

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 14TH JANUARY 2019

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

Officers Present: Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess, Deputy Town Clerk Mrs. C. Gilbert and Administrative Assistants Ms. S. Ratcliffe and Ms. L. Owers.

Others Present: Sergeant-at-Mace Mr. M. Winter, Reverend Canon L. Hammond, Reverend J. Kennett, Community Warden Ms. J. Vos, Ashford Borough Councillor P. Clokie and 13 members of the public.

Reverend Hammond said prayers.

3242 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllrs. C. Knowles and Dr. L. Lovelidge.

3243 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

3244 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12th November 2018 and the Special Town Council meeting held on 10th December 2018 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

3245 **MATTERS ARISING.** None.

3246 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.**

- (a) Mr. Martin of Cranbrook Road addressed the Committee with his concerns regarding the St. Mildred's Church application for funding. Mr. Martin felt that with the re-ordering of St. Mildred's, worship was of low priority whilst the main focus seemed to be on secular purposes. Mr. Martin also highlighted that there would be no financial benefit to the town from the re-ordering, in that hospitality will be contained within the building for events and any income would be retained by the Church. Mr. Martin was concerned that the Church was relying on the Town Council to kick-start its money pot.

3247 **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.

External Committee; 12th November 2018 and 10th December 2018.
Presented by Cllr. Mulholland.

Minute 0268 – Cycling Strategy. It was agreed in principle that the Council would fund the £10,350 fees relating to the two prioritised cycling routes. Cllr. Knowles encouraged the Cycling Strategy Group to approach the Borough Ward Members for members grants. Cllr. Edwards made a request for it to be minuted that he had no involvement in the discussion at this meeting regarding cycling routes.

Planning Committee; 6th November 2018, 12th November 2018 and 10th December 2018. Presented by Cllr. Crawford.

- 3248 **MAYORAL SELECTION.** Due to Cllr. Edwards absence from the first part of the Town Council meeting, it was agreed to **DEFER** the revisiting of the recommendation of the Standing Order Sub-committee regarding the method of Mayoral Selection until the next meeting on 11th March 2019.
- 3249 **OUTDOOR CIVIC FUNCTIONS.** It was **RESOLVED** that plain black or official Cinque Port umbrellas would be allowed for civic events during inclement weather. Umbrellas were not permitted for wreath-laying or other mayoral civic functions.
- 3250 **ST MILDREDS RE-ORDERING.** Cllr. Sugden requested that the Town Council, under Standard Committee Procedures; Standing Order 1v(i), moved into a Committee format to discuss this item in more detail.

It was RESOLVED to move the discussion concerning St Mildred's re-ordering into Committee format for this item under Standing Order 1v(i).

- (a) Cllr. Sugden reported that St. Mildred's re-ordering had not been discussed fully by the Council and was deferred from previous meetings. By moving into Committee format, this will enable Councillors to have their say and make a decision based on this.
- (b) Cllr. Crawford requested that St. Mildred's re-ordering should be treated in the same way as the other projects being considered, i.e. questions are posed to the applicants. Cllr. Crawford asked whether there is a business plan/case and if the project was financial viability. Cllr. Crawford also raised his concerns over the Church competing with other hireable spaces and potentially over-supply. Cllr. Crawford requested that the Town Clerk pose a question to St. Mildred's regarding the minimum amount of funding the Church would consider rather than be provided with just the top end figure.

Cllr. Edwards joined the meeting at 7.20 pm.

- (b) Reverend Canon L. Hammond reported Stage 3 would produce a much more detailed set of plans and they had already received notice that may well get a sizeable grant to towards this. Up to this point, a business case has not been drawn up, however, they recognise that this needs to be done; other groups in the Town have also requested a robust business case. Reverend Hammond also reported that fundraising will start to be considered as well.
- (c) Cllr. Isworth reported that the Project Overview Sub-committee would be best placed to review the business plan. Cllr. Isworth commented that St.

Mildred's is most important architectural structure in Tenterden.

- (d) Reverend Hammond acknowledged the need for a Community Partnership Board which would bring together members of the PCC and other representatives of the community; some who have shown interest would bring extensive expertise in order to produce a good business case. Reverend Hammond reminded the Council that St. Mildred's was the largest indoor space in Tenterden; a rare space of quality and size.
- (e) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported that the Council were being asked for support in principle to the funding, not what level. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson also challenged Mr. Martin's comment all funds from hirers would be retained by the Church. Reverend Hammond commented that the money would be apportioned out in different ways; some would be retained towards heating and lighting. For charity events, the balance is returned to the charity. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson enquired how many letters of support the Council had received; the Town Clerk confirmed that there had been around 30 letters of support.
- (f) Cllr. Carter reported that the re-ordering would aid High Street regeneration and agreed that a business plan was required. Cllr. Carter indicated that a Community Engagement Agreement would highlight any potential issues. St. Mildred's was a heritage asset in the Town.
- (g) Cllr. Nelson reported that the Church is offering the community a facility and the Council needed to judge how valuable it is; public money could be used on it.

