

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



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

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

Officers Present: Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess, 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, Ashford Borough Councillor Mr. P. Clokie, PCSO Ms. K. Richards and nine members of the public.

3149 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr. M. Hickmott, and Community Warden Ms. J. Vos.

3150 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None

3151 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 29th January 2018 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

3152 **MATTERS ARISING.** None

3153 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.**

Mr. A. Poole, of Appledore Road, made a statement regarding the Planning Committee meetings held on 14th March 2017 and 2nd May 2017 which discussed the Council making a decision between the land to the rear of Westwell Court and the land at Appledore Road/Woodchurch Road. He had raised this issue previously, at Town Council meetings and with the ABC monitoring officer. Mr. Poole asked who had requested the meeting on 2nd May 2017 and who had asked for it to be held in private.

Cllr. C. Knowles confirmed that the meeting had been requested by Mr S. Cole (local plan and planning policy) at Ashford Borough Council when the local plan was being considered.

3154 **NEW COUNCILLOR.** Mr. J. Crawford of Stace Close was congratulated on his appointment as Town Councillor for the South Ward. He duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and was given a robe by Senior Councillor H. Edwards.

3155 **CO-OPTION OF A MEMBER.** Two candidates had submitted valid nomination papers for co-option to the single vacancy for Town Councillor in the St. Michaels Ward. The Town Mayor asked each candidate to make a short presentation before a vote was taken.

The candidates were Mr. V. Cole of Henley Fields and Mr. M. Freeman of Wayside Avenue. Each candidate gave a short presentation outlining why they would like to become a Town Councillor. Cllr. Carter put the same question to each candidate regarding their views on the current drug problem in the Town.

A written ballot was taken and, having received an absolute majority, Mr. Freeman was confirmed as the successful candidate. Mr. Freeman was congratulated on his appointment as Town Councillor for the St. Michaels Ward and he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He was given a robe by Senior Councillor H. Edwards.

Mr. Cole was thanked for standing for co-option.

3156 **STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW COUNCILLORS.**

- (a) Lots were drawn to fill the vacancies on Internal and External Committees. Cllr. Crawford became a member of the Internal Committee and Cllr. Freeman became a member of the External Committee. (Subsequent to the meeting, Cllr. Crawford and Cllr. Freeman agreed to swap committees.)
- (b) Cllr. Crawford and Cllr. Freeman were both elected as members of the Planning Committee.

3157 **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; 29th January 2018 and 19th February 2018. Presented by Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge. Minutes of 19th February were adopted with the following amendment:

Minute 0199 - St. Michael's Recreation Ground. Cllr. Mulholland reported that Wittersham had cut their hedge to half height to increase the view and openness. Cllr. Edwards reported that reducing the height of the hedge was a better option, than removal. However, if this did not work, he suggested it went to the Annual Town meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to cut the hedge to half height as soon as possible; remove the current shelter and install an open sided shelter between the skate ramp and play area.

External Committee; 19th February 2018.
Presented by Cllr. Carter.

Planning Committee; 29th January 2018 and 19th February 2018. Presented by Cllr. Lusty.

3158 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** Apologies for absence were received from Ms. J. Vos.

3159 **KENT POLICE.** PCSO K. Richards introduced herself to the Mayor and the Councillors. She has lived in Tenterden since childhood and is looking forward to serving the community in her new role.

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

PCSO Richards pointed out that these statistics only included crimes that have been reported. She requested the reporting of crime either by phoning 101, 999 (in emergencies only) or via the Kent Police website so that all crimes are included in these statistics; ensuring that a complete report of all issues in Town is available. Facebook and twitter are not monitored by the police and any crimes reported on social media will not be included in any crime statistics. PCSO Richards can also be contacted by email:

Mr. A. Judd, Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, will be in the foyer of the Town Hall from 10:30am to 2:30pm on Thursday 15th March 2018 offering security advice. PCSO Richards will be completing shed markings at the allotments in the next few weeks.

