community Liaison Group (LRCHCLG).
Councillor Peter Harman is the Town Councils representative on the LRCHCLG. Councillor Harman had submitted his apologies for absence, and no update had been provided.

NB. In response to an enquiry, LRCHCLG have confirmed that they are happy to accept a substitute representative, if the current cannot attend, but this must be done in advance, with the substitute members contact details being provided.

Ingress Park (Greenhithe) Management Limited (IPGM).
Councillors' Peter Harman and Peter Harris are the Council's representatives on IPGM. IPGM had indicated that, although unable to provide documentation, they would like to submit verbal updates to the Town Council.

Councillor Peter Harris requested that this update be deferred for discussion as a confidential item at the end of the meeting.

Dartford Young People's Partnership Conversation (DYPPC)
Councillor Lesley Howes is the Town Councils representative on the DYPPC. The Dartford Annual Event was scheduled to take place on 20 February 2024.

Dartford Children's Partnership Conversation (DCPC)
Councillor Emma Ben-Moussa is the Town Councils representative on the DCPC. As previously agreed, the minutes and action log from the meeting on the 30 January 2024 were available for inspection.

Bluewater Forum (BF)
The Town Mayor is the Town Councils representative on the BF. The last meeting had been held on 28 March 2024 with the main focus being cyber security.

Whitecliffe Community Liaison Group (WCLG).

Councillor Peter Harman is the Town Councils representative on the WCLG. As previously agreed, the agenda and minutes from the 20 Marh 2024 meeting were available for inspection.

508/23-24. REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

Kent County Councillor Mr Peter M Harman gave an update which included:

The budget meeting had taken place, with the budget being agreed, on the 20 February 2024.

Some issues had been faced with SEN Transport routes running through Swanscombe to Longfield Academy.

The closing of the Gravesend to Tilbury Ferry had been confirmed due to budget restraints.

Work was being undertaken on potholes throughout the area.

Survey work had begun on the cliff face at Galley Hill.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

509/023-24. REPORT FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

The Dartford Borough Councillors updated members which included:

A General Assembly of the Council had been scheduled for Monday 22 April 2024 to discuss the adoption of the Local Plan.

Some land had been acquired within Dartford Town Centre for further social housing construction, whilst work was progressing on the site at Gilbert Close, Swanscombe.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

510/23-24. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.

There were none.

511/23-24. TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Town Mayor advised the meeting that the Civic Night was be being held this Saturday, 20 April 2024, at the Swanscombe Centre.

512/23-24. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor Lorna Cross and seconded by Councillor Dawn Johnston.

RESOLVED:

That, pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following item(s).

No members of the press or public were present during discussion of the following items of business.

513/23-24. INGRESS PARK (GREENHITHE) MANAGEMENT LIMITED (IPGM) - UPDATE

Members were provided with a confidential update from Cllr Peter Harris.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed: _____

(Chairman)

Date: _____