

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2026 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Dawn Johnston – Town Mayor
Councillor Emma Ben – Moussa
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Peter Harris
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Richard Lees
Councillor Claire Pearce
Councillor Hazel Stephens
Councillor Graham Taylor

ALSO PRESENT:

Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/Responsible Financial Officer
Indigo Allred – Administration Officer
Revd. Charlie Lloyd – Evans
Dartford Borough Councillor Michael Brown
Mr P Crane
Ms D Butler
x3 Members of the public

ABSENT:

There were none

406/25-26. 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.

407/25-26. 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.

408/25-26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Elizabeth Wickham, 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 Kent County Councillor Thomas Mallon due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Dartford Borough Councillor Carol 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.

409/25-26. 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.

410/25-26. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE TOWN MAYOR / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

411/25-26. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2026.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 January 2026 and be confirmed as a true record and be signed.

412/25-26. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, MAJOR DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2026.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Planning, Major Developments, Transportation and Environment Committee Meeting held on 14 January 2026 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

413/25-26. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2026.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on 8 January 2026 be confirmed and the recommendations made therein be adopted.

414/25-26. KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (KALC) COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME (2026)

The Chief Executive of KALC had advised that they had launched the 2026 KALC Community Awards Scheme with a deadline for nominations of 30 January 2026.

Members had previously been provided with all the details on 17 September 2025.

As no nominations were forthcoming it was agreed not to take part in 2026 Scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council do not take part in the 2026 Scheme.

415/25-26. HONORARY FREEMAN.

Members considered the report, and after discussion, Councillor Lorna Cross proposed the Honorary Freeman be awarded. The proposal died for lack of a second.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal died for lack of a second.

416/25-26. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT – CORRESPONDENCE, DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC).

Further to minute 379/25-26 Members considered the response provided by the Head of Finance DBC.

RESOLVED:

That the item be noted.

417/25-26. LORRY PARK WORKING GROUP – UPDATE.

Members considered the notes from the Lorry Park Working Group meeting on 21 October 2026, and Councillor Graham Taylor summarised the outcome of the Working Group meeting with Jim Dickson MP on 23 January 2026.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

418/25-26. LORRY PARK WORKING GROUP – VACANCY.

Councillor Elizabeth Wickham had requested to come off of the membership of the Working Group.

It was proposed, duly seconded and agreed:

RESOLVED:

That the item be deferred until the next meeting of the Town Council.

419/25-26. 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 Peter Harris advised that the accounts for 2024 – 2025 had now been submitted to the Auditors.

It was also noted that x2 large blocks were going to Right to Manage on 7 February 2026 and that x5 smaller blocks were also looking to apply for Right to Manage.

Whitecliffe Community Liaison Group (WCLG)

Councillor Dawn Johnston is the Town Councils representatives on the WCLG. As previously agreed, the agenda from the meeting on 21 January 2026 was available for inspection.

Councillor Dawn Johnston advised that she was unable to attend the last meeting.

Bluewater Forum (BF)

Councillor Dawn Johnston is the Town Councils representatives on the BF.

Unfortunately, Councillor Dawn Johnston advised that she was unable to attend the most recent meeting as it was being held at the same time as the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council meeting 29 January 2026.

420/25-26. REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

Unfortunately, Kent County Councillor for Swanscombe and Greenhithe, Mr Thomas Mallon, was unable to attend the meeting.

The Town Mayor read out an update report submitted by KCC Thomas Mallon regarding the ASB Parking at manor Community Primary School and the implementation of a yellow box no parking junction in front of the gates to attempt to overcome this. This was able to be enforced by KCC as it was on private land.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

421/25-26. REPORT FROM DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

Unfortunately, Dartford Borough Councillor Carol Gale was unable to attend, but had advised that she had been in contact with the Environment Agency regarding Swanscombe Peninsula and was awaiting authorisation to provide an update at the next meeting.

Dartford Borough Councillor Michael Brown provided an update that included: the launch of a consultation on the budget and council tax setting, both the December and January Development Control Board meetings had been cancelled, Cabinet Advisory Panel A had discussed the replacement of a pedestrian bridge and the delays relating to the Orchard Theatre, upcoming Cabinet decisions regarding The Pavilion CIL funding bid and the purchase of 47 new builds in Greenhithe, Local Government Reorganisation a launch consultation on all x5 submitted proposals in early February running for 7 weeks.

Dartford Borough Councillors Emma Ben-Moussa and Claire Pearce provided an update that included: the regular Ward walks were continuing to report fly tipping etc., currently dealing with multiple reports of abandoned vehicles in Gunn Road, Moor Road and Broad Road, and this had been passed to the Police. ASB Parking on the High Street was still ongoing and it was scheduled for the DBC Cabinet Member, Councillor Richard Wells to attend on site.

There were issues with the standard being provided by the new contractor for DBC Housing repairs and this has been raised to the Head of Housing.

The Joint Transportation Board had again been working with KCC and Fastrack to try to resolve the issues with the F service on Ingress Park.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted.

422/25-26. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.

There were none

423/25-26. TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Dawn Johnston, updated the meeting on her upcoming Mayoral events including:

- The recent Burns Night Quiz and Poetry Night had raised £465 for the mayors Charity Fund.
- Charity Fashion Show, in partnership with Ellenor, was scheduled to be held in The Swanscombe Centre on 28 February 2026

424/25-26. CO-OPTION OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR THE SWANSCOMBE WARD.

Further to minute 329/25-26 x3 Expressions of Interest had been received.

Unfortunately, Dr S J Dunn was unable to attend the meeting but, in accordance with the Co-Option Policy had provided additional information.

The Chairman thanked the candidates for expressing their interest in serving the community and invited them to address the meeting.

In accordance with the Co-Option Policy and Standing Order 6 b) Members voted. At this stage the candidate with the least votes dropped out and Members then voted again and it was duly carried.

RESOLVED:

That Denise Butler be co-opted on to the Town Council for the Swanscombe Ward.

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)