

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2025 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor Ann Duke – Town Mayor
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Peter Harris
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Richard Lees
Councillor Paul Parsons
Councillor Hazel Stephens
Councillor Graham Taylor

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/Responsible Financial Officer
Councillor Thomas Mallon – KCC Councillor for Swanscombe and Greenhithe
Councillor Michael Brown – Dartford Borough Councillor for Greenhithe and Knockhall
x3 Members of the public

ABSENT: Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

376/24-25. 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.

The Town Mayor welcomed the newly elected Kent County Councillor, Mr Thomas Mallon and Dartford Borough Councillor, Michael Brown to the meeting.

377/24-25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Emma Ben-Moussa, due to medical reasons.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dawn Johnston, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Claire Pearce due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Alan Reach due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from 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.

378/24-25. 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.

379/24-25. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 9 January 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed.

380/24-25. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE TOWN MAYOR / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

381/24-25. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on 9 January 2025 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

382/24-25. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, MAJOR DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation and Environment Committee Meeting held on 15 January 2025 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

383/24-25. KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (KALC) COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME (2025)

The Chief Executive of KALC had advised that they had launched the 2025 KALC Community Awards Scheme.

The Town Clerk reminded members that the deadline for nominations to the Town Councils own Recognition Scheme was 31 March each year.

After discussion it was proposed, duly seconded and agreed:

RESOLVED:

That the scheme be adopted and that a nomination for Sue Cherry and Maureen Plume (Swanscombe Senior Lunch Club) be submitted.

384/24-25. COMMUNITY EVENT WORKING GROUP

Members discussed the notes from the Community Event Working Group meeting held on the 15 January 2025 and after discussion it was agreed:

RESOLVED:

1. That the update be noted.
2. That the Working Group should prepare details on how to commemorate the centenary of the formation of the Swanscombe Urban District Council (established in 1926).

385/24-25. PAVILION WORKING GROUP – UPDATE.

Further to minute 352/24-25 members considered the notes from the 24 January 2025 Working Group meeting and discussed the actions taken in contacting Dartford Borough Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the update be noted.
2. That the actions of the Working Group be endorsed.

386/24-25. **STAFF / MEMBER TRAINING – UPDATE.**

The following training had been scheduled / undertaken: -

Cllr Ann Duke	Chairmanship Conference – 27 February 2025	KALC - Appledore
Cllr Dawn Johnson	Chairmanship Conference – 27 February 2025	KALC - Appledore
Cllr Paul Parsons	Chairing Skills for Parish & Town Councils – 13 November 2025	SEEMP - Online
ATC/ RFO	Funding Conference – 21 January 2025	Funding for All - Stone
Town Clerk	Sponsoring a Community Warden – 21 January 2025	KALC - Online

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

387/24-25. **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)

As the company had recently gone into liquidation it was agreed for this outside body to be removed from future agendas.

Ingress Park (Greenhithe) Management Limited (IPGM).

Councillor Peter Harris and Councillor Dawn Johnston are the Town Councils representatives on IPGM. IPGM have indicated that, although unable to supply any documentation, they would like a verbal update to be submitted to the Council.

Councillor Harris confirmed that a new Development Manager had recently been appointed and that the date for the AGM was 8 April 2025.

Dartford Youth Forum (DYF).

Councillor Hazel Stephens is the Town Council representative on the DYF. The last meeting was held on 13 January 2025. Councillor Stephens updated Members on what the meeting had covered which included Funding for Youth, a presentation by Funding for All and a short tour of Acacia Sports Hall.

Bluewater Forum (BF)

The Town Mayor is the Town Councils representatives on the BF. The last meeting was scheduled to take place on 30 January 2025. Unfortunately, Councillor Duke had been unable to attend as it was the same time as this meeting.

Whitecliffe Community Liaison Group (WCLG)

Councillor Dawn Johnson is the Town Councils representative on the WCLG. The last meeting was held on 21 January 2025.

388/24-25. REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

This item gave the Kent County Councillor for Swanscombe and Greenhithe, Mr Thomas Mallon, the opportunity to submit a verbal report on relevant news or issues from Kent County Council.

Councillor Thomas Mallon advised that the main topics were obviously the temporary Galley Hill Road closure and the temporary closure of Public Right of Way (PRoW) DS3.

Members were pleased to be informed that PRoW DS29 was scheduled to be cut back and cleared.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

389/24-25. REPORT FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

This item gave the x5 Dartford Borough Councillors representing Swanscombe and Greenhithe the opportunity to submit a verbal report on any relevant news or developments at Dartford Borough Council (DBC).

Borough Councillor Michael Brown updated members on various issues/topics which included the Greenhithe Medical Centre, the Funding Settlement (Central Government), the Economic Development Strategy, Devolution and the Lower Thames Crossing.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

390/24-25. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.

There were none

391/24-25. **TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Town Mayor advised members to save the date of the Charity Quiz Night being held on 15 March 2025 at the Empire Bowls Club.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)

DRAFT