

TOWN COUNCIL
7 OCTOBER 2021

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2021 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Lesley Howes – Town Mayor
Councillor Lorna Cross – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Anita Barham
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
Councillor Sue Butterfill
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Linda Hall
Councillor Dr Jo Harman
Councillor Peter Harman
Councillor Peter Harris
Councillor John Hayes

ALSO PRESENT:

Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/RFO
Councillor David Mote – Dartford Borough Council, Greenhithe.

ABSENT:

There were none

206/21-22. 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.

207/21-22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Councillor Jay Shah had previously received dispensation from attending meetings for a six-month period commencing 24 June 2021 (minute 48/21-22).

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Maurice Weet, due to health reasons.

RESOLVED:

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

208/21-22. 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.

- 209/21-22. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2021 AND THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2021.**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 20 July 2021 and the Town Council meeting held on 24 June 2021 be confirmed as a true record and be signed.

- 210/21-22. **ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

The Town Clerk advised members that Councillor Maurice Weet had submitted a request for six months dispensation from attending meetings due to health reasons and this would be part of the 9 December 2021 agenda.

- 211/21-22. **MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 30 JUNE 2021 AND 15 SEPTEMBER 2021.**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation & Environment Committee Meetings held on 30 June 2021 and 15 September 2021 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

- 212/21-22. **MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 20 JULY 2021 AND 23 SEPTEMBER 2021.**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee Meetings held on 20 July 2021 and 23 September 2021 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

- 213/21-22. **MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 8 JULY 2021 AND 9 SEPTEMBER 2021.**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meetings held on 8 July 2021 and 9 September 2021 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

214/21-22. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting held on 14 July 2021 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

215/21-22. MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 AUGUST 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2021 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

216/21-22. MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION & QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 14 JULY 2021 AND 13 SEPTEMBER 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Regeneration and Quality Committee Meetings held on 14 July 2021 and 13 September 2021 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

217/21-22. EVENT NOTIFICATION FORM.

The Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee, 19 September 2019, finalised the Event Notification Form for submission to full Council for endorsement.

RESOLVED:

That the Event Notification Form be endorsed.

218/21-22. COMMUNITY EVENT WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP.

Councillor Anita Barham had indicated that she would like to step down from her membership from the Community Event Working Group.

Members were asked to select another person to fill the vacancy on this Working Group.

Upon being proposed, duly seconded it was agreed:

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ann Duke be selected to fill the vacancy on the Community Event Working Group.

219/21-22. EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2020 – 2021.

Members considered the external auditors annual report and certificate 2020 – 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the external auditors report and certificate 2020 - 2021 be noted, as required by statute.

220/21-22. INSURANCE CLAIM/S – UPDATE.

The following claim/s had now been settled: -

- a) Claim Ref: 27210000360 – parks power tools/equipment stolen in break-in, this claim incurred a £100.00 excess.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

221/21-22. YOUTH SERVICES – CAS TRAINING REQUEST.

Further to minute 415/19-20 (Town Council 9 January 2020), where the Town Council agreed the expenditure to recommission CAS Training for youth provision, members were asked to consider the report which sought approval to use the funding awarded for the Minecraft, Coding and Magna Club (MCM) for an alternative youth provision, the new Homework Heroes Club, instead. The previously agreed MCM Club had not able to operate due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The allocated funds of £6,000 had then carried forward into the 2021 – 2022 financial year under Cost Centre 245 – Miscellaneous Expenditure.

RESOLVED:

That the change of youth provision, as detailed by CAS Training in the report, be agreed and commissioned.

222/21-22. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL), REVIEW OF 5 YEAR PLAN.

Further to minute 170/21-22, members were asked to consider whether to endorse the reviewed 5-year plan for the Town Councils CiL expenditure as per the recommendation by the Regeneration & Quality Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the reviewed 5 – year plan for the Town Councils CiL expenditure be endorsed.

