

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 2023 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 Peter Harris
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Richard Lees
Councillor Hazel Stephens
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/RFO
Rev. Charlie Lloyd – Evans

ABSENT: Councillor Alan Reach

212/23-24. 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.

213/23-24. INTRODUCTION OF 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 and advised members that she had kindly agreed to be his Chaplain for his term of office.

Revd. Lloyd-Evans thanked the Town Council for the invitation and led the Council in prayer.

214/23-24. 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 Dawn Johnston, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Greenhithe Dartford Borough Councillor Carol Gale, 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.

215/23-24. 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.

216/23-24. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 14 September 2023 be confirmed as a true record and be signed.

217/23-24. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE TOWN MAYOR / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that:

the DBC Santa on Tour was currently scheduled to be outside the Town Council Offices on 21 December 2024.

KCC Community Warden Billy Unsworth would be retiring at the end of December with his last day being in the middle of December 2023.

218/23-24. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 12 JULY, 6 SEPTEMBER AND 27 SEPTEMBER 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation & Environment Committee Meetings held 12 July 2023, 6 September 2023 and 27 September 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

219/23-24. MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

220/23-24. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

221/23-24. MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Heritage Sub-Committee Meeting held on 6 September 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

222/23-24. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 4 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting held on 4 October 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

223/23-24. DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC) JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD (JTB)

Further to minute 117/23-24, DBC had confirmed that the following x2 Parish Councillors had been elected as Parish Representatives on the JTB.

- Cllr Lesley Howes (Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council)
- Cllr Adam Jessett (Sutton at Hone & Hawley Parish Council)

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

224/23-24. EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2022 – 2023.

To comply with statute full Council are required to consider, and minute, the external auditors' annual letter and report.

RESOLVED:

That, as required by statute, the external auditors' report and certificate 2022 – 2023 be noted,

225/23-24. GROUND FLOOR OF THE OLD FIRE STATION CAFÉ, CHURCH ROAD, SWANSCOMBE.

Further to minute 419/23-24, the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Local History Group had contacted the Town Council to advise that they would not be pursuing the possibility of taking over the ground floor.

The tenants of the 1st Floor of the building had been asked if they would be interested and had confirmed that they would.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

226/23-24. YOUTH SERVICES – UPDATE – CAS TRAINING.

Further to minutes 24/23-24 and 123/23-24, and as required by the contract, Members considered the second update provided by CAS Training.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

227/23-24. SUGGESTIONS FOR 2024 – 2025 ESTIMATES.

Only one recommendation/suggestion had been received from members by the 31 August 2023 deadline. After a lengthy debate it was agreed not to adopt the proposed suggestions for inclusion in the 2024 – 2025 Estimates.

RESOLVED:

Not to adopt the proposed suggestion for inclusion in the 2024 – 2025 Estimates.

228/23-24. PARKING AT KNOCKHALL.

Members considered a complaint received from a member of the public regarding the amount of football games being played at Knockhall Park along with the correspondences between the Town Council and Swanscombe Tigers.

Whilst pleased that the parks were being well used by the sports hirer's members recognised the issues that this may cause residents and, after discussion, it was agreed to accept the offer from the Swanscombe Tigers FC of supplying x2 banners that would be installed on the fencing at Knockhall Park on match days. Members did not want any vehicles to be allowed to enter the park due to the health and safety issues and to protect the condition of the park.

RESOLVED:

To accept the offer from the Swanscombe Tigers FC of supplying x2 banners that would be installed on the fencing at Knockhall Park on match days.

229/23-24. INSURANCE CLAIMS - UPDATE.

The following claim had been settled: -

Claim Ref: 27230000408 – damage to the slide in Broomfield Play Area, this claim incurred a £250.00 excess.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

230/23-24. **STAFF / MEMBER TRAINING – UPDATE.**

The following training had been scheduled / undertaken: -

Cllr Lorna Cross	Crisis Communications for local Councils – 9 November 2023	KALC – Online
	Communication with your community (pt1) – 13 December 2023	KALC – Online
	Communication with your community (pt2) – 18 January 2024	KALC – Online
Cllr Lesley Howes	KALC AGM – 18 November 2023	KALC – Ditton
Town Clerk	Clerks Conference – 27 September 2023	KALC – Ditton

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

231/23-24. **PAVILION PROJECT – UPDATE.**

Further to minute 169/23-24 Members considered the update detailing the options for Social Value which could be fed into the final Social Delivery Plan with the contractor for the project.

Members debated the options available, and it was agreed that employment be the priority and the second priority would be equipment for the new facility.

RESOLVED:

1. That employment be the priority and the second priority be equipment for the new facility.
2. That the updated Project Timeline be noted.

232/23-24. **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, LRCHLCG 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.

Bluewater Community Forum (BCF)

The Town Mayor is the Town Council representative on the BF and provided an update on the last meeting held on 28 September 2023.

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 the AGM would be held in the Greenhithe British Legion on 7 February 2024.

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 19 September 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 minutes from the 25 July 2023 and 19 September 2023 were available for inspection.

Elders Forum – DBC (EF).

Councillor Lesley Howes is the Town Councils representative on the EF and reported on the last meeting held on 29 September 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 3 October 2023 meeting was available for inspection.

234/23-24. **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).

Recent meetings had included the Kent Fire Service Budget Meeting and the Transport Appeal Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

235/23-24. REPORT FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

The Town Clerk read out the email received from Dartford Borough Councillor Carol Gale.

The Orchard Theatre had been closed and was being reconstructed, in the meantime a temporary theatre was being erected on the site of the old Co-op.

There were issues with subsidence in Swanscombe and some properties would be lost.

DBC would be reducing its use of glyphosate as a weed killer.

Council tenants would be allowed to have pets except for x4 breeds of dogs.

There had been issues with x2 large trees requiring removal from Swanscombe Cemetery.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

236/23-24. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.

There were none.

237/23-24. TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Town Mayor confirmed that he had attended several events recently including one at St Marys to celebrate the work being undertaken to repair the roof at St Marys.

238/23-24. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor Richard Lees and seconded by Councillor Lorna Cross.

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.

239/23-24. **PAVILLION PROJECT – UPDATE**

Further to minute 169/23-24 and agenda item 13 of the agenda, Members considered the confidential update regarding the Tender Process and Legal Process and were provided with a verbal explanation of where the project was and the Project Timeline.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted, and the action taken to date in relation to the Tender Process and outstanding legal matters for the construction of the new Community Hub be endorsed.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed: _____

(Chairman)

Date: _____