Another PCSO, Mr. L. Jones, will be sharing the role in Tenterden once he is fully trained. He has another eight weeks of training to complete.

Questions and comments from councillors:

- (i) Cllr. R. Lusty welcomed PCSO Richards and looked forward to seeing her regularly at Council meetings. PCSO Richards did respond that she would try and attend as many as she could, however, other Parishes seemed to hold their meetings on the same night as the Town Council, therefore, she will attend whenever she can.
- (ii) Cllr. K Mulholland also welcomed PCSO Richards and thanked her for her increased patrols around Town, particularly during vulnerable periods.
- (iii) Cllr. S Ferguson asked when Kent Police would be issuing results of how many people report crime online. PCSO Richards will provide feedback once these figures are available.
- (iv) Cllr. Carter asked the same question to PCSO Richards, as he did to the two Co-option candidates, regarding views on the current drug problem in the Town. PCSO Richards reported that, she is working within the community and liaising with Homewood School to combat drug-related issues.
- (v) Cllr. Ferguson raised the issue of anti-social behaviour in St Benet's Way. PCSO Richards was aware of this and had made visits to residents and is liaising with Homewood School to resolve this.
- (vi) Cllr. Knowles urged fellow councillors to look at ABC's Community Safety Unit's Annual Report. This focuses on anti-social behaviour and domestic violence and what is being done locally to tackle this. Copies are available from the Town Clerk.

3160 **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

- (a) Tenterden Town Twinning. Cllr. Edwards reported that at the AGM on 29th February 2018, all officer positions had been filled. Cllr. Carter was serving a third term as Chairman and Mrs. Carter had retired as Secretary. The current financial position is sound. However, membership continues to fall and younger members are needed. Anyone wishing to take part in the exchange visit to Avallon on 27th April 2018 should contact either Cllr. Edwards or Cllr. Mulholland as soon as possible. Next year will be the 30th anniversary and a double exchange might be suggested.

- (b) Tenterden Leisure Centre Trust. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported on the meeting of 6th February 2018.
- (i) Following promotion, the Leisure Centre Manager, Mr. C. King, left on 1st March. The new Manager is Ms. V. Crosby.
 - (ii) Several bursaries had been awarded, to young sports men and women, this year to support with training costs. Applications for bursaries are welcome; the next are expected to be awarded in September.
 - (iii) New development plans are under discussion with ABC before the final go ahead is given.
 - (iv) A drone survey of the leisure centre roof will take place in a few weeks to investigate leaks.
 - (v) Accidents are always reported and correct procedures are in place. A recent accident resulted in a two hour wait for an ambulance; Leisure Centre staff managed things professionally and the outcome of the incident was favourable.

Cllr. Nelson passed on thanks from the Trustees and Management of the Leisure Centre, to Town Council's Maintenance Team for their support during recent groundworks.

Residents interested in joining the Trustees should speak to Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson or Cllr Nelson.

- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.
- (e) Tenterden Museum. Cllr. Mrs. Smith reported that the Museum was busy fundraising. An application will be made to the Town Council for funding to support the 20th Century Exhibition; some financial support had already been gained from Tesco's and Waitrose. Cllr. Mrs. Smith reported that the Museum was available for private bookings, i.e. wine and cheese events and they already had five bookings for this year. The AGM will be held on 15th March 2018 at 7pm in the Zion Baptist Church.
- (f) Tenterden Community Transport. Cllr. Mulholland reported that the first meeting of this new sub-committee took place on 18th February 2018. A community bus survey was currently being completed by Tenterden residents and nearby parishes; Ashford Volunteers will then collate the data. An application for funding needs to be completed within the next two weeks and this will be done by Ms. L. Thorne, from Tenterden Social Hub, with support from members of the Sub-Committee. The next meeting will take place at the on 14th March 2018.

3161 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**. Cllr. Nelson reported on the Tenterden Social Hub fundraising quiz taking place on 23rd March 2018. Councillors wishing to join the 'council team' should let him know.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm and closed at 7.59pm

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 23rd day of April 2018.

Chairman _____ (23.04.2018)