223/22-22. SUGGESTIONS FOR 2022 - 2023 ESTIMATES.

Members had been asked to provide any suggestions for projects/items to be considered for the 2022 - 2023 Estimates. These were required to be submitted, prior to the agreed 24 November 2021 deadline, to enable them to be included in the Draft Estimate 2022 – 2023 for consideration at the Full Council meeting on 9 December 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

224/21-22 STAFF / MEMBER TRAINING – UPDATE

The following training had been scheduled / undertaken: -

Councillor Lesley Howes	Public Speaking Skills for Councillors – KALC - Zoom	29 September 2021
Councillor Lesley Howes	Annual Finance Conference – KALC – Zoom	20 October 2021
Councillor Ann Duke Councillor Linda Hall Councillor Peter Harman Councillor Peter Harris Councillor John Hayes Councillor Lesley Howes	Making Planning Responses – In-house	15 September 2021
Town Clerk	Clerks Conference–KALC (Zoom).	28 September 2021
ATC / RFO	Clerks Conference–KALC (Zoom).	28 September 2021

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

225/21-22. **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. As previously agreed, the Minutes from the 9 March and 24 June 2021 meetings were available for inspection.

The LRCHCL had confirmed that a substitute could attend meetings but that this must be done in advance with the substitutes contact details being provided.

Councillor Peter Harman advised that there was not much to report and that the next meeting was scheduled for 14 October 2021 at 7.00pm.

North West Kent Volunteer Centre (NWKVC).

Councillor Sue Butterfill is the Town Councils representatives on the NWKVC

Councillor Sue Butterfill advised that the move to new premises had taken place but due to Covid there had not been any face-to-face meetings. Attracting Volunteers was proving to be challenging but they were working closely with Age UK who shared the facilities with them.

Ingress Park (Greenhithe) Management Limited (IPGM).

IPGM had indicated that, although unable to provide documentation, they would like to submit verbal updates to the Town Council.

Councillors' Peter Harman and Peter Harris are the Council's representatives on IPGM.

Councillor Peter Harris gave an update which included:

The AGM had been held at the RBL Greenhithe on 14 September 2021 and had been attended by approximately 30 people. Two new resident Directors had been appointed. Unfortunately, no-one from Crest had attended the meeting or submitted any apologies.

The company tasked with restoring the Follies (there were approximately 20 of which 5 had been destroyed by the Development) had produced a report and six were due to be repaired at a cost of between £50,000 and £100,000.

The Flood Defences had been looked at to see if they were structurally sound and if not then it may be possible to extend the current 3-foot wall. The Environmental Agency had advised that all the flood defences should be raised sometime in the future.

The next meeting was scheduled for 16 November 2021.

Dartford Children's Partnership Conversation (DCPC).

Councillor Peter Harman is the Town Councils representatives on the DCPC. As previously agreed, the agenda for the 21 September 2021 meeting, including the minutes from the 22 June 2021 meeting, were available for inspection.

Councillor Peter Harman advised that the last meeting had been held via Teams and had lasted over an hour and a half.

Dartford Young Peoples Partnership Conversation (DYPPC).

Councillor Lesley Howes is the Town Councils representatives on the YPPC. As previously agreed, the agenda and minutes for the 8 September 2021 meeting, including the minutes from the 9 June 2021 meeting were available for inspection.

Councillor Lesley Howes advised that the meeting had been held via Teams with a report on the impact on lifelong learning with the groups involved mainly considering secondary school ages and the transition to move onto further education.

Whitecliffe Community Liaison Group (WCLG).

Councillor Peter Harman is the Town Councils representatives on the WCLG. As previously agreed, the minutes from the 13 July and 14 September 2021 meetings were available for inspection.

Councillor Peter Harman advised that the last meeting had discussed the disruption to the area from the works on the A2.

Unfortunately, the new defibrillator for the Castle Hill Community Centre was unable to be attached to the outside of the building so it was hoped to install a stand for it to go on.

Groups of ducks moving around the site were causing issues with fouling etc.

Members were informed that a consultation was taking place regarding the Alkerden Hub.

226/21-22 **REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR.**

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

That he had attended a Homes to School Transport Appeal.

He was working well with the x4 Green Party members.

The next meeting was scheduled for 4 December 2021 and the next Kent Fire and Rescue Service meeting was scheduled for 14 October 2021.

There had been an issue with a leak at Greenhithe High Street where Thames Water had fenced off the road and the pavement. Their request for an extension to the time allowed to carry out the repair had been refused resulting in them finishing the works early.

Re-surfacing were scheduled to take place at Stonely Crescent beginning next week.

227/21-22 REPORT FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

The Dartford Borough Councillors reported on the following matters:

Swanscombe had a new litter picker who was settling in very well and had received lots of compliments on his work.

The Environmental Enforcement team had been on walkarounds in Swanscombe resulting in them issuing fines for littering and items of furniture dumped outside flats etc.

The Tenant and Leaseholders meeting had been held recently.

The General Assembly of Council scheduled for 18 October 2021 had been cancelled due to a lack of business.

The CCTV placed around schools had resulted in 70 incidents of anti-social parking with fines being issued. The money received from this project would be ring fenced and used for similar schemes at other schools in the borough.

Urbaser had been training drivers for the refuse collection vehicles.

A newsletter for the Dartford Community Safety Partnership Performance Update had been produced and once all permissions had been obtained this would be distributed and publicly available.

A set of protocols had been agreed at Cabinet for "naming and shaming" those guilty of anti-social behaviour.

The regeneration of Dartford Town was progressing.

The Christmas Light turning on event would move from One Bell Corner to the newly refurbished area outside the Library/Museum this year.

Santa would be touring the borough again this year, and this would include Swanscombe and Greenhithe.

Whilst slightly delayed the new housing projects at Mead Crescent, Milton Road, Keary Road and Gilbert Close were proceeding and were hoped to be completed in November.

