

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 29TH JANUARY 2018

Councillors Present: M. Carter, Mrs. J. Curteis, H. Edwards, Mrs. S. Ferguson (Deputy Town Mayor), Miss N. Gooch, M. Hickmott, R. Isworth, C. Knowles, Dr. L. Lovelidge, R. Lusty, K. Mulholland, J. Nelson (Town Mayor) and Mrs. P. Smith

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

Others Present: Sergeant-at-Mace Mr. M. Winter, Reverend Canon L. Hammond, Community Warden Ms. J. Vos, Ashford Borough Councillor Mr. J. Link and eight members of the public.

3138 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess, Cllr. A Sugden and PCSO O. Welch.

3139 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None

3140 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11th December 2017 and Special Town Council meeting held on 11th December 2017 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

3141 **MATTERS ARISING.** None

3142 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.** None

3143 **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; 11th December 2017 and 8th January 2018.
Presented by Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge.

External Committee; 11th December 2017 and 8th January 2018.
Presented by Cllr. Carter.

Committee recommendations:

Minute 0109 - Tenterden Leisure Centre Trust. It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £75,000 to Tenterden Leisure Centre Trust. It had already been confirmed that the donation would come from land receipts, not the Community Chest fund. It was agreed that the Leisure Centre should be advised to produce a press release with regard to their proposals for the expansion.

Minute 0111 - Next Generation Youth Cafe. It was **RESOLVED** to award a £2,000 revenue grant to the Zion Baptist Church towards the continuing employment of Youth Workers, with ABC and KCC being approached to each fund a third in order to meet the full request of £6,000. Progress will be reviewed by the Town Council to ensure the Youth Café receives the full £6,000 grant either from the Town Council or a combination of authorities. Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge suggested that other parishes be approached for future funding as the Youth Cafe does cover many surrounding villages.

Planning Committee; 11th December 2017 and 8th January 2018. Presented by Cllr. Lusty.

3144 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** Ms. J. Vos reported that she had a fairly busy month. She had attended Musical Memories sessions at Highbury Hall and continued to support the Youth Café. She had been involved in carrying out welfare visits to the elderly and disabled, offering advice and help. Ms. Vos had been liaising with the PCSOs regarding drug related issues and had also met the new PCSO. She had also been working with children in schools, the Children's Day Centre and Disabled Day Centre. Following contact with one of the Councillors Ms. Vos had been investigating an issue involving possible fraud.

Ms. Vos had attended an annual training course on anti-terrorism and attended the CCTV meeting at St. Michaels' Recreation Ground. The reporting of fly tipping, pot holes and faulty street lights also continues. Ms. Vos answered questions raised by the Councillors regarding the homeless people in the Town; she confirmed that this issue had been reported to Porchlight.

3145 **KENT POLICE.** PCSO O. Welch had provided the following report, which was presented by Cllr. Nelson.

"Crime has continued to remain low in Tenterden and the surrounding villages with very few incidents reported. However recently we have seen a slight increase in theft from motor vehicles, particularly work vans being targeted, in the surrounding villages. I 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.

Below are some useful tips to help prevent becoming the victim of a vehicle crime:

- Garage your car whenever possible.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Locks or other security devices act as a deterrent.
- Steering locks and gear locks are inexpensive and easy to fit.
- Consider installing an immobiliser or an alarm – and use it!
- Fit locking wheel nuts – they are inexpensive and easy to fit.
- Keep your keys in a safe place at all times.
- Remove keys from the ignition when you leave your vehicle – even for a few seconds.
- Have your registration no. or part of Vehicle ID no. etched onto the glass surfaces.
- Stereos and Sat Navs are some of the most sought-after items - get one that is totally or partly removable and do not leave the support cradle in place or suction pad marks on the windscreen.
- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle – a coat on the back seat is a target for a thief.

- Consider marking all your property – especially the items you frequently take in the car.
- Lock all doors, windows and sunroof every time you leave your car, however briefly.
- Lockable fuel caps are advisable.
- Anti-tamper number plate screws are available on the market.

Full in-depth crime statistics are freely available by visiting www.police.uk

Finally, I need to make you aware of a couple of changes which will be taking effect imminently. I will be moving from my current role and will be replaced by PCSO. Kate Richards who some of you may already know. Kate grew up and lived in Tenterden for many years and therefore has vast knowledge of the area and those who live there. Kate will take on all the wards and responsibilities currently completed by me. There is currently an intake of PCSO's being trained, of which Ashford will benefit from three of them being sent to our area. Once these new personnel have been tutored and become independent an additional PCSO will then work in tandem with Kate covering the area as its been recognised that it's a large area to cover. Therefore, effectively I will be swapped and replaced by two people over the coming months. "

Cllr. R. Lusty asked that the Council's thanks and congratulations to PCSO. Welch were passed on wishing him well in his new role.

3146 **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

- (a) Tenterden Social Hub. Cllr. Isworth reported that Tenterden Day Centre, newly renamed Tenterden Social Hub (TSH), would be providing full details of the services they offer in the Parish Magazine. He was happy to answer any questions about this. The TSH are keen to fully utilise the hall following the recent 'revamp'.
- (b) Citizens Advice Bureau. Cllr. Mulholland reported on the meeting of the trustees on 21st January.
- Whilst the Bureau was still showing a deficit, the financial position was looking healthier. Following the resignation of the volunteer trustee, from the finance section, a new volunteer has now taken over the post.
 - 'Advice UK' will now be used to provide auditing services.
 - The Bureau was keen to recruit a volunteer IT specialist.
 - There has been a 6% increase in the rent charged by the landlord.
 - They are looking to redecorate the building in the spring.
- (c) Ashford Volunteers. Cllr. Mulholland had attended a recent meeting and learned more about the Centre's role. He reported that the Ashford Volunteers had agreed to join the Town Council's newly formed Community Transport Sub-committee, the first meeting of which is due to take place on 12th February 2018.
- (d) St. Michaels Village Hall. Cllr. Mulholland reported on the AGM held on 22nd January 2018. The full report is available and includes details of the work carried out in 2017 and plans for fund raising activities in the coming year.

(e) Tenterden Community Hub. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson advised of the date for the next free lunch, which will be at 12:30pm on 9th February 2018 in St. Mildred's Church Hall.

3147 **CASUAL VACANCY**. It was **NOTED** that a casual vacancy had arisen in St. Michaels Ward. Cllrs. Knowles and Mulholland agreed to interview Mr. R. Knight following his resignation.

Cllr. Edwards advised the Council that there was no budget for bi-elections. Unfortunately, a previous letter had been forwarded by Ashford Borough Council which stated that from 1st June 2009, they would no-longer be paying for these.

3148 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**. Cllr. Nelson gave thanks to Ms. S. Welch and Mrs. N. Mahoney for their presentation and hard work on the Tenterden Christmas Market.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm and closed at 7.25pm

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 12th day of March 2018.

Chairman _____ (12.03.2018)