

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 29TH OCTOBER 2018

Councillors Present: Cllrs. M. Carter, J. Crawford, Mrs. J. Curteis, Mrs. S. Ferguson, Miss N. Gooch, C. Knowles, K. Mulholland (Chair) and A. Sugden.

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

Others Present: Cllrs. M. Freeman, R. Isworth, J. Nelson, Dr. Lovelidge and Mrs. C. Walder (not members of this committee), Cllrs. M. Bennett and P. Clokie (ABC) and four members of the public.

0235 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs. M. Hickmott and Mrs. P. Smith (non-Members).

0236 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr. Knowles declared an interest as a Friend of St. Mildred's.

0237 **PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

- (a) Mr. R. Baker of Smallhythe Road reported that back in January 2018 (Minute 0110) he had asked the Committee to support residents in getting the national speed limit reduced to 40mph along Smallhythe Road, between Tesco and Smallhythe. The Committee at the time agreed to support the residents and promised a result from Kent County Council (KCC). Mr. Baker also reported that, since the January meeting, there have been nine further External meetings yet there have been no further discussions. Mr. Baker enquired whether the Town Clerk could liaise with KCC.

Mr. Baker thanked the Council for funding the Speed Indicator Device which is currently situated on Smallhythe Road and seems to be useful so far.

The Town Clerk responded that he had spoken to KCC Borough Councillor Mr. M. Hill regarding the reduced speed limit; Cllr. Hill was waiting for a report. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would investigate and report back to the next meeting.

0238 **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.**

- (a) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported that one of the poles next to Montalbano (on Highbury Lane) is at 45 degrees and needs checking. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson wanted to congratulate Kent Highways on the superb job they have made of repairing Highbury Lane and photos of the repairs should be shared on social media.
- (b) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson wished to congratulate St. Michaels Village Community Group on the fantastic remembrance display at the point in St. Michaels.

0239 ST. MILDRED'S RE-ORDERING.

Cllr. Mulholland handed the meeting over to Canon L. Hammond, the Reverend J. Kennett and Mr. M. Vink, who represented St. Mildred's Church. Cllr. Mulholland informed the public that there would be no decisions made by the Council at the meeting regarding funding.

Mr. Vink conducted the presentation to the Town Council. A copy of the video showing the proposed re-ordering would be made available via the Town Council's website in due course. Some key points were noted from the presentation.

- (a) Mr. Vink reported that the Church last presented the re-ordering plans to the Town Council in October 2017 and a bid was placed for the Tent1 funds in March 2018. The Church were still bidding for £750,000 to enable other funding to be considered.
- (b) Whist any works are undertaken, the Church would have to be closed for a year and alternative venue would need to be sought for that period for the congregation.
- (c) The Church have consulted Heritage England and have amended the plans according to their advice. However, they have not viewed the revised plans.
- (d) The Church are widely consulting the public; 130 residents attended the presentation in the Church on Sunday, 28th October 2018, none of whom were against the proposals. Further presentations to other groups will be made.
- (e) An enquiry was made with regard to whether any graves were currently situated where the new extension would be. It was confirmed that there were two headstones and one tomb.
- (f) A resident asked whether there were any plans for St. Mildred's to sell Coombe Lane Cemetery for development; it was confirmed that this was not the case. Although St. Mildred's own Coombe Lane Cemetery, the Canterbury Diocese part-own the rest of the Church's buildings/land. Unfortunately, the Diocese is not cash rich and currently has cash flow issues.
- (g) It was confirmed that with re-ordering and removal of pews, 304 seats will be available, which is 20 more than the pews hold.
- (h) Funding for the 2.2 million re-ordering will be sought by several means:
 - Tenterden Town Council
 - Congregation
 - Ashford Borough Council/Kent County Council
 - Heritage Lottery Fund (who will not consider funding until Stage 3 is conducted by the Royal Institute of Architects is completed)
 - Arts Council
 - Organisations/charities.

St. Mildred's would appreciate any advice/help on fundraising.

- (i) The following is not included in the re-ordering of St. Mildred's and funds are raised by the Friends of St. Mildred's:
- Nave roof
 - Stained glass windows refurbishment
 - Quinquennial checks, i.e. roof repairs, etc.
- (j) It currently costs £150,000 a year to run the Church.

Canon L. Hammond closed the presentation with a request that the Town Council supports the Church in helping to secure St. Mildred's future.

0240 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** None.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm and closed at 8.25pm.

The foregoing Minutes and Reports were confirmed and signed at the External Meeting held on the 12th day of November 2018.

Chairman _____ (12.11.2018)