

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 24TH APRIL 2017

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

Officers Present: Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess and Senior Administrator Mrs. C. Gilbert.

Others Present: Sergeant-at-Mace Mr. M. Winter, Reverend Canon L. Hammond and three members of the public.

Reverend Hammond said prayers.

3054 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllrs. C. Knowles and Dr. L. Lovelidge.

3055 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

3056 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2017 and minutes of the Special Meeting held on 13th March 2017 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

3057 **MATTERS ARISING.** None.

3058 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.**

- (a) The Town Mayor expressed her thanks to Canon L. Hammond for his support to her over the last two years as Town Mayor.
- (b) Mr. M. Pearson of High Street addressed the Council with several issues arising from the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Pearson raised concerns: at the low number of residents at the meeting; the response from the Town Clerk regarding the answering of questions; the format of the meeting needed to change so there less of 'us and them' and the Mayor should wear the Chain of Office; Councillors should not be critical of each other at public meetings; the Council seemed out of touch with residents; the Lipton Report seemed a fait accompli rather than recommendations; and that the Council seemed desperate to spend the Tent1 monies. In Mr. Pearson's opinion, the feeling in the Town is that the Council is no longer listening or taking notice of residents. Mr. Pearson then left the meeting before the Town Council could address his concerns.

The Town Council agreed to minute responses to Mr. Pearson's comments.

- i) Cllr. Smith commented that it was a Town Meeting, not a Council meeting therefore the Chain of Office did not need to be worn. Cllr. Smith introduced herself at the meeting as a matter of courtesy. About low attendance at the Town Meeting, the Council is not sure how to address it at present. Cllr. Smith reinforced the need for the

Town Clerk to answer technical questions at the meeting; Cllr. Knight supported this comment.

- iii) Cllr. Sugden reminded the Council of the legal requirement that the Chairman, the Town Clerk and members of the public are invited to the Annual Town Meeting; there is no requirement for Councillors to be there.
- iv) Cllr. Isworth suggested a banner be put on the Recreation Ground and outside the Town Hall advertising the Annual Town Meeting in future years. Mr. Pearson's comment regarding the Town Council being desperate to spend the Tent1 monies was not true and the press release in the Kentish Express had not helped the situation.
- v) Cllr. Mulholland commented that he did not believe there is apathy amongst the public as they did turn up to the regeneration consultations across the age range. Cllr. Mulholland also commented that the seating plan for next year should be revised. Cllr. Knight suggested that those Councillors who know in advance that they may be required to speak at the meeting be at the front of the room with the Mayor and the other Councillors be with the public. Cllr. Knight also suggested that articles regarding the Council should be reviewed prior to printing. The Town Clerk reported that the headlines at the Kentish Express are quite often designed by a different person than the reporter.
- vi) Cllr. Isworth suggested that the Council's website should list which Councillors are representatives on which organisations which may then aid the directing of questions at the Town Meeting.
- vii) Cllr. Carter commented that the advertising about the Tent1 monies had not been done well and suggested organising a 'pop up Council stall' outside the Town Hall on a Saturday for the public to ask questions.

The above comments would be taken into consideration for next year's Annual Town Meeting and that the Town Clerk would respond to Mr. Pearson's concerns.

- (c) Cllr. Smith raised her concerns with the article printed in the previous week's Kentish Express (KE) regarding the empty shops in Tenterden; there was no mention that some of the shops which were listed as gone were relocated in the Town. Cllr. Smith requested that press releases go through the Town Clerk's office and if Councillors wish to speak to the press direct, then they must state that it is a personal view, not the view of the Council. The Town Clerk requested that a Working Group be set up to produce regular press releases and marketing.

3059 **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;

Finance & General Purposes: 13th March and 3rd April 2017. Presented by Cllr. Nelson.

