

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held via ZOOM on TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2020 at 1.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harman – Town Mayor
Councillor Lesley Howes - Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
Councillor Sue Butterfill
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Jay Shah
Councillor Maurice Weet

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/RFO

ABSENT: There were none

43/20-21. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.

In the Town Mayors absence the Deputy Town Mayor explained the arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting.

The Town Mayor joined the meeting.

44/20-21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Anita Barham due to medical reasons.

Councillor Sue Butterfill had previously advised that she would not be able to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dr Jo Harman due to medical reasons.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Hayes due to being on holiday.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Linda Hall due to being on holiday.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Peter Harris due to personal family circumstances.

An apology for lateness was submitted by Councillor Peter Harman.

RESOLVED:

That the reasons for absence, for all the Councillors' listed, be formally accepted and approved.

45/20-21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Councillor Ann Duke declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 17, Covid – 19 – Financial Implications and Requests, as the Chief Executive Officer of Walk Tall.

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.

46/20-21. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 18 August 2020 be confirmed, and signed outside of the meeting, as a true record and be signed outside of this meeting.

47/20-21. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

The Town Clerk advised members that there would be additional consideration under agenda item 15, Councillors Surgeries, to re-visit the dates and times of future scheduled meetings.

48/20-21. MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION & QUALITY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Regeneration & Quality Sub-Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2020 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

49/20-21. THE LONDON RESORT STATUTORY CONSULTATION (LRSC).

Further to minute 35/20-21 the LRSC had provided the Town Council with a members' briefing session on 26 August 2020.

The Town Council had subsequently held a members' only meeting only 2 September 2020 to formulate a draft response to the Consultation feedback form.

RESOLVED:

That the response to the feedback form, as detailed, be endorsed and submitted.

50/20-21. USE OF FOOTBALL TRAINING AREA IN THE HERITAGE PARK, CRAYLANDS LANE.

Members considered the correspondence received from Swanscombe Tigers FC regarding the issue of how the area was being used.

RESOLVED:

That the amount of gang mowing cuts undertaken at this site by the Town Council be reduced to x10 per year.

51/20-21. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CiL).

Further to minute 480/19-20 the Regeneration & Quality Sub-Committee had formulated a 5 year plan for minor, mid and major infrastructure projects that CiL monies could be used for.

RESOLVED:

That the 5 year plan for minor, mid and major infrastructure projects that CiL monies could be used for, as detailed, be agreed and endorsed.

52/20-21. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP.

Members considered the notes from the Working Group meeting held on 8 September 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the actions of the Environmental Action Plan Working Group be noted and endorsed.

53/20-21. COMMUNITY EVENT WORKING GROUP.

Members considered the notes from the Working Group meeting held on 3 September 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the actions of the Community Event Working Group be noted and endorsed.

54/20-21. **SUGGESTIONS FOR 2021 - 2022 ESTIMATES.**

In previous years Members would have been asked to provide any suggestions for projects/items to be considered for the 2021 – 2022 Estimates by the end of August. Due to the unprecedented situation as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic a financial review, as opposed to Members suggestions, would be undertaken.

A meeting of the Financial Risk Assessment Working Group would be scheduled in the near future in order to formulate a recommendation to support Draft Estimates for 2021 – 2022 and these would be presented to members for consideration at the 15 December 2020 meeting.

The draft estimates would be reviewed by Officers during the remainder of December and a finalised budget, and precept figures being presented to members for consideration and endorsement at the 12 January 2021 meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

55/20-21. **FENCING AT PACIFIC CLOSE, SWANSCOMBE.**

Further to minute 36/20-21 members were asked to consider the comments received. The Town Clerk detailed the revised quotation for bow top style fencing and, after discussion it was proposed, duly seconded and agreed;

RESOLVED:

That the current wooden fence remain and that the item be reviewed should further issues of anti-social behaviour occur.

56/20-21. **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.

Whitecliffe Community Liaison Group (WCLG)

Councillor Peter Harman is the Town Councils representative on the WCLG. As previously agreed the update from the 30 June 2020 meeting was available for inspection. Councillor Peter Harman advised that the next meeting was scheduled for the following week.

North West Kent Volunteer Centre (NWKVC).

Councillor Sue Butterfill is the Town Councils representative on the NWKVC, as Councillor Sue Butterfill was not present 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 Harman gave an update on behalf of himself and Councillor Peter Harris which included:

That at the recent meeting the x3 Crest Directors had not attended.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

57/20-21. **DECISIONS, RESPONSES & FINANCES - LOCKDOWN.**

Members were provided with the decisions, planning responses and finances discharged, using the previously approved delegated authority, under Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, during the period of lockdown and since the previous meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the decisions, planning responses and finances discharged, using the previously approved delegated authority, under Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, during the period of lockdown and since the previous meeting be noted and endorsed.

The meeting was briefly adjourned whilst Councillor Lorna Cross resumed her virtual connection to the meeting.

58/20-21. **COUNCILLORS SURGERIES.**

Further to minute 24/20-21 Members were asked to consider whether they wished to re-instate the holding of non-political surgeries, free of charge, in the Council Office Community Hall (first Sunday of every month). Members discussed the position regarding possible re-instatement of the surgeries.

Members also considered the dates and starting times of the previously agreed scheduled meetings (minute 37/20-21).

After discussion it was proposed, duly seconded and agreed:

RESOLVED:

1. That, due to the current Covid 19 situation, the surgeries remain suspended subject to review of the position at the December 2020 meeting.
2. That the previously agreed scheduled meetings be deleted and replaced with the following:-
 - Thursday 15 October 2020 – 7.00pm
 - Thursday 19 November 2020 – 7.00pm
 - Thursday 10 December 2020 – 7.00pm

59/20-21. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

MOVED BY Councillor Peter Harman and seconded by Councillor Lesley Howes;

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.

Having already declared a prejudicial interest Councillor Ann Duke left the meeting and took no part in the discussion and decision of the following item.

60/20-21. **COVID 19 – FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND REQUESTS.**

Members considered and discussed the contents of the confidential report, which included a request from Gravesham Community Leisure Limited regarding The Swanscombe Centre and, after being proposed and duly seconded it was unanimously agreed:

RESOLVED:

That the requested assistance be granted, with regards to The Swanscombe Centre, on a month by month basis for a fixed period of 3 months and on condition that a monthly update report be provided to the Town Council.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 2.10 pm.

Signed: _____

(Chairman)

Date:- _____