

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE **MEETING HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 10TH DECEMBER 2018**

Councillors Present: Cllrs. M. Carter, J. Crawford, Mrs. J. Curteis, N. Gooch, C. Knowles, K. Mulholland (Chair), A. Sugden and Substitute: Cllr. Dr. L. Lovelidge.

Officers Present: Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess, Deputy Town Clerk Mrs. C. Gilbert and Administrative Assistants Ms. S. Ratcliffe and Mrs. L. Owers

Others Present: Cllrs. M. Freeman, H. Edwards, M. Hickmott, R. Isworth, Mrs. P. Smith and Mrs. C. Walder (not members of this committee). Cllr. P. Clokie and 21 members of the public.

0258 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs. Mrs. S. Ferguson and J. Nelson.

0259 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

0260 **MINUTES.** The minutes and reports of the meeting held on 12th November 2018 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

0261 **MATTERS ARISING.** None.

0262 **PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.** None.

0263 **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.** None

0264 **SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS.**

- (a) Caretaker Scheme. A report of the meeting held on 29th November 2018 was **NOTED**. The following recommendations were **RESOLVED**:
- (i) negotiations should take place with ABC to remove Cranbrook Road Cemetery from the contract;
 - (ii) the second option available would be to accept an additional payment from ABC to reflect the true cost of Cemetery maintenance
 - (iii) if neither of the above options should be achievable, the Council would consider cancellation of the ABC contract only. (Retaining the KCC contract).
- (b) Community Transport Scheme. Cllr. Mulholland gave a report of the meeting held on 5th December 2018, which was also tabled. Cllr. Mulholland reported that there had been reasonable progress on Community Transport; there is now the 'Rolvenden Rocket' which has been organised by Rolvenden Parish Council and sponsored by Ashford Borough Council. Tenterden Social Hub have now taken delivery of their new Community Bus and they already have

two others in operation. The consultation that KCC held called 'The Big Conversation' came up with several recommendations which involve Tenterden and surrounding areas. The Town has gone from scarce buses to three different modes of transport now.

Cllr. Mulholland reported that there is a need to co-ordinate transport provision and the Tenterden Social Hub (TSH) is best placed to do this; TSH were currently re-advertising for a Co-ordinator. The next meeting is scheduled for 9th January 2019 to see how best to work together; at the moment TSH and The Rocket are vying for business and there is also a conflict with the KCC proposal. There needs to be a system which compliments each different kind of transport.

- (c) Donations. A report of the meeting held on 26th November 2018 was **NOTED**. It was **RESOLVED** that Tenterden Camera Club should receive the remainder of this year's budget of £736.00 which will be put towards projection equipment.
- (d) Kiln Field Reserve and Wildlife Venues. Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge reported on the meeting held on 3rd December 2018, the notes from which were tabled. Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge reported that the Town Council had agreed to take over the lease of Kiln Field from ABC for a peppercorn rent. The Tenterden Schools Trust has been invited to get involved and two members of the public will be invited to join the Sub-committee. The Committee will also speak with Cllr. Knowles about what money is involved and what people want to do with it as he has been heavily involved in this project.
- (e) Friday Market. The report of the meeting with traders on 30th November 2018 was **NOTED**. Cllr. Mrs. Smith reported that the main concerns of the stall holders were the lack of footfall and lack of advertising, and that she had concerns about reducing the fee and also the size of pitches.

The Town Clerk reported that, at the Sub-committee meeting, it was suggested that a banner be purchased for the Recreation Ground railings and be used on Fridays if the number of banners is not currently at the limit. Unfortunately, due to Government guidelines and the tightening up of commercial advertising by ABC, this will not be possible. The suggestion that placards should be purchased and displayed on the two main entrance routes into Tenterden was also not possible due to KCC rules regarding flyposting.

The following recommendations were **RESOLVED**:

- (i) the Town Council would issue a recurring Facebook posting on Thursday evening advertising the market;
- (ii) the Town Council would allow a marketing budget of £500-£1000 for a campaign in the Spring of 2019 to cover advertising in the Wealden Ad etc.
- (iii) terms and conditions, stallholder applications, etc. should be available on the Town Council's website
- (iv) a suitable backing canvas would be purchased for the stalls to be displayed the full length of the market;

- (v) the requested reduction to £10 per week would be scheduled for Easter 2019. This should run for a trial 3-month period and be dependent on the use of the backing canvas and the removal of all vehicles from the market area. If permanently introduced it should be reviewed annually.

It was also agreed to add a further recommendation regarding future discussions on the size of the market pitches and vans on the High Street; this would be brought back to the Council.

- 0265 **PRECEPT.** It was **AGREED** that a precept request of £126,044 would be submitted for the year 2019-2020 for this Committee.
- 0266 **YOUTH WORKER RECRUITMENT.** It was **RESOLVED** to allocate a budget of £1,500 for the recruitment process of a Youth Worker. Cllr. Sugden explained that £20,000 has been allocated in the precept for wages for a Youth Worker, who would advise and guide the Council on the setting up the Youth Hub. Once the youth hub has been finalised, the employment of the Youth Worker will commence in the new Council year, which starts in May.
- 0267 **MEMORIAL BENCHES.** It was **RESOLVED** to allow two floral tributes per year on the anniversaries of the birth and death of the deceased.
- 0268 **CYCLING STRATEGY.** It was **AGREED** in principle that the Council would fund the £10,350 fees relating to the two prioritised cycling routes. Cllr. Knowles encouraged the Cycling Strategy Group to approach the Borough Ward Members for members grants. Cllr. Edwards made a request for it to be minuted that he had no involvement in the discussion at this meeting regarding cycling routes.
- 0269 **CHRISTMAS IN TENTERDEN.** Ms. S. Welch reported that they were still waiting for survey responses from fifteen High Street businesses; however, a full report will be ready in January 2019. The priority around the event was for economic benefit to local businesses who do not have a High Street presence both within the High Street and within the local area. The Organisers are waiting for statistics from ABC regarding parking usage during the event. The event itself saw an increase in footfall traffic in the High Street of twenty percent from last year. Four different surveys are carried out to assess feedback, from the stall holders, residents, visitors and local businesses. They have received a ninety-four percent request rate for a repeat pitch for 2019.

Residents and visitors' satisfaction rates come out at 4.4 out of 5. Although some areas of local businesses felt that they did not benefit from footfall traffic, specifically Sayers Lane, overall businesses rated it as good for their business with 4.65 out of 5 for delivering an atmosphere. The Organisers would like to extend the road closure period next year to make it safer for the light parade as the amount of people who joined the parade was greatly underestimated.

Cllr. Mulholland thanked Ms. S. Welch and Mrs. N. Mahoney for doing a terrific job and bouquets were presented to them both.

Cllr. Isworth commented that a good indicator of the enormous success of the event was that on Saturday, even after bad weather, some traders had sold out and were packing up at 7pm.

- 0270 **NHS – POTENTIAL CHANGES TO LOCAL CARE AND HOSPITAL SERVICES.** Cllr. Isworth reported that it has been expressed in the press that A&E should be

provided at all three sites, the William Harvey in Ashford, the Kent & Canterbury in Canterbury and the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in Margate. Cllr. Isworth reported that this would not happen.

Cllr. Isworth reported that Option Two was a proposition from a developer who has offered to build the shell of a new hospital in Canterbury in exchange for planning permission. The access to this new shell would be just as difficult as the access to the Kent & Canterbury Hospital whereas the access to the William Harvey Hospital is just off the M20. The only groups in favour of this option live in Canterbury.

Option 1 is the most favoured option by most medical bodies as the William Harvey is set up already. It was **RESOLVED** to accept Option 1 and Cllr. Isworth agreed to draft a letter to the NHS.

- 0271 **TENTERDEN LIBRARY.** The reduction of the opening hours of Tenterden Library was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will respond to the consultation document and express the Town Council's opposition to the proposed reduction in hours.

Cllr. Carter commented that the reduction in hours would decimate that end of the Town. Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge reported that there is a wide diversity of people that go to the library: from toddlers to the elderly and those who use computers and read books; the Town needs to keep the current hours.

Cllr. Crawford commented that the consultation document does not mention Gateways; Tenterden is one of three still running in Kent. Cllr. Crawford recommended that all Councillors and members of the public complete the questionnaires online.

- 0272 **CAR PARKS.** It was **RESOLVED** to approach Ashford Borough Council regarding the pooling and icing issues within the Waitrose and Bridewell Lane car parks. Cllr. Carter requested that the lighting issues at the top end of Waitrose car park were also addressed.

The Committee moved into closed session. *Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, the public and press will be excluded from the closed meeting session due to the confidential nature of this part of the meeting which involves the discussion of confidential staffing matters and confidential financial negotiations.*

- 0273 **LAND ISSUES.** Confidential document 605M refers

End of closed session.

- 0274 **CORRESPONDENCE.** It was **NOTED** that numerous further letters have been received in support of the grant application from St. Mildred's Church.

- 0275 **MINOR MATTERS.** None

- 0276 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIRMAN.** None

The meeting opened at 8.35pm and closed at 9.15pm.

The foregoing Minutes and Reports were confirmed and signed at the External Meeting held on the 14th day of January 2019.

Chairman _____ (14.01.2019)