

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF A TOURISM & BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 30th JANUARY 2017

Councillor Members Present: M. Carter (Chairman), Mrs. S. Ferguson, K. Mulholland and J. Nelson.

Non-Councillor Members Present: Mrs. S. Barber Cllr. Mrs. C. Bell and Mr. J. Crawford.

Officers Present: Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess and Deputy Town Clerk Mr. R. Parham.

Others Present: Ms. S. Marsh, Mr. S. Robinson (Tenterden & District Chamber of Commerce) and Mr. M. Yonge (Kent & East Sussex Railway).

0238 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllrs. Mrs. Smith.

0239 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

0240 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held 19th December 2016 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

0241 **MATTERS ARISING.** None.

0242 **PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.** None.

0243 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS.** None.

0244 **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

(a) High Street Revitalisation. The chairman reported that a meeting had been held on 27th January 2017. This had focussed exclusively on possible improvements to the area of the Waitrose car park, and plans to extend the adjacent Ivy Court Surgery - work on this was expected to begin as soon as possible. The notes of the meeting would be published on the Town Council's website, Ivy Court having expressed that its plans could be made public.

(b) Great British High Street Competition. A meeting had not been held, as the launch of the 2017 competition was not anticipated for some months. In the meantime, members were looking at entries from other towns to gauge the kind of initiatives which might be successful. Information was awaited from ABC about the possibility of encouraging busking on the High Street.

0245 **TRIP ADVISOR.** Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported that the High Street had received excellent feedback on the website Trip Advisor, and was the third most popular destination in the town behind the K&ESR and the Chapel Down Winery. A certificate of excellence had been received and would be displayed in the notice board outside the Town Hall.

0246 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

- (a) Christmas Market. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson had prepared a survey regarding the 2016 Christmas market for completion by local businesses, and sought feedback from members prior to its distribution. Cllr. Mrs. Bell noted that the survey suggested that ABC was less-than-supportive of the event, which was not the case, and asked that this aspect be rephrased. Ms. Marsh, who had expertise running surveys, suggested that much of the preamble be removed so as to avoid leading respondents, and emphasised the need to express that the Council was keen to receive feedback to help in delivering events in the future. Subsequent to the survey a public meeting on the subject would be held in the Town Hall at 6pm on 22nd February 2017.
- (b) Rother Valley Railway. Mr. Yonge reported that work on the extension of the line to Robertsbridge was expected to commence very soon, pending planning permission for the last two miles of track (which was very likely to be given) and a Transport and Works Act Order from Parliament. Completion was anticipated for 2020.

The Meeting opened at 5.00 p.m. and closed at 5.54 p.m.

The foregoing Minutes and Reports were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Tourism & Business Committee on the 13th day of March 2017.

Chairman _____ (13.03.2017)