The Committee format under Standing Order 1v(i) ended and the meeting resumed as full Town Council.

It was **AGREED IN PRINCIPLE** to allow grant funding for St. Mildred's re-ordering. Cllrs. Mrs. Curteis, Crawford, Miss. Gooch and Mulholland abstained from voting.

3251 **MAYOR'S CADET.** Cadet Acting Sgt Ryan Hobbs was presented to the Town Mayor for the Council year 2018/19. The Town Mayor welcomed the new Mayor's Cadet.

3252 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** Ms. J. Vos reported that Christmas had been busy. Welfare visits had been conducted to elderly and disabled residents and Ms. Vos had responded to lifeline callouts. As a Governor of St. Michaels School, Ms. Vos has been involved in the recent Ofsted visit, of which the School has been again awarded a 'Good' rating.

Ms. Vos has been working closely with the local schools. She had been dealing with issues of online bullying or inappropriate online talk amongst youngsters and educated them on understanding the rights and wrongs. Ms. Vos had been involved in a restorative justice process in one of the schools to deal with issues between two students; this was a good process to resolve the issues.

Ms. Vos reported that there had been an applicant for the Volunteer Support Warden for Tenterden position and would be interviewed in the next few weeks.

Ms. Vos had been conducting various presentations on the Community Warden role and explaining what she can do within the community to assist. Also raising

awareness of different scams and how to deal with issues that arise from people coming across them. Ms. Vos also continues to support local groups, visiting, engaging and showing a presence. Youth café work closely and supporting vulnerable young people, helping with mediation on and issues and supporting when issues at home as well.

Cllr. Carter asked for Ms. Vos' opinion on the proposed cut of the library opening hours. Ms. Vos responded that the cuts were not appropriate as Tenterden is a unique situation. The criteria that was used to judge which libraries required a reduction or increase in hours was not the best way to gauge needs; KCC were proposing to increase opening hours in some small villages but decrease Tenterden's.

Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson highlighted the issues around the Post Office being located within the library and also reinforced how unique Tenterden's situation was. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported on the significant number of groups that regularly meet in the library who will be affected; these range from vulnerable groups to social groups.

Cllr. Nelson reported that the KCC Parish Forum will be held on 30th January 2019 at the Town Hall and suggested that Councillors attend to raise the issues. Cllr. Carter requested that a meeting be set up with Cllr. M. Hill (KCC Borough Councillor) prior to the Parish Forum to raise the Town Council's concerns.

3253 **KENT POLICE.** PCSO K. Richards and PCSO L. Jones had provided a report, which the Town Mayor read out. A copy of the full report, which contains details on how to secure your property and cyber awareness, will be placed on the Town Council's website and the main points are highlighted below.

Crime has continued to remain relatively low in Tenterden with few incidents reported. Another Neighbourhood Watch Drop-In Session will be held on Wednesday, 16th January 2019 from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon at Costa in Tenterden. PCSO Richards will also be there if residents need to speak to the Police.

On Saturday 2nd February 2019, PCSO Richards will also be carrying out Free Bike markings outside the Town Hall from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.

PCSO Richards and PCSO Jones are still working with the community to make sure everyone is riding their bikes safely and correctly and engaging with the youngsters in the town. Please can we ask that all residents to stay vigilant and report anything suspicious, it does not matter how insignificant you feel it is, if you have concerns please report it. Otherwise we are unaware. Report via the Kent Police non-emergency number 101 or if you do witness a crime in progress then please do call 999. I would also like to draw your attention to the new online crime reporting system on the Kent Police website. This is now live and gives members of the public the ability to report crime online rather than by phone which some may find easier, faster and more convenient. Full in-depth crime statistics are freely available by visiting www.police.uk

Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported that there is so much vandalism and destruction in Tenterden that the Council needs to consider at some point employing a night watchman. With the re-ordering of the Recreation Ground the Council needs to ensure there is significant lighting to protect the new equipment and areas.

Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson also queried the crime statistics for July 2018, which are

recorded on the Kent Police Crime website, were very low and believes this is a mistake. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson is waiting for PCSO Richards to report back. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported that she had a map that proves crime is going up in Tenterden, with the exception of July 2018, which is an error. It was agreed to ask PCSO Richard to investigate the error for July 2018.

3254 **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.** None.

3255 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- (a) The letter of thanks from Dr. R. Crawford, Freeman of the Town, regarding the lighting of the Town's beacon for Remembrance Day was **NOTED**.
- (b) The Town Mayor reported that she was now sending update letters to the Kentish Express, two of which have been published in the letters section. A response had been received from a resident regarding the last letter published thanking the Mayor for the update.

The meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 7.50 pm

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 11th day of March 2019.

Chairman _____ (11.01.2019)