

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES AND REPORTS OF A TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE BARN AT THE REAR OF THE WOOLPACK HOTEL ON 7th NOVEMBER 2016

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

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

Others Present: Kent Police & Crime Commissioner Mr. M. Scott, Chief Inspector K. Elmes, Detective Inspector A. Bidmead, Kent County Councillor M. Hill, Community Warden Mrs. J. Vos and three members of the public.

3001 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr. Thorpe, Reverend Canon Hammond and Cllr. Clokie (ABC).

3002 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

3003 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2016 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3004 **MATTERS ARISING.** None.

3005 **POLICE REPORT.**

(a) Police & Crime Commissioner. Mr. M. Scott gave an outline of his role as Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and outlined the priorities of Kent Police. He reported that a considerable amount of police time was consumed by dealing with people with mental health problems, and added that this involved close liaison with the NHS. He urged members to participate in a survey on the subject of local policing.

Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson requested that CCTV footage be made readily available to the public to aid crime prevention; Mr. Scott reported that CCTV was the responsibility of the Borough Council, and Cllr. Knowles confirmed that ABC had a budget for improvements to the CCTV system.

Cllr. Lusty was critical of the police for not regularly attending Council meetings to give a report. Mr. Bidmead stated that officers would attend depending on shift patterns, or would submit a brief outline written report, but that this should not be at the expense of police work. He added that changes put in place would result in the presence in the town of more PCSOs.

Cllr. Mulholland requested greater consistency in rural policing teams, drawing attention to frequent changes in the PCSOs assigned to St. Michaels, and more consistent response times. It was reported that there would be more PCSOs and regular offices present in future, but that response times were based on urgency, and were therefore inherently changeable. Target-set policing was not felt to deliver results. Consistency

within the PCSO team was often affected by PCSOs becoming regular police officers.

A member of the public pointed out that there had been a reduction in prosecutions of people using telephones while driving, and asked whether this was a priority. Mr. Scott confirmed that it was a priority, but that it was largely being handled through education to prevent it happening in the first place.

Mrs. Vos reported an increase in young people abusing drugs and asked what was to be done to handle this. It was confirmed that this was again being handled through re-education. Funding was sought for schemes to deter drug abuse. It was also hoped that alternative activities could be arranged to prevent young people turning to drugs.

Cllr. Hickmott expressed disappointment at the decrease in local policing as he felt it led to longer response times. It was reported that much police work was carried out at a regional level, as organised crime was a significant problem. It would soon be possible for reports of non-urgent incidents to be made online, and more special constables were to be recruited.

Cllr. Mrs. Hannett stated that crime levels were low in the area, but that when a major incident occurred (such as a recent incident of gun crime in High Halden) it was handled very well, and for this she thanked the officers, and Cllr. Pickering (of ABC and High Halden Parish Council) echoed this sentiment.

Cllr. Carter asked whether Kent Police operated in partnership with its Calais counterpart. Mr. Scott replied that it did, as well as with the UK border force.

- (b) PCSO Report. The Town Mayor read a report submitted by PCSO Mr. O. Welch. The report urged homeowners to ensure that outbuildings were securely locked, due to a rise in shed break-ins. It also drew attention to a police public surgery to be held at the Zion Baptist Church on 9th December 2016 between 9.30 and 10.30 in the morning.

3006 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.**

- (a) Public Consultation. Cllr. Mulholland requested that more notice be given by the Lipton Group (which was carrying out a public consultation on behalf of the Town Council) of the dates, times and location of public sessions. The Town Clerk stated that he would ask a representative of the Lipton Group to come and explain the rationale behind their model.

- 3007 **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;

Finance & General Purposes: 5th September 2016.

Presented by Cllr. Nelson.

Committee recommendations:

Minute 3569 (e)- Website Sub-Committee. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint WebBox Digital to create a new Town Council website at a cost of £10,520.00.

Highways & Amenities: 26th September and 17th October 2016.

Presented by Cllr. Mrs. Hannett.

Planning: 26th September and 17th October 2016.

Presented by Cllr. Lusty.

Public Buildings: 17th October 2016.

Presented by Cllr. Carter.

Tourism & Business: 26th September 2016.

Presented by Cllr. Carter.

3008 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** Mrs. Vos reported that she had been involved in training regarding scam detection, had continued her usual work with elderly residents, had dealt with neighbour disputes, given internet safety training and given information on road safety. She was concerned about an increase in drug taking among young people, and was looking for ways to resolve this.

Cllr. Mrs. Hannett asked where drug taking was happening; Mrs. Vos stated that it was occurring in fields (etc.) making it hard to catch people "in the act". Part of the issue seemed to arise because of the mixture of ages; in such a small town it was inevitable that young people of a number of ages would socialise together, exposing younger children to drug taking. Mrs. Hannett asked how strong Mrs. Vos felt her relationship with Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre was. She replied that it was not as good as it might be, but had seen some improvement lately.

3009 **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

(a) Confederation of Cinque Ports. Cllr. Edwards reported that the Confederation was seeking support to set up a panel tasked to find ways to raise its profile, possibly named "Friends of the Cinque Ports". The Registrar hoped to enrol more long-term members to the committee, to provide greater continuity, and the Town Mayor had expressed a willingness to participate. Various promotion ideas were up for consideration.

3010 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

(a) Remembrance Sunday. A run-through of arrangements for the remembrance service would be held at St. Mildred's Church on 10th November.

(b) Christmas Lights. Councillors were asked to confirm whether they intended to attend the reception for the lights switch-on.

The meeting opened at 7.04pm and closed at 8.05pm

foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 19th day of December 2016.

Chairman _____ (19.12.2016)