

TOWN COUNCIL  
20 JULY 2023

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 20 JULY 2023 at 7.00pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Harman – Town Mayor  
Councillor Anita Barham  
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  
Councillor Carol Gale – Dartford Borough Council,  
Greenhithe.

**ABSENT:** There were none

**107/23-24. 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.

**108/23-24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ann Duke, 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 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.

**109/23-24. 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.***

**110/23-24. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2023**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 May 2023 be confirmed as a true record and be signed.

**111/23-24. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE TOWN MAYOR / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

**112/23-24. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 26 APRIL, 25 MAY AND 14 JUNE 2023.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation & Environment Committee Meetings held 26 April 2023, 25 May 2023 and 14 June 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

**113/23-24. MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2023.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 29 June 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

**114/23-24. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2023.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 22 June 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted

**115/23-24. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 5 JULY 2023**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting held on 5 July 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

**116/23-24. MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 26 APRIL 2023**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 26 April 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

**117/23-24. DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC) JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD (JTB)**

DBC are seeking nominations (x2) from the Parish and Town Councils as the Parish Representatives on the JTB Members were asked to select their choice of representatives (maximum of two) from the three nominations received.

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Lesley Howes be selected as the Town Councils preferred choice as Parish representative on the JTB.

**118/23-24. LAND ADJACENT TO PARKWOOD HILL (KNOCKHALL RECREATION GROUND)**

Further to minute 387/22-23 a meeting was held on site on 31 May 2023 with the Regional Manager, Remus Management Ltd and the resident whose property the garage belongs to.

Members reviewed the proposal, regarding the section of fence erected by the developer on land the Town Council owned.

**RESOLVED:**

That a response be sent requesting the fence be removed from the Town Councils land.

**119/23-24. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) COMMUNITY WARDEN REVIEW.**

KCC are running the review from 12 July to 3 October 2023 and full details can be viewed at:

[https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/community-warden-service?fbclid=IwAR2upGhVcxYyeUPxgBriAoeSqmL7NUXpblgILGw\\_HLRq8m1fIDOkK1DoX2M](https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/community-warden-service?fbclid=IwAR2upGhVcxYyeUPxgBriAoeSqmL7NUXpblgILGw_HLRq8m1fIDOkK1DoX2M)

Members went through the review papers and agreed the responses as detailed in the attached.

**RESOLVED:**

That the response, as detailed in the attached, be submitted.

**120/23-24. SUGGESTIONS FOR 2024 – 2025 ESTIMATES.**

Members were asked for any recommendations for items to be considered for the 2024 – 2025 Estimates, they need to be sent to the ATC/RFO by no later than 31 August 2023. This will enable items to be forecast and included on the agenda for Full Council meeting on 19 October 2023, for further consideration.

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be noted.

**121/23-24. STAFF / MEMBER TRAINING – UPDATE.**

The following training had been scheduled / undertaken: -

Cllr Richard Lees	Dynamic Councillor Event – 22 July 2023.	KALC – Stone Pavilion.
Cllr Dawn Johnston	Guide to Chairing meetings Effectively – 19 September 2023	KALC - Online

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be noted.

**122/23-24. PAVILION PROJECT – UPDATE.**

Members considered the update detailing the current planning and procurement stages of the project. In addition members were updated verbally of the requirement to secure a deed of easement for the accessway to the rear of Orchard Road to enable construction traffic to access the site, and to make improvements to the roadway itself.

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be noted.

**123/23-24. YOUTH SERVICES – UPDATE – CAS TRAINING.**

Further to minute 34/23-24, and as required by the contract, Members discussed the first update from CAS Training.

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be noted.

**124/23-24. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) BUDGET CONSULTATION 2024 – 2025.**

KCC are running their budget consultation from 13 July to 6 September 2023.

Members went through the consultation and decided that a response from the Town Council should not be submitted but that members should be invited to make representations as individuals.

**RESOLVED:**

That no response be submitted by the Town Council and to invite members to make representations as individuals.

