

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2018

Councillors Present: M. Carter, Mrs. J. Curteis (Deputy Town Mayor), H. Edwards, Mrs. S. Ferguson, M. Freeman, Miss N. Gooch, M. Hickmott, R. Isworth, C. Knowles, Dr. L. Lovelidge, 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 Assistant Ms. S. Ratcliffe.

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, PCSO K. Richards and 17 members of the public.

Reverend Hammond said prayers.

3222 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr. J. Crawford

3223 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None

3224 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10th September 2018 and the Special Town Council meeting held on 8th October 2018 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

3225 **MATTERS ARISING.** None

3226 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.** None

3227 **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; 10th September 2018 and 8th October 2018.
Presented by Cllr. Dr. L. Lovelidge.

External Committee; 10th September 2018 and 8th October 2018.
Presented by Cllr. Mulholland.

Minute 0214 – Memorial Benches. It was resolved that a tribute would be allowed, loosely secured to the leg of memorial benches and with no plastic wrapping, once a year. A duration of one week would be allotted, after which time the flowers and any container would be removed by the Council. This ruling

would be applied retrospectively. Cllr. Sugden reported that this was a sensitive issue, however, several complaints had been received from members of the public with regard to very old flowers being left. Cllr. Sugden commented that this was a good proposal and would satisfy both members of the public and family members.

Cllr. Nelson proposed that as the above had received adverse feedback that this item be referred back to the external committee. The Town Council committee agreed to this motion.

Minute 0227e (i) – Xmas Lights Sub-Committee. The following was agreed as this was an unbudgeted expense: Boots Beds Power Supply for illuminated models and markets **£15,800**.

Planning Committee; 10th September 2018 and 8th October 2018.
Presented by Cllr. Edwards.

3228 **STANDING ORDERS.** It was agreed to vote individually on adopting the changes in Minute 3210.

Minutes 0290(c) – Standing Orders & Financial Regulations. To adjourn the matter of changes recommended by the Internal Committee on 13th August 2018 until the next meeting of Town Council as required under Standing Order 25b:

- (i) An addition to standing order 8b will be made as follows: "Voting slips will bear the name of the committee and the subject of the vote but will be anonymised. The voter will not be identifiable. Voting slips will be retained" - was **RESOLVED**. Cllrs. Carter and Mrs. Ferguson voted against.
- (ii) Standing order 8a will be changed after the first line "...drawn by lot", to read "Selection by lot will be final, no swapping between committees will be permitted" - was **RESOLVED**.
- (iii) No changes to standing orders are required for the civic change to the Annual Council meeting – it was agreed to **REFER** this suggestion back to the Internal Committee for further consideration. Cllrs. Knowles, Dr. Lovelidge, Mulholland, Sugden and Mrs Walder voted against this motion.
- (iv) Standing Order 26d will include an amended requirement for the co-option questionnaire to be received by the Town Clerk by noon on the *Monday* prior to the co-opting meeting. Insert additional line "Between this time and the meeting itself, an informal meeting will be arranged for councillors to meet the candidates" – was **RESOLVED**.

3229 **MAYOR'S CADET.** The presentation of Cadet Acting Sgt Ryan Hobbs to the Town Mayor was deferred due to illness. Cllr. Mrs Smith wished him a speedy recovery.

3230 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** Ms. J. Vos reported that she had another busy month visiting CALM, TDIA, Social Hub, Youth Café, Memory Café and Parkinson's Café. She has given internet safety talks at schools and a drugs and alcohol discussion with the Scouts. She was also involved with the bike marking at the Youth Café and has carried out visits to elderly residents. Kent County Council are still

looking to recruit a Volunteer Support Warden; leaflets for the position are in the foyer at the Town Hall. Ms. Vos explained that the volunteer will carry out a certain number of hours every week and will work alongside herself. The role is to replace Mr. J. Slegg who has now moved on.

- 3231 **KENT POLICE.** PCSO. K. Richards reported that it was a privilege to see such a great turnout for Remembrance Sunday. There was great community spirit and thank you to everyone who worked so hard.

Bike markings have been carried out at the Youth Hub for a mixture of youngsters and residents; seventeen markings were carried out in two hours. It was a good way of engaging youngsters to talk about the 'wheelying' issues; they understand how dangerous it is and only one or two riders still cause issues. Motorists are being quite abusive to the youngsters too; it is a two-way situation.

PCSO. Richards reminded residents to update their home security now the nights are drawing in and to consider setting timers for lights to come on to indicate that people are home. There has been a spate of burglaries in the area so please be aware and report anyone acting suspiciously by phoning 101 or online. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson asked why the crime figures reported on the website for July were massively down; she reported that there were 56 in June, 76 in August, 60 in September but only 9 in July. PCSO. Richards responded that she would investigate the figures and get back to Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson.

Cllr. Carter commended both PCSO. Richards and Community Warden Ms. J. Vos for the great job they do for the town; it is much appreciated.

Cllr. Hickmott commented that he had seen PCSO. Richards speaking to youngsters on bikes yesterday and found it reassuring. PCSO. Richards reported that the youngsters are looking for a safe, empty space (possibly a car park) to do wheelies and if anyone knows of anywhere suitable to please let her know.

Cllr. Mulholland commented that 35 people had attended the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme meeting in St. Michaels Village Hall, where residents were being encouraged to use the Country Eye smart phone app for reporting incidents and information. PCSO. Richards advised that it can be used for fly tipping and abandoned cars too as well as low level crime. All other types of crime or incidents should be reported via 999 or 101 depending on severity. Cllr. Walder commented that the photos can be evidential and have been used in criminal trials.

3232 **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

- (a) Tenterden Social Hub. Cllr. Miss. Gooch welcomed Mr. S. Goddard, the new CEO of the Tenterden Social Hub. Mr. Goddard has signed up for the London Marathon and Cllr. Miss. Gooch urged people to support him.
- (b) Twinning Association. Cllr. Edwards reported a set back in Town Twinning of the sad and sudden passing of Judith Turk. He said that the Association's membership is not only too frequently affected in this way but as the core members get older, younger people are not coming forward to get involved. Cllr. Edwards reported that it is the 30th anniversary next year and a final double exchange has been planned for May and September before winding down to reflect the lower

membership, which is the desire of both parties. Cllr. Edwards reported that the Twinning Association needs Council support to in order to obtain new members.

Cllr. Mrs. Walder reported that Homewood School have said that the number of students choosing to study French is plummeting whereas Mandarin is booming; she suggested that a Twinning Group is formed with China and advised that she is a fluent Chinese speaker and would be able to assist.

- (c) Ashford Borough Citizens Advice. Cllr. Mulholland reported that he had attended the AGM of Ashford Borough Citizen's Advice on the 24th October 2018, where it was reported that volunteers and trustees have been difficult to come by and the organisation really needs new blood and expertise - currently there is no vice chairman. There is an increasing workload from the public and an increase in expenditure; any help would be greatly received.

3233 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Cllr. Mrs Smith reported the sad passing of Jill Kirk and offered condolences to her husband John. Mrs. Kirk had been part of Tenterden Town Council from 1997 to 2001 and was a long-term trustee and governor of Homewood School. The funeral will be held on Wednesday, 14th November 2018 at 2pm at Charing Crematorium. Cllr. Mrs. Smith reported that Mrs. Kirk was a good friend and mentor to her when she started on the Council.

The meeting opened at 7pm and closed at 7.45pm

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 14th day of January 2019.

Chairman _____ (14.01.2019)