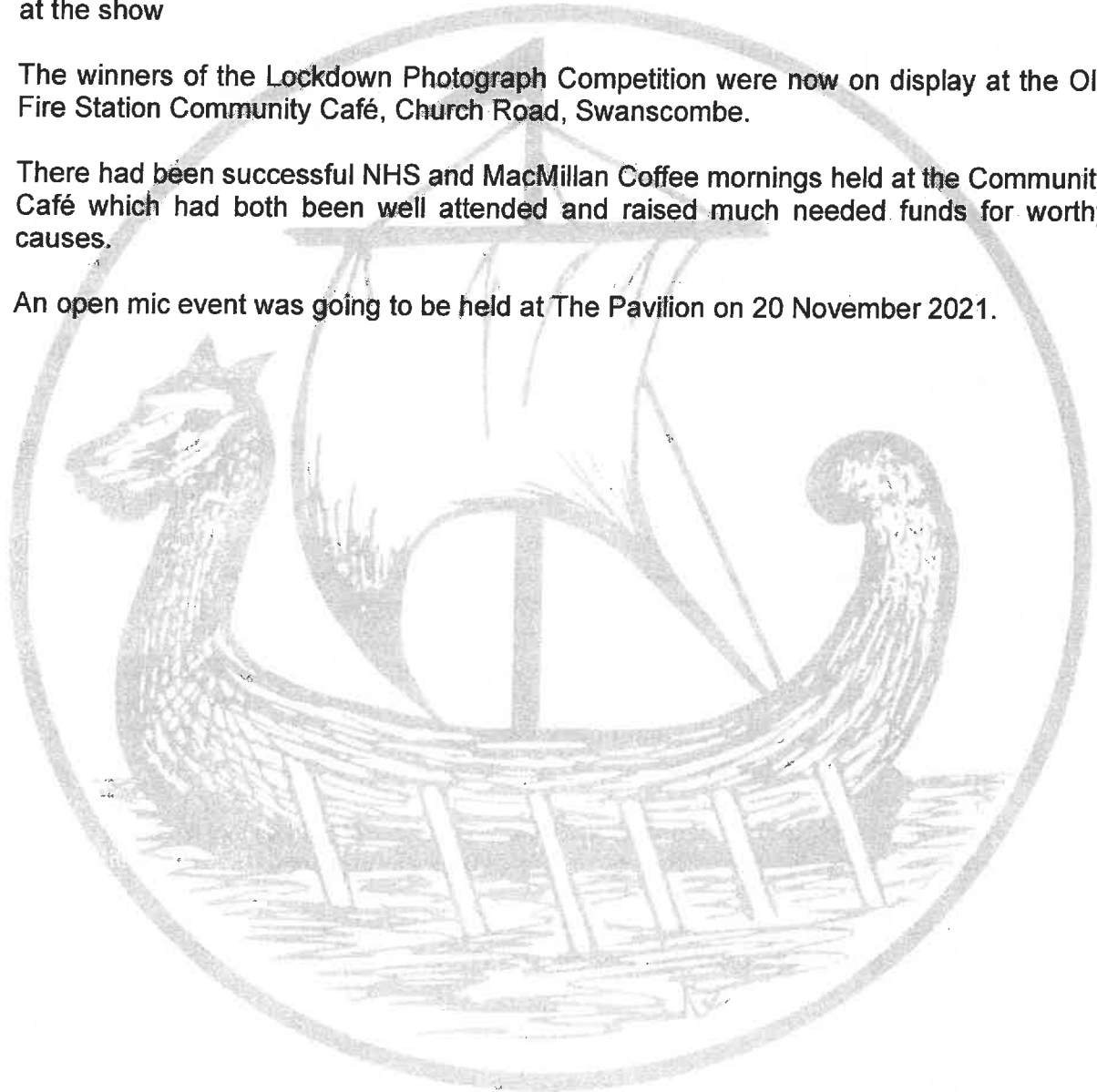
228/21-22. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Flower & Produce Show had taken place at the Heritage Community Hall on 25 September 2021 and was well attended with everyone enjoying the event. The winners of the Colourful Swanscombe and Greenhithe Competition had been awarded their prizes at the show

The winners of the Lockdown Photograph Competition were now on display at the Old Fire Station Community Café, Church Road, Swanscombe.

There had been successful NHS and MacMillan Coffee mornings held at the Community Café which had both been well attended and raised much needed funds for worthy causes.

An open mic event was going to be held at The Pavilion on 20 November 2021.



229/21-22. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor Peter Harman and seconded by Councillor Peter Harris.

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.

230/21-22. PAVILION WORKING GROUP.

Members discussed the contents of the confidential notes from the 13 September 2021 meeting of the Working Group.

Members thanked the ATC/RFO for the work he had undertaken thus far on this important project.

Members of the Working Group informed the meeting that they were pleased that this was now able to be presented to full Council to look at and that all members now had the opportunity to submit their comments, views, and suggestions.

During the discussion of this item, it was agreed that, to ensure the Consultations reached as many residents as was reasonably possible they should include the x2 Swanscombe Senior Lunch Clubs, the x2 Community Cafés at St Marys Church and Church Road and the Swanscombe Food Cellar.

It was also agreed that a standing item should be included on future Town Council agendas so that all members were aware of how the project was proceeding.

For clarity the x4 recommendations contained in the Working Group report were detailed individually and it was unanimously agreed:

RESOLVED:

That the x4 recommendations contained within the Working Group notes from 13 September 2021 be agreed and endorsed.

231/21-22. **INGRESS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE - UPDATE.**

Members were provided with an email update from Crest Nicholson, dated 29 September 2021.

