

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor Lorna Cross – Town Mayor
Councillor Peter Harman – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Anita Barham
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Linda Hall
Councillor Peter Harris
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Maurice Weet

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/RFO
x1 Member of the public

ABSENT: Councillor Jay Shah

As a mark of respect for those that had lost their lives and been affected by the Turkey/Syria earthquake disaster the Mayor called for those that were able to stand and the meeting observed a minutes silence.

401/22-23. 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.

402/22-23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Hayes, due to medical reasons.

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 Councillors, be formally accepted and approved.

403/22-23. 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.

404/22-23. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 12 January 2023 be confirmed as a true record and be signed.

405/22-23. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE TOWN MAYOR / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

406/22-23. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation & Environment Committee Meeting held 14 December 2022 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

407/22-23. MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 18 January 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

408/22-23. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 12 January 2023 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

409/22-23. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting held on 7 December 2022 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

410/22-23. METAL DETECTOR POLICY.

Members considered the draft Policy which would be used in conjunction with the Policy for Use of Parks and Open Spaces.

RESOLVED:

That the Metal Detector Policy be agreed and adopted.

411/22-23. CO-OPTION POLICY.

Members considered the draft Policy which would be used in conjunction with Standing Orders. Members asked that the reference to citizenship of a European Union Country be checked and deleted if required.

RESOLVED:

That the Co-Option Policy be agreed and adopted.

412/22-23. BUDGET STATEMENT 2022 – 2023.

Further to minute 377/22-23 Members considered the draft Budget Statement 2022 – 2023 which would be produced digitally, in the same way as in 2021 – 2022, with hard copies made available to members for distribution and also placed at the Old Fire Station Community Café and at Swanscombe Surgery.

RESOLVED:

That the Budget Statement 2022- 2023, be agreed and distributed accordingly.

413/22-23. CONSULTATION – KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) COMMUNITY SERVICES.

KCC had launched a public consultation on its Community Services which runs from 17 January to 26 March 2023. Members felt that the consultation was more personal than corporate but wished to submit their concerns that the transfer of Children’s Centres and Youth Hubs to Knockhall Children’s Centre would result in more traffic movements in an area already experiencing severe issues. This transfer would also make it difficult for the users of Greenlands at Darenth Children’s Centre to get to Knockhall Children’s Centre.

RESOLVED:

That the response, as detailed, be finalised and submitted.

414/22-23. INSURANCE CLAIMS - UPDATE.

The following claim had been settled: -

Claim Ref: 27220054894 – damage to the “Rocker” (piece of play equipment) at Broomfield Park, this claim incurred a £250.00.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

415/22-23 STAFF / MEMBER TRAINING – UPDATE

The following training had been scheduled / undertaken: -

Councillor Lesley Howes	How to recruit and retain a more diverse pool of Local Councillors – 14 November 2022	KALC – Zoom.
Town Clerk	Election Act and Nomination Process – 24 January 2023	DBC In-house.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

416/22-23 **COMMUNITY EVENT WORKING GROUP UPDATE – “A RIGHT ROYAL CELEBRATION II”**

Members considered the notes from the 25 January 2023 Working Group meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

417/22-23 **PAVILION SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB LEASE – UPDATE**

Members were aware (minute 278/22-23) the current Tenants gave notice on the Lease and will cease trading at the end of April and that a condition of the current Tenants notice on the Lease, (minute 278/22-23) was that it was subject to a site meeting with officers in Spring 2023.

Members considered the scope and boundaries with which officers should conduct discussions regarding the vacation of the facility. Members also considered what they wished to do with any fixtures and fittings that remain in the building.

After discussion it as proposed, duly seconded, and agreed:

RESOLVED:

That officers arrange a meeting with the x3 Town Council representatives of the Pavilion Committee and the tenant so that an inventory could be undertaken and that the results of this be brought back to full Council for consideration.

418/22-23. **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 informed that the Town Councils planning application (DA/23/00118/FUL) had been submitted on 3 February 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted

419/22-23. GROUND FLOOR OF THE OLD FIRE STATION, CHURCH ROAD, SWANSCOMBE.

Further to minutes 343/22-23 (8 December 2022) members considered the future of the ground floor of the Old Fire Station.

After lengthy debate it was proposed, duly seconded, and agreed:

RESOLVED:

That the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Local History Group conduct a feasibility study for them to take over the ground floor and that this be considered at the October full Council meeting.

That the tenants of the 1st Floor be asked if they would be interested in taking on the ground floor too (this would be subject to the Landlords agreement).

420/22-23. 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. The CEO had resigned and there had been no further meetings or communications from the LRCHCLG.

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.

Councillor Sue Butterfill was not present, and 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 updated that there had been a meeting on 31 January 2023 where the main topic had been The Follies. The cost of the repair works required was approximately £500,000.00 so it was planned for these works to be addressed in x2 phases with funding/grants being investigated.

Dartford Children's Partnership Conversation (DCPC).

Councillor Emma Ben Moussa is the Town Councils representatives on the DCPC. As previously agreed, the agenda for the 24 January 2023 meeting was available for inspection.

Councillor Emma Ben Moussa was not present, and no update was available.

Dartford Young People's Partnership Conversation (DYPPC)

Councillor Lesley Howes is the Town Councils representatives on the DYPPC. As previously agreed, the agenda for the 25 January 2023 meeting was 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 18 January 2023 were available for inspection.

The Borough and Parish Forum (DBC) (BPF)

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk are the Town Councils representatives on the BPF. As previously agreed, the agenda for the 17 January 2023 meeting was 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 26 January 2023.

Dartford Elders Forum

Councillor Lesley Howes is the Town Councils representatives on the EF. The last meeting was scheduled to take place on 13 February 2023

421/22-23. **REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR.**

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

The Budget meeting had been held today and had been a particularly tough budget which had included cuts to the Community Warden service of £360,000.00 and also the Combined Members Grant being cut from £10,000.00 to £3,600.00.

Kent County Council currently had £60 million overspend and held reserves of £58 million.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

422/22-23. REPORT FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

The Dartford Borough Councillors reported on the following matters:

The Playground refurbishment / installation Scheme was on schedule.
The double yellow lines had been installed within Ingress Park.
The housing project at Gilberts Close was being delayed due to archaeological reasons.
The borough councils Working Household Fund was still available to those eligible.
The tribute statues to the Rolling Stones would be unveiled shortly and these had been funded from developers' contributions.
A Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee meeting had been held on 7 February 2023 which had included the nuisance car issues at Crossways Boulevard.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

423/22-23. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.

There were none.

424/22-23. TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Town Mayor had attended the online "How to recruit and retain a more diverse pool of Local Councillors" KALC training on 7 February 2023.

425/22-23. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

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

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.

426/22-23. **STAFFING ISSUES**

Employee 39 had submitted a resignation letter requesting a leaving date of 8 March 2023. Due to the timescales involved this had been discussed, and agreed, with the Chairman of Personnel and steps had been taken to recruit and fill the position.

RESOLVED:

That the actions taken in dealing with this matter be endorsed.

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

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date:

