

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2020 at 7.00 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 Peter Harris
Councillor John Hayes

ALSO PRESENT: x 2 Members of the public
Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/RFO

ABSENT: There were none

483/19-20. **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.

484/19-20. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Linda Hall, Dr Jo Harman, Jay Shah and Maurice Weet.

485/19-20. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

Councillor Emma Ben Moussa declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 19, Request from Cygnets, as she is the Chairman and Trustee of Cygnets.

Councillor Ann Duke declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 20, Sealing of Documents, as Chief Executive Officer of Walk Tall.

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

Members took this opportunity to ask Sue Hart, from CAS Training, questions regarding agenda item 7, Periodic Youth Service, and also thanked CAS Training for the service delivery undertaken during 2019 – 2020. Sue invited all members to the end of year celebration event at the Old Fire Station on Saturday 18 April 2020 at 11.30am.

486/19-20. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2019 AND THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 11 December 2019 and 9 January 2020 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

487/19-20. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

The Town Clerk clarified that items 18 and 19 on the agenda were confidential, but that item 20 was not.

488/19-20. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2019, 15 JANUARY 2020 AND 5 FEBRUARY 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation & Environment Committee Meetings held on 18 December 2019, 15 January 2020 and 5 February 2020 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

489/19-20. MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 30 January 2020 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

490/19-20. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 9 January 2020 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

491/19-20. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2019.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held 4 December 2019 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

492/19-20. MINUTES OF THE LEASES & LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Leases & Legal Sub - Committee meeting held 10 February 2020 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

493/19-20. COMMUNITY EVENT WORKING GROUP – VE DAY 75 ANNIVERSARY EVENT.

Members were provided with a verbal update on the activities undertaken by the Working Group for the proposed event.

Members felt that the celebration of VE Day was very appropriate and thanked the Working Group for their work so far.

RESOLVED:

That the event be agreed.

494/19-20. PERIODIC YOUTH SERVICE.

Members previously agreed to commission a periodic youth service for 2019 – 2020, minute 354/18-19, members were asked to consider the programme proposal from the current provider, to continue delivery of the Youth Service for the 2020 – 2021 financial year.

Members were reminded that the provider had regularly attended the Community Safety Committee meeting throughout the year to give updates and that the proposal provided was within the budget agreed and allocated by the Town Council for Youth Service provision.

Members discussed the proposal and agreed to commission the service for 2020 – 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the periodic youth service, as detailed in the proposal, be commissioned for the 2020 – 2021 financial year.

495/19-20. **STAFF / MEMBER TRAINING – UPDATE.**

The following training had been scheduled / undertaken:-

Cllr Sue Butterfill	Health & Well Being Conference – Kent Association of Local Councils	6 February 2020 – Swanley
Cllr Lorna Cross	Health & Well Being Conference – Kent Association of Local Councils	6 February 2020 – Swanley
Cllr Linda Hall	Introducing Allotment Law & Management	9 January 2020 - Lenham
Town Clerk	Website Accessibility Regulations Workshop – Kent Association of Local Councils	24 January 2020 - Ditton

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

496/19-20. **KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (KALC) – KALC NEWS.**

Members were supplied with the January 2020 issue of the KALC News.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

497/19-20. **CAPACITY BUILDING FUND (DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC)) – FUTURE APPLICATIONS.**

At its meeting on 13 January 2020 the DBC General Assembly of Council agreed that they would continue to operate the Capacity Building Fund and make a contribution of £40,000 into the fund in 2020/21 (there are x8 parish councils).

Further to minutes 441/19-20 (*RLA 30 January 2020*), members were asked to consider suitable/appropriate projects for this year's scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

498/19-20. **DRAFT BUDGET STATEMENT 2020 – 2021.**

Members were provided with a draft Budget Statement for 2020 – 2021 and were asked to agree to the Budget Statement being distributed in the same manner as last year.

Members applauded the Budget Statement and thanked officers for the detail put into the document.

RESOLVED:

That the Budget Statement be produced and distributed in the same manner as last year.

499/19-20. **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.

Castle Hill/Eastern Quarry Community Liaison Group (CHEQCLG)

Councillor Peter Harman is the Town Councils representative on the CHEQCLG. As previously agreed the minutes from the 21 January 2020 meeting were available in the Chamber for inspection.

