

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2022 at 7.00 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor Lesley Howes – Town Mayor  
Councillor Lorna Cross – Deputy Town Mayor  
Councillor Emma Ben-Moussa  
Councillor Ann Duke  
Councillor Peter Harman  
Councillor Peter Harris

**ALSO PRESENT:** Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/ RFO  
X 3 members of the public

**ABSENT:** There were none

**502/21-22. 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.

**503/21-22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Anita Barham, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sue Butterfill, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Linda Hall, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Hayes, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dr Jo Harman, due to other commitments.

Councillor Jay Shah had previously received dispensation from attending meetings for a six-month period commencing 9 December 2021 (minute 315/21-22).

Councillor Maurice Weet had previously received dispensation from attending meetings for a six-month period commencing 28 October 2021 (minute 251/21-22).

An apology for absence was received from Dartford Borough Councillor David Mote.

An apology for absence was received from the Town Clerk, due to medical reasons.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**504/21-22. 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.*

**505/21-22. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2022 AND THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2022.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 10 February 2022 and the Special Town Council Meeting held on 17 February 2022 be confirmed as a true record and be signed.

**506/21-22. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

**507/21-22. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2022 AND 23 MARCH 2022.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation & Environment Committee Meetings held on 23 February 2022 and 23 March 2022 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

**508/21-22. MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2022.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2022 confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

**509/21-22. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2022.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 3 March 2022 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

**510/21-22. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2022 AND 6 APRIL 2022.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2022 and 6 April 2022 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

**511/21-22. DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC) – POLLING DISTRICT & POLLING PLACE REVIEW 2022.**

DBC were conducting a review on the Polling Districts & Polling Places and have identified some changes details of which can be found on the following website: -

<https://www.dartford.gov.uk/elections/review-polling-districts-polling-stations-2022/1b>

DBC had written to the Town Council to see if they have any comments and the deadline for responses was 30 May 2022.

**RESOLVED:**

That no response be sent for the DBC – Polling District & Polling Place Review 2022

**512/21-22. TREE GIVEAWAY – EBBSFLEET DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (EDC)**

The EDC contacted the Town Council to ask if it would like any native trees they had left over from their “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee” events.

The Town Council had received x1 Silver Birch (planted in Broomfield/Neptune Park), x3 Mountain Ash, x3 Field Maple and x3 Hawthorn (planted in Swanscombe and Broomfield Parks)

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be noted.

513/21-22. **SWANSCOMBE HEALTH CENTRE.**

Residents had contacted Members with complaints about the system used, and time taken in attempts, to book appointments.

Two representatives from the Swanscombe Health Centre were in attendance and fielded questions from members on the issues of:

Telephone wait times – Enhancements were expected to the system to bring all of the surgeries into a single system.

Alternatives to phone waits – The options for email correspondence and e-consultations were available but that the challenge was ensuring they were used.

Expansion of the service – The practice had aspired to open more facilities in both Castle Hill and space with the old White Horse Surgery in Northfleet. These had been delayed by lack of available land/space, IT issues at Northfleet and engagement with the CCG.

Community Engagement – The practice continues to support the Senior Lunch Club with equipment and a chef, whilst running groups to focus on carers and veterans. The staff hoped to work collaborative with community representatives such as Councillors to further to message of what was being done.

Signposting – The practice continued to work to signpost patients to all forms of medical support including local pharmacies and the minor injuries centre in Gravesend.

**RESOLVED:**

That the representatives from Swanscombe Health Centre be thanked for attending and providing an update on how the practice was operating.

514/21-22. **YOUTH SERVICES - CAS TRAINING REQUEST.**

Further to minute 415/19-20 (Town Council 9 January 2020) and 221/21-22 (Town Council 21 October 2021), where the Town Council agreed the expenditure to recommission CAS Training for youth provision, members are asked to consider the attached report.

An allocated fund of £4,000 was put in place for the 2022 – 2023 financial year under Cost Centre 245 – Miscellaneous Expenditure.

Members discussed the importance of this service and that it was critical to ensure it had the maximum number of sessions available to the community. Members agreed to fund the amount of £7,000 towards the service with the additional £3,000 coming from Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL). Cllr Peter Harman agreed to offer CAS the remaining £1,391 from his Members Grant from Kent County Council.

**RESOLVED:**

To commission the youth provision to be provided by CAS Training as detailed, with the additional financial contribution being paid for from the monies currently held in the Community Infrastructure Levy budget.