Committee recommendations:

Minute 3637 – Changes to Committee Structure. It was **RESOLVED** that the changes to the Committee structure should be amended as follows; Cllr. Hickmott abstained from voting:

- (a) Two new standing committees: *Internal Committee* and *External Committee* would be formed to replace the Finance & General Purposes, Highways & Amenities, Public Buildings and Tourism & Business Committees.
- (b) The new committees would be restricted to eight members, plus three substitutes who would fill spaces in the event of members not being able to attend a meeting.
- (c) Members and substitutes would be assigned by drawing lots.
- (d) Members not serving on a committee would have an assigned space at meetings and could contribute to the debate, but not vote. These non-members would submit apologies should they be unable to attend.
- (e) Standing Orders in respect of election to committees, and the delegated authority of the committees, would be amended as required.
- (f) The Planning Committee would remain unchanged, and as many Councillors as possible would be encouraged to join.

Minute 3655 – Land Issues. Confidential documents nos. 579, 580, 581 and 582 refer. **RESOLVED.**

Minute 3654 – St. Mildred’s Committee. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs. Isworth and Lusty as Town Council Representatives on the St. Mildred’s Committee. The roles would be as support only.

Highways & Amenities: 13th March 2017. Presented by Cllr. Mrs. Smith.

Committee recommendation:

Minute 3144 – Ceremonial Beacon. To allocate a maximum budget of £1,000.00 for the installation of the Lions Club Tenterden ceremonial beacon on Tenterden Recreation Ground was **RESOLVED.**

Planning: 13th March and 3rd April 2017. Presented by Cllr. Lusty.

Public Buildings: 3rd April 2017. Presented by Cllr. Carter.

Tourism & Business: 13th March 2017 (inquorate meeting). Presented by Cllr. Carter.

3060 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** No report.

3061 **KENT POLICE.** No report.

3062 **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

- (a) May Fayre. Cllr. Hickmott reported that the May Fayre will take place on Monday, 1st May with a variety of events taking place and food and beverages available. The Town Council had been allocated two tables and a rota would be set up for Councillors to man the stall.
- (b) Tenterden Leisure Centre. Cllr. Ferguson reported that the management of the centre is going well, with lots of activities and special events organised. With regard to the sports bursaries, the Leisure Centre were very happy with the take up with many up and coming young sports stars on board. There would be a presentation at the end of June/beginning July and all new applicants and successful previous applicants would be invited. The wet change refurbishment had been completed, which had provided four additional changing cubicles. A business plan for new work was currently being drawn up and discussions would take place with Ashford Borough Council before any building programme commenced regarding the lease. The Leisure Centre were very happy with the Town Council taking over the operation of the external ground which had made the contact process much easier with the relevant parties. The Leisure Centre would like to remove the mound situated between the Leisure Centre and football pitch, maybe in conjunction with the new parking spaces. However, this would prove quite costly. Cllr. Ferguson also reported that two members of the Leisure Centre Trust had requested to join the Recreation Ground re-ordering focus group.
- (c) Tenterden & District Chamber of Commerce. Cllr. Thorpe reported that the Chamber of Commerce will hold its AGM on 17th May 2017 at the Kent & East Sussex Railway Station. The new website was in the testing stage and an update would follow soon. A Charity Golf Day is organised for 3rd August 2017. Cllr. Thorpe reported that the membership was growing and hopefully will continue to do so. Networking events have been booked for the next four months.

3063 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Cllr. Smith reminded Councillors of the May Fayre on 1st May 2017. Cllr. Smith will be hosting the 3rd Veteran's lunch at the Town Hall on 6th May 2017 and there will be 25 guests attending. The Council's litter pick event would be held on Sunday, 7th May 2017 with more details to follow.

Cllr. Smith expressed her thanks to the Council for their support this Mayoral year, to Mr. M. Winter, Sergeant-at-Mace for looking after her and Mrs. C. Gilbert for administrative support. Cllr. Smith had also expressed her thanks to the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk. Cllr. Smith had attended a total of 102 mayoral events this mayoral year.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm and closed at 7.55pm

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 15th day of May 2017.

Chairman _____ (15.05.2017)