RESOLVED:

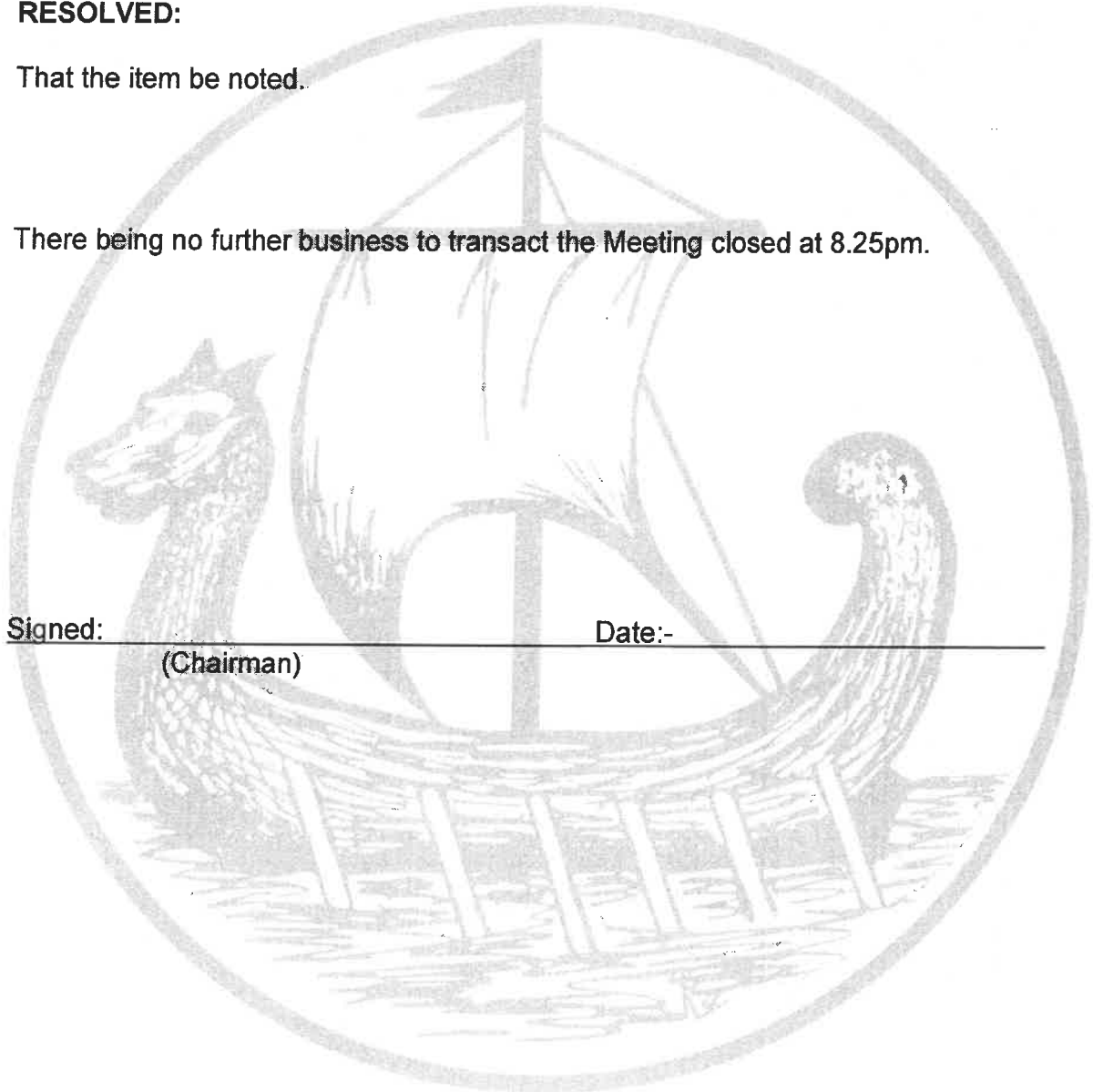
That the item be noted.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date:-



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