515/21-22 **STAFF / MEMBER TRAINING – UPDATE**

The following training had been scheduled / undertaken: -

Cllr Lorna Cross	Understanding Precepts	KALC Bitesize courses – online
Cllr Lorna Cross	Data Protection Essentials	KALC Bitesize courses – online
Cllr Lorna Cross	Team Leadership Essentials	KALC Bitesize courses – online
Admin Assistant	Managing and reducing stress	KALC Bitesize courses – online

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be noted.

516/21-22. **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 24 June 2021 and 14 October 2021 meetings were available for inspection.

- 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.

North West Kent Volunteer Centre (NWKVC).

Councillor Sue Butterfill is the Town Councils representatives on the NWKVC but having submitted her apologies for the meeting no update was available.

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:

A deadline set by Ebbsfleet Development Corporation to Crest regarding the repairs to the Follies had been missed with Crest not engaging.

The x 2 Directors from Crest on the board of IPGM had been issued letters removing them from the board due to non-attendance. A letter was to be sent to the CEO of Crest explaining the position with the local representation.

A meeting was scheduled for Friday 22 April with Gareth Johnson MP to discuss flood defence issues and engagement with the Environment Agency.

Dartford Children's Partnership Conversation (DCPC).

Councillor Peter Harman is the Town Councils representatives on the DCPC. As previously agreed, 25 January 2022 meeting and the Agenda for the Annual Event held on 23 February 2022, are available for inspection

Borough and Parish Forum (BPF).

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk are the Town Council representatives on the BPF. As previously agreed, the agenda for the 5 April 2022 were available for inspection.

Whitecliffe Community Liaison Group (WCLG).

Councillor Peter Harman is the Town Council's representative on the WCLG. As previously agreed, the minutes and the interim report from the 1 February 2022 were available for inspection.

Councillor Peter Harman updated members that a meeting was scheduled for 26 April, where he would raise the continued issue of community sports pitch funding.

517/21-22 **REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR.**

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

He had attended a recent Planning Committee regarding the provision of disabled play equipment at Shorne Country Park.

Meetings were also scheduled for next week regarding Kent Fire & Rescue Board and a Pension Appeal hearing.

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be noted.

518/21-22 **REPORT FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.**

The Dartford Borough Councillors reported on the following matters:

A change of leadership had occurred within the Labour Group at Dartford.

A report from Urbaser at the Scrutiny Meeting yesterday evening had confirmed that collections were not marked as missed until they were 6 days late, instead they were recorded as delayed collections.

A Working Group was looking to be formed on equality and how all residents within the Town could gain access to services and see improvements.

A meeting was scheduled for next week to review the proposed yellow line scheme within Ingress Park to establish better access for refuse vehicles.

The official openings for the new developments at Keary Road and Milton Road were imminent. The archaeological finds at the Gilbert Close site had triggered a review of the foundations plans for the building.

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be noted.

**519/21-22. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.**

There were none.

**520/21-22. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Town Mayor explained that she had attended engagement events at Ebbsfleet Academy, Craylands School and Knockhall School. The students at each meeting had been both polite and engaging.

The Town Mayor was due to cut the ribbon on the new community spaces in Swanscombe Park on Friday 22 April.

The Town Mayor thanked those that attended her Civic Night and was pleased with how the evening went and the excellent entertainment from the Motley Crew Sea shanty group.

**521/21-22. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

MOVED BY Councillor Peter Harman and seconded by Councillor Ann Duke.

**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.

**522/21-22. INGRESS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Members considered the confidential report and verbal update provided.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Town Council write to the CEO of Crest to explain the delays with the Freehold Transfer and request any support with this.



**523/21-22. IPCC MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL.**

Members considered the confidential proposal received from a third party.

**RESOLVED:**

That the third party be contacted and informed that the Town Council would contact them once further progression had been made on the Freehold Transfer.

**524/21-22. PAVILION PROJECT - UPDATE.**

Further to minutes 253/21-22 (28 October 2021 Special Town Council) and 230/21-22 (7 October 2021 Town Council), where it was agreed that a standing item be included on future Town Council agendas. Members were provided with a confidential update so that all members are aware of how the project is proceeding.

**RESOLVED:**

That the x 3 recommendations contained within the confidential update be agreed.

**525/21-22. PAVILION COMMUNITY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB – REQUEST.**

Members considered the confidential report for this item.

**RESOLVED:**

That the request be agreed, under the same terms as previously, for a period of 3 months (until June 2022).

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:- \_\_\_\_\_

(Chairman)