

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2025 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Dawn Johnston – Town Mayor
Councillor Paul Parsons – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Peter Harris
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Richard Lees
Councillor Alan Reach
Councillor Hazel Stephens
Councillor Graham Taylor
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

ALSO PRESENT:

Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/Responsible Financial Officer
Indigo Allred – Administration Officer
Revd. Charlie Lloyd – Evans
Councillor Thomas Mallon – Kent County Council
x4 Member of the public

ABSENT:

There were none

242/25-26. 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.

243/25-26. REV. CHARLIE LLOYD-EVANS, PRIEST IN CHARGE AT ST MARY GREENHITHE & ST PETER AND ST PAUL SWANSCOMBE.

The Town Mayor welcomed Revd. Charlie Lloyd-Evans to the meeting, Revd. Lloyd-Evans thanked the Town Council for the invitation and led the Council in prayer.

244/25-26. 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 Anne Duke, 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 Dartford Borough Councillor Cally Gale 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 Councillors, be formally accepted and approved.

245/25-26. 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.

246/25-26. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2025 AND THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2025

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 July 2025 and the Special Town Council Meeting held on 24 September 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed.

247/25-26. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE TOWN MAYOR / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

The Town Mayor advised that Agenda Item 12 – Report from Kent County Councillor, would be brought forward before Item 6 to enable KCC Councillor Thomas Mallon to provide a report ahead of him leaving the meeting early due to a prior engagement.

248/25-26. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, MAJOR DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 3 SEPTEMBER 2025 AND 24 SEPTEMBER 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation and Environment Committee Meetings held on 3 September 2025 and 24 September 2025 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

249/25-26. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on 11 September 2025 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

250/25-26. MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee – 18 September 2025 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

251/25-26. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE & EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Executive & Emergency Committee Meetings held on 23 September 2025 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

252/25-26. MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Heritage Sub-Committee Meetings held on 23 September 2025 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

253/25-26. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meetings held on 1 October 2025 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

254/25-26. 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 Mallon reported that, following the recent resident led protests against unsafe driving in and around Stanhope Road, Kent Highways Service (KHS) were taking forward this issue and a site visit with a KHS Officer had been scheduled for the coming weeks. Councillor Mallon also reported that a Highways Engineer would be undertaking an assessment of the road network.

Councillor Mallon reported that he would be actively pursuing alternative funding paths for the Pavilion Project at Broomfield Park, including any appropriate sponsorship opportunities.

The one-day closure of the High Street, Swanscombe had been raised to Councillor Mallon who would be challenging this further as the proposed plans for the diversion of public transport were not felt to be adequate.

255/25-26. PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE

Members considered the report that outlined the status of the Pavilion Project including designs and funding.

A presentation was also made by officers detailing the design aspects and providing a verbal update on discussions with the individual funders and an update on recent correspondence with the Planning Department at Dartford Borough Council.

The Chairman confirmed with the Members of the Public present, and KCC Councillor Mallon, that they were happy with the details provided in the update and asked if there were any issues they would like to raise.

After members had discussed the details contained in the update report and the design details provided it was proposed, duly seconded and agreed unanimously:

RESOLVED:

1. That the work undertaken to date on sourcing funding for the project be noted and endorsed.
2. That the submission of the bid to DBC for a contribution to the site as a strategic project be agreed.
3. That continuation of liaising with both EDC and Kent FA regarding other funding sources be agreed.
4. That an application be made to the Public Works Lending Board for a loan to cover the shortfall in the project cost, up to a maximum of 15%. This would only be implemented if it was required to proceed with the project.
5. That the project continues with the updated designs focusing on Phase 1 of the project.
6. That a publicity statement be issued via the Town Councils website and social media feeds outlining the outcome of this meeting.

256/25-26. EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2024 -2025

In line with statute members considered the external auditors annual letter / report for the financial year 2024 – 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the external auditors report and certificate 2024 – 2025 be noted, as required by statute.

257/25-26. LORRY PARK WORKING GROUP – UPDATE

Members considered the notes from the Working Group meeting held on 16 September 2026 and a verbal update was provided from the Working Group meeting held earlier in the week on 21 October 2025 which had been attended by the current operators of the lorry park in Manor Way.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

258/25-26. INGRESS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE – UPDATE

Members considered the information / update that had provided by the Technical Director & Deputy Managing Director - Eastern, Crest Nicholson.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

259/25-26. STAFF / MEMBER TRAINING – UPDATE.

The following training had been scheduled / undertaken: -

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| Town Clerk ATC/RFO | KCC Highways & Transportation Parish Seminar – 2 October 2025. | KCC – Online. |
| Town Clerk ATC/RFO | Beyond the Precept: exploring alternative income sources – 24 September 2025. | KALC - online. |

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

260/25-26. 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.

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 reported that the vegetated (green) wall to support the flood defences on the riverfront had been reseeded. Councillor Harris also advised that the accounts from Firstport were overdue and had still to be received.

Whitecliffe Community Liaison Group (WCLG)

Councillor Dawn Johnston is the Town Councils representatives on the WCLG. As previously agreed, the agenda and Minutes from the meeting on 23 September 2025 were available for inspection.

Elders Forum (EF)

Councillor Lesley Howes is the Town Councils representative on the EF. Councillor Howes confirmed that no meeting had taken place since the last update, and that the next meeting was scheduled for 18 November 2025.

Young Peoples Partnership / Youth Network (YPP)

Councillor Lesley Howes is the Town Councils representative on the YPP. Councillor Lesley Howes updated the meeting that presentations had been made on the challenges of social media and youth funding.

261/25-26. REPORT FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

Unfortunately, none of the x 5 Dartford Borough Councillors were present at the meeting, and no written update/report had been submitted.

RESOLVED:

That, ahead of the next meeting of the Town Council, contact be made with the x5 Dartford Borough Councillors, requesting whether a written update/report could be submitted if they were unable to attend.

262/25-26. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.

There were none

263/25-26. TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Dawn Johnston, reported that the recent Dog Show and Charity Quiz Night had both been very successful and thanks were given to all who had helped put on the events and to those that had attended.

The Town Mayor confirmed that Councillor Peter Harris would be attending St Mary's Church, Councillor Paul Parsons would be attending St Peter's & St Paul's Church, and that she would be at the Dartford Remembrance Day events.

The Town Mayor also updated the meeting on her upcoming Mayoral events including:

- Burns Night Quiz and Poetry Night on the 25 January 2026
- Charity Fashion Show in partnership with Elenor on 28 February 2026
- Mother Day Afternoon Tea on 13 March 2026
- St Patricks Day Celebration on 20 March 2026

264/23-24. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor Richard Lees and seconded by Councillor Graham Taylor;

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.

265/23-24. THE PAVILION PROJECT.

Members considered the contents of the confidential report and, after discussion it was proposed, duly seconded, and unanimously agreed:

RESOLVED:

1. That the costing provided by the Quantity Surveyor be noted.
2. That the figure being included in the draft CIL Bid to BDC be agreed.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)