**125/23-24. 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 reported that there was nothing to update at this time.

**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 Lorna Cross is the Town Councils representatives on the NWKVC.

Councillor Lorna Cross reported that there was nothing to update at this time.

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 reported that there was nothing to update at this time.

Dartford Children's Partnership Conversation (DCPC).

Councillor Emma Ben Moussa is the Town Councils representatives on the DCPC. As previously agreed, the agenda and the minutes for the 27 June 2023 and the minutes for the 27 February 2023 meeting were available for inspection.

Dartford Young People's Partnership Conversation (DYPPC).

Councillor Lesley Howes is the Town Councils representatives on the DYPPC. As previously agreed, the agenda from the 21 June 2023 meeting were available for inspection.

Whitecliffe Community Liaison Group (WCLG).

Councillor Peter Harman is the Town Councils representatives on the WCLG. As previously agreed, the agenda and minutes for the meeting held on 31 May 2023 were available for inspection.

Bluewater Community Forum (BCF).

The Town Mayor is the Town Councils representatives on the BCF. The last meeting was scheduled to have taken place on 20 July 2023.

Borough & Parish Forum (BPF) – Dartford Borough Council.

The Town Mayor and the Town Clerk are the Town Councils representatives on the BPF. As previously agreed, the agenda from the 4 July 2023 meeting were available for inspection.

**126/23-24. REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR.**

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

An update was provided on the collapsed A226 roadway (Galley Hill). Meetings had been held with the senior officials and members responsible for transport.

Permanent signage had begun to be placed around the town but still appeared misleading and insufficient.

Plans were in place to make the junction between Swanscombe High Street and London Road a direct bend rather than a signalled junction.

A question was raised on the need, rationale and timing behind the proposed roadway works, including 5-week planned closure, to Keary Road in light of the wider traffic issues and demand. Councillor Harman agreed to take this matter forward again with Kent Highways.

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be noted.

**127/23-24. REPORT FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.**

Dartford Big Day Out had been a success with very positive feedback.

The Ingress Park Family Fun Day was scheduled for 6 August 2023. The event had been supported by Dartford Borough Council, and Planet Dartford would be in attendance to provide information.

Citizens Advice North and West Kent had, due to vandalism, relocated to temporary offices at the Civic Centre. It had been agreed that they would take permanently relocate to the Civic Centre, into a part of the ground floor customer service area that was not in use. This new provision would include a Debt Hub. The service was also pooling resources across the 6 areas of Northwest Kent to ensure access to specialist advice was regularly available.

Work was being undertaken to try and strengthen the health support provided by Dartford Borough Council, with meetings due over the summer to look at service provision and funding.

Dartford's Pride event was scheduled for the weekend of the 22 and 23 July 2023 in conjunction with the Orchard Theatre.

At the General Assembly Meeting on Monday 17 July 2023 it was agreed that the town would commemorate the life of the late Len Goodman in some way.

The proposed Council properties being constructed at Gilbert Close were still pending archaeological works to be completed and a report was being considered on the cost implications of this build.

Debates had been held recently on the local impact of both the proposed closer of Dartford Heath Waste & Recycling Centre and also the expansion of ULEZ.

A recent safety meeting had occurred following concerns raised of youths swimming in the deep-water lakes in Eastern Quarry. The developer of the site had proposed a further education push on the dangers involved.

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be noted.

**128/23-24. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.**

There were none.

**129/23-24. TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Town Mayor confirmed that he had asked Reverend Charlie Lloyd-Evans to be his Chaplain for his mayoral term and an invitation had been extended to her to attend future Town Council meetings.

**130/23-24. DELEGATION TO CONDUCT NORMAL BUSINESS DURING RECESS PERIOD.**

Members were requested to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972, to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period. The Town Clerk will consult with the Town Mayor, if appropriate, before any business is transacted. If any emergencies do occur during this time the Executive & Emergency Committee would be convened.

**RESOLVED:**

That, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Town Clerk be delegated authority to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairman)