

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 11TH DECEMBER 2017

Councillors Present: M. Carter, Mrs. J. Curteis, H. Edwards, Mrs. S. Ferguson (Deputy Town Mayor), Miss N. Gooch, R. Isworth, R. Lusty, K. Mulholland, Mrs. P. Smith and A. Sugden

Officers Present: Town Clerk P. Burgess, Deputy Town Clerk Mrs. C. Gilbert, Mrs. J. McCollum and Administrative Assistant Ms. S. Ratcliffe.

Others Present: Cllr. Mr. P. Clokie (ABC) and six members of the public.

3123 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr. M. Hickmott, R. Knight, C. Knowles, Dr. L. Lovelidge, J. Nelson (Town Mayor), PCSO Welch and Reverend Canon L. Hammond.

3124 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None

3125 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Special Town council meeting held on 23rd October 2017 and Town Council meeting held on 30th October 2017 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

3126 **MATTERS ARISING.** None

3127 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.**

- (a) Mr. M. Pearson, of High Street, asked the Council to explain the increase in the Precept and he expressed his concerns over the increasing cost of projects being taken on by the Council. He asked whether any financial assistance would be provided, by ABC or KCC, if the Council took over the lamp standards on the high street as this was not stated. The Town Clerk advised the 18% increase was based on last year's precept which was reduced by £33,000. Based on the last two years the increase amounted to an 8% increase. The Town Clerk also responded to the query regarding lamp standards and reported that this was only a potential option and it was still being discussed.
- (b) Mr J. Crawford, of Stace Close, requested clarification on the interest received for the TENT1 monies. The Town Clerk reported that the expected £35,000 in interest was largely derived from the investment of £750,000 in CCLA (a local authorities' property fund). A further £600,000 had been invested at an interest rate of 1% in a Nationwide one year bond. An amount well in excess of £2.2 million was held in deposit and current accounts.
- (c) Mr. A. Poole, of Appledore Road, made a statement regarding the Planning Committee meeting held in closed session on 2nd May 2017 which discussed the Council making a decision between the land to the rear of Westwell and the land at Appledore Road/Woodchurch Road. At that

meeting, the Town Clerk had issued dispensations to Councillors, with the Clerk having sought legal advice, however Mr. Poole was querying this. Mr. Poole also requested clarification over private meeting arrangements, and who had asked for the meeting to happen in private; the Town Clerk advised that ABC had verbally requested this. Mr. Poole asked that the meeting of 2nd May 2017 be annulled; the Town Clerk responded that it would not be annulled.

- 3128 **COMMITTEE REPORTS.** Subject to any specific questions or objections, the Minutes and Reports of the under-mentioned Committees were taken as read and, being duly seconded, were approved and **ADOPTED** as part of the proceedings of the Town Council subject to the following recommendations which were voted upon by a show of hands.

Internal Committee; 30th October 2017 and 20th November 2017.
Presented by Cllr. Isworth

External Committee; 20th November 2017. Presented by Cllr. Carter

Planning Committee; 30th October 2017 and 20th November 2017.
Presented by Cllr. Lusty.

- 3129 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** Ms. J. Vos reported that she had had another busy month. She attended the launch of Musical Memories which now meets on Tuesday mornings. She has been liaising with Social Services and carrying out welfare visits. She gave an internet safety talk at the Children's Centre. Visits and support had been given to various groups including CARM and the Day Centre. Jo attended training courses on domestic violence and mental health awareness. She continues to be involved in reporting fly tipping and pot holes. She has spoken to several youths to encourage cycle safety and will continue to liaise with Head Teachers and the youths involved.

3130 **KENT POLICE.**

- (a) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson had provided a report on a recent meeting with the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr. M. Scott with High Halden and Biddenden parishes in attendance due to concerns over anti-social behaviour.
- (b) PCSO O. Welch had provided the following report, which was presented by Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson.

"Crime has continued to remain low in Tenterden and the surrounding villages with very few incidents reported. We are still seeing a slight increase in Burglaries and break-ins to sheds and outbuildings and we would like to remind all residents to stay vigilant and report anything suspicious via the Kent Police non-emergency number 101 or if you do witness a crime in progress then please do call 999. Here's how you can cut the risk of theft:

- Always put tools and equipment away safely – items left lying around outside could be stolen or used to help a thief break in.

- Disable lawn mowers and other large machinery when not in use and chain items together to a solid anchor point.
- Record details of your property (make, model, serial number and identifying marks) and take photographs of items for easy identification.
- Use close shackle padlocks to secure sheds and install shed alarms and security lights.
- Register your valuables on the National Property Database - www.immobilise.com
- Security-mark your property using a UV pen or a forensic marking solution.
- Ensure the screws are not accessible when using a hasp and staple lock or pad bolts.
- Prevent unwanted visitors from entering your garden by maintaining hedges and fences.
- Close your garden gate and lock it from the inside.
- Avoid leaving house doors and windows open or unlocked when working in the garden.

Since the last meeting I have been paying particular attention to the recreation ground in St Michaels. I am pleased to say that I have received no reports of youths causing an issue and have not seen large groups gathering in the area.

Finally, with Christmas just around the corner we are reminding residents to be mindful when disposing of boxes and rubbish. Try not to advertise any new products you may have bought or received."

- (c) Cllr. Mulholland suggested that anti-social behaviour was more likely to happen in the evening when the PCSO was not around. Cllr. Mrs. Curteis reported that so called 'legal high' canisters were often found on St Michael's Recreation Ground, where groups of youths had been gathered. She had also had reports, from members of the public, about being intimidated by these groups. Several councillors expressed the need to review the cutting of the hedge to help discourage anti-social behaviour in this area. Cllr. Lusty advised of the need to set up a meeting with external bodies on how to address the issues at St Michaels Recreation Ground.
- (d) Cllr. Isworth asked whether more information was available about the PCSO changes and the Police Cadets. Unfortunately, full details and dates had not been confirmed.

3131 **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

- (a) St Michael's Village Hall. Cllr. Mulholland reported that over 100 people attended the Hall's 50th Anniversary celebrations on 18th November 2017.

A plaque was unveiled by the mayor. The last fundraising event of the year, a Bingo evening, will be held on Saturday 16th December. The AGM will be held at 7pm on 22nd January 2018 at The Little Silver Hotel and is open to members of the public.

- (b) Community Bus. Cllr. Mulholland reported that a meeting would be held in January, with Ashford Volunteers, to explore the possibility of a 'Tenterden Hopper'. This could help alleviate problems caused by KCC cutting bus routes and utilise the Day Centre buses. Cllr. Mrs. Gooch will liaise with Cllr. Mulholland as she has Community Transport Forms which may be useful.
- (c) Christmas Trees. Cllr. Mulholland reported that the new sponsored Christmas trees, particularly the one in St Michael's, had received positive feedback. He thanked all those involved in helping to organise.
- (d) St Michael's Village Community Group. Cllr. Mrs. Curteis reported on the success of the Christmas Lights 'switch on' and children's party. £265.00 was raised in raffle ticket sales; this was donated to Hypo Hounds. The AGM will be held at 7pm on 15th January 2018 at the London Beach Hotel. Cllr. Edwards requested that the Council congratulate those involved in refurbishing the Village Hall.

3132 **CASUAL VACANCY.** It was **NOTED** that an election will be called in response to requests from electors. ABC will provide further details in January.

3133 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson gave thanks for the success of the Christmas Lights, recognising that this would bring additional trade to the Town. She thanked: Scott Mitchell, the Town Council Maintenance Team, Tenterden Chamber of Commerce, Tenterden Rotary Club, Hole Park and the Town Clerk.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm and closed at 7.45pm

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 29th day of January 2018.

Chairman _____ (29.1.2018)