

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held via ZOOM on TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2020 at 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harman – Town Mayor
Councillor Lesley Howes - Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Anita Barham
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
Councillor Sue Butterfill
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Linda Hall
Councillor Peter Harris
Councillor John Hayes
Councillor Maurice Weet

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

ABSENT: There were none

28/20-21. 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.

29/20-21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jay Shah due to personal family circumstances.

RESOLVED:

That the reasons for absence for Councillors' Dr Jo Harman and Jay Shah be formally accepted and approved.

30/20-21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Councillor Linda Hall declared a personal interest in agenda item 14, Land at Keary Road Allotments, as the Chairman of the Allotment Association.

Councillor John Hayes declared a personal interest in agenda item 14, Land at Keary Road Allotments, as his partner is the Chairman of the Allotment Association.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point to accept questions from the public.

31/20-21. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 14 July 2020 be confirmed, and signed outside of the meeting, as a true record and be signed outside of this meeting.

32/20-21. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

33/20-21. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS GRANT.

Members were issued with information regarding a grant scheme for electric vehicle charging points was received from Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC).

Members agreed that this was a good scheme and debated the possible sites to be included in the application.

It was re-iterated that *“parking bays with charge-points should be reserved solely for the use of electric vehicles and that this will result in a loss of parking spaces for other users who do not drive electric vehicles”*.

After a lengthy debate it was:

RESOLVED:

Members approved the submission of an application to the Grant Scheme for the installation, subject to any award being approved, of charging points (Fast - 7 to 22kW, 2-4 hour charging time option) at The Grove Car Park, Leisure Centre Car Park and Ingress Park Community Centre.

34/20-21. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTING IN ALLEY FROM GROVE CAR PARK TO SWANSCOMBE HIGH STREET.

Working with Kent County Councillor Member Peter Harman, and Dartford Borough Council (DBC), investigations had been made as to the possibility of KCC installing additional street lighting in the alley that leads from the Grove Car Park to Swanscombe High Street. KCC Member Peter Harman would fund the installation of the lighting by KCC with the Town Council taking on the maintenance and energy costs of the lighting (the supply would be coming from one of the Town Councils columns in the car park).

KCC had supplied x3 options and associated costs.

Members were made aware that the approximate cost of supplying energy to an individual column was £50 per year.

RESOLVED:

That Kent County Council be informed that the Town Councils preferred choice was Option 2 and it was agreed that, should the scheme progress, the Town Council would take on the ongoing costs for maintenance and energy to the additional lighting.

35/20-21. **THE LONDON RESORT STATUTORY CONSULTATION.**

After consultation with members an informal Zoom meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 2 September 2020 at 2.00pm for members to collate any response to the public consultation which will then need to be endorsed at the council meeting scheduled for 15 September 2020 (deadline 21 September 2020).

Links for all the supporting documentation were sent to all Members in July: -

<https://londonresort.info/consultation/>

RESOLVED:

That the item and information supplied be noted.

36/20-21. **FENCING AT PACIFIC CLOSE, SWANSCOMBE.**

Members considered the report and discussed the possible options available.

It was then proposed, duly seconded and agreed;

RESOLVED:

That the area of wooden fencing shown in the report be replaced with palisade fencing, as detailed in the quotation.

37/20-21. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.**

On the 4 April 2020 the Local Authorities and Police Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations came into force.

This legislation brought into effect the following key points:

- Enabling Parish and Town Council meetings to be held remotely
- Suspending the requirement for Town Councils to hold an Annual General Meeting before 7 May 2021

- Enabling all current appointments (Town Mayor, Chairman and membership of committees) to continue unchanged until 7 May 2021 or such time as the Parish or Town Council decides to change these.

Further to minute 18/20-21 a virtual meeting was held with the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor and it was agreed that the AGM be held at the 17 November 2020 meeting. This would involve the first business being to elect the Town Mayor for the remainder of the civic year (until the AGM in May 2021) and to receive their declaration of office (to be signed outside of the meeting if current restrictions were still in place).

Nb. All current appointments and committee structures etc. would remain unchanged until the AGM 2021 is held.

Members also considered the starting time of the previously agreed scheduled meetings (minute (19/20-21).

RESOLVED:

1. That the decision to hold the AGM at the 17 November 2020 meeting be noted and endorsed.
2. That the starting time of the previously agreed scheduled meetings be moved forward from 2.00pm to 1.00pm

38/20-21. **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 agenda for the 21 July 2020 meeting and the minutes from the 30 June 2020 meeting were available for inspection. Councillor Peter Harman provided a verbal update which included;

An outfall pipe was planned to be installed through Craylands Gorge, this would be installed under the ground as opposed to along the bottom of the gorge;
Discussions were ongoing regarding the proposed footpath along the southern side of Alkerden Road. Having held discussions with the engineer from Henley Camland this was hoped to form part of the Alkerden Barn development;
Consideration was still being given to whether a small number of properties should be built close to the Alkerden Barn development to act as a level of security for the site.

Councillor Lesley Howes raised concerns regarding the ecology and archaeology aspects of work in the Gorge. It was agreed that Councillor Lesley Howes submit these concerns to the Town Clerk so they could be forwarded to the WCLG.

North West Kent Volunteer Centre (NWKVC).

Councillor Sue Butterfill is the Town Councils representative on the NWKVC and provided a verbal update which included;

Since the lockdown the gardening service was slowly getting on course;
Deliveries were still being made to those that were/had been sheltering;
The building they currently operated from was being sold and they were expecting to be served Notice at any 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 gave an update on behalf of himself and Councillor Peter Harman which included:

That a meeting had been scheduled for 10 September 2020 with social distancing;
Crest were keen to hand over the final four parts of Public Open Space;
The Green Folly area was being worked on (landscaping);
DS29 (London Road to Ingress Park) did not appear to belong to anybody?

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

23/20-21. **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.

24/20-21. **RETURN TO WORK PLAN.**

Members were provided with the current return to work plan prepared by officers for the remaining services within the Town Council. Members asked that the possibility of on-line booking, as well as by telephone, for the Community Café be considered.

RESOLVED:

That the current return to work plan be noted.

25/20-21. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor John Hayes and seconded by Councillor Sue Butterfill;

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.

26/20-21. LAND AT KEARY ROAD ALLOTMENTS.

Members considered and discussed the contents of the confidential report, regarding the possible Freehold transfer of the land to the Town Council and, after being proposed and duly seconded it was agreed:

RESOLVED: That officers progress with the process.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 3.35pm.

Signed: _____ Date:- _____
(Chairman)