Borough and Parish Forum (BPF) (DBC)

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk are the Town Council representatives on the BPF. As previously agreed the agenda for the 14 January 2020 were available in the Chamber for inspection.

Elders Forum (EF) (DBC)

Councillor Lesley Howes is the Town Councils representative on the EF. As previously agreed the agenda from the 7 February 2020 meeting was available in the Chamber for inspection.

North West Kent Volunteer Centre (NWKVC)

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

That the Trustees were formulating a 5 year plan to ensure everything was in place for the future and that they remained viable going forward.

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 which included:

There had been a noticeable improvement in both the management and accounting by First Port for the site.

The next large expenditure forecast for Ingress Park would be the securing of the cliff face and trees within the Follies as well as the ongoing maintenance of the Bridge Folly. A recent incident of anti-social behaviour had resulted in damage to landscaping equipment.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

500/19-20. **REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR (KCC).**

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

There had been nothing relating to Swanscombe and Greenhithe from the Planning and Regulatory Committees. The Constitution Committee were meeting to review the KCC Constitution which was a challenging task.

At the recent budget meeting, the budget had been agreed with the addition of one amendment involving the increasing the amount allocated for Youth Mentors.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

501/19-20. **REPORT FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.**

The Dartford Borough Councillors on the Town Council reported on the following matters:

A Special General Assembly of the Council had been held on Monday 17 February 2020, to honour Councillor Pat Coleman, who had served for over 40 years, with the Freedom of the Borough.

At a recent Development Control Board meeting the housing developments at Keary Road, Milton Road and the proposed extension to a childminding business in Ingress Park were agreed.

A proposal from both the Cabinet A Advisory meeting and Joint Transportation Board to increase the number of Parking Enforcement Officers for the borough had not been taken forward.

Further questions were being raised regarding the recent issues with the contractor used for emptying dog bins within the Town.

Members were informed that in response to a question was raised on the number of Crime & Disorder Committee meetings held at Dartford Borough Council per year, it had been indicated that as this was a strategic body, the scheduled two meetings per year were sufficient.

Members had been provided with an overview of the work undertaken on financial scrutiny by the Audit Board.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

502/19-20. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Town Mayor informed members of the recent corporate tree planting event he had attended at the Swanscombe Heritage Park. This event had been undertaken by Optimum Power Services, under the guidance and supervision of, North West Kent Countryside Partnership.

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk had attended an informal meeting with representatives from Gravesham Community Leisure Limited regarding the MUGA at the rear of the Leisure Centre. It was hoped that this would result in minor improvements being undertaken to the site which would facilitate more use by the community.

503/19-20. **QUESTIONS.**

Members were informed that questions did not form part of the Meeting; they were merely the opportunity for Members to exchange information.

504/19-20. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

MOVED BY Councillor John Hayes and seconded by Councillor Peter Harris;

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.

505/19-20. INGRESS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Members discussed the contents of the confidential report provided by officers and, following a vote, it was agreed that the documents listed in item 20 be signed and sealed.

RESOLVED:

That the documents listed in item 20 be signed and sealed.

Having already declared a prejudicial interest Councillor Emma Ben Moussa left the chamber and took no part in the discussion or decision of the following item.

506/19-20. REQUEST FROM CYGNETS PRE-SCHOOL.

After a lengthy debate regarding the contents of the confidential report it was unanimously agreed that, provided Cygnets accepted the conditions attached to the offer, the request from Cygnets be approved.

RESOLVED:

That, using the General Power of Competence, and provided Cygnets accepted the conditions attached to the offer, the request from Cygnets be approved.

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

507/19-20. **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.**

The following document has been received from the Solicitor's acting on behalf of Crest Nicholson and require signing and sealing:

- Transfer of Part of Registered Title – Ingress Park Community Centre.

The following document has been received from the Solicitor's acting on behalf of Walk Tall and require signing and sealing:

- Lease relating to Heritage Community Centre, Craylands Lane, Swanscombe.

RESOLVED:

That the above documents be signed and sealed, in accordance with Standing Order 21, a) and b).

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed: _____

(Chairman)

Date:- _____