

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES AND REPORTS OF A TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 30th JANUARY 2017

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

Officers Present: Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess, Deputy Town Clerk Mr. R. Parham and Administrative Assistant Mrs. C. Gilbert.

Others Present: Sergeant-at-Mace Mr. M. Winter, Reverend Canon L. Hammond, Community Warden Mrs. J. Vos, Police Community Support Officers Mr. O. Welch and Mr. D. Smith, Mr. J. Crawford, Mr. R. Knight and eight members of the public.

Reverend Hammond said prayers.

3027 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** None.

3028 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

3029 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meetings held on 19th December 2016 and 9th January 2017 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

3030 **MATTERS ARISING.** None.

3031 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.** None.

3032 **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. J. Crawford of Stace Close and Mr. R. Knight of the Lindens, St. Benets Way. Each candidate gave a short presentation outlining why they would like to become a Town Councillor and what they hoped to achieve. No questions were put to the candidates.

A written ballot was taken and having received an absolute majority [with nine votes], Mr. Knight was confirmed as the successful candidate.

Mr. Knight was congratulated on his appointment as Town Councillor for the St. Michaels Ward and he duly signed and read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and was given a robe by Senior Councillor H. Edwards.

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

3033 **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.** Cllrs. Carter and Knight were nominated for a single vacancy on the F&GP committee. The following members voted for Cllr. Carter: Carter, Edwards, Mrs. Ferguson, Hickmott, Isworth, Mulholland and Nelson. The following members voted for Cllr. Knight: Mrs. Curteis, Miss Gooch, Knowles, Dr. Lovelidge, Lusty, Sugden and Mrs. Smith. With the vote tied, Cllr. Mrs. Smith took the casting vote and Cllr. Knight was appointed to the committee. Cllr. Thorpe abstained from voting.

3034 **SIGNING & SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.** It was **RESOLVED** that the following documents, relating to the Town Council's takeover of responsibility for maintenance of greens, verges etc. in the town would be signed and sealed. Cllr. Lusty abstained from voting.

(a) Ashford Borough Council parish caretaker scheme contract.

(b) Kent County Council parish caretaker scheme contract.

3035 **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: 19th December 2016 and 9th January 2017.
Presented by Cllr. Nelson.

Committee recommendation: Minute 3608 – Town Net Radio Subsidy. It was **RESOLVED** that a contribution of £100.00 would be made per new member to the Town net Radio scheme up to a maximum budget of £4,000.00; the allocation of subsidies would be on a first-come-first-served basis.

Highways & Amenities: 19th December 2016.
Presented by Cllr. Hickmott.

Planning: 19th December 2016.
Presented by Cllr. Lusty.

Public Buildings: 9th January 2017.
Presented by Cllr. Carter.

Tourism & Business: 19th December 2016.
Presented by Cllr. Carter.

3036 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** Mrs. Vos reported that she had been helping the emergency services by attending non-life-threatening medical emergencies in residents' homes. She had also made welfare visits, worked with young people and had given safety talks in a number of the schools. She had given talks on online scams and protecting one's property against burglary. She had been involved with the Tenterden Schools Trust, and had spoken with Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre with a view to improving its relationship with the wider community.

Cllr. Mulholland reported that he had seen young people skateboarding in the middle of the road, and requested that Mrs. Vos keep an eye on this in case it was to become a recurring trend.

3037 **KENT POLICE.** Mr. O. Welch reported that crime remained low in Tenterden, with only two instances of shoplifting to report (these were both from the Tesco store). Nearby rural communities had experienced some thefts of trailers. Cllr. Hickmott asked what had been done about vandalism at Tenterden Infant

School. Mr. Welch replied that unfortunately budgetary restraints prevented the schools from employing out-of-hours security cover, which made identification of the culprits very difficult.

Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson asked whether he was following up on a spate of graffiti along the High Street. Mr. Welch reported that he had personally viewed all of the CCTV footage from the time of the attacks, but unfortunately the positioning of the cameras and the quality of the footage made it impossible to identify a culprit. Cllr. Nelson confirmed that Ashford Borough Council was in the process of reviewing CCTV provision, which was likely to see a very much improved service. Mr. Welch reported that Kent Police had been undertaking an operation to tackle inconsiderate parking at schools across the county.

Cllr. Mulholland reported that his car had been vandalised on Grange Road. He had reported the matter through the standard process, and Mr. Smith confirmed that they were investigating the matter.

3038 **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

- (a) Citizens Advice Bureau. Cllr. Mulholland reported that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of the Ashford CAB, at which a useful report had been presented outlining the organisations activities. It was proposed that the AGM be held in October in future to allow for the annual accounts to be properly reported.
- (b) Kent Association of Local Councils. Cllr. Mrs. Curteis had attended a meeting of the KALC Ashford Area Committee, at which the volunteer warden scheme and planning enforcement (at borough level) had been discussed.
- (c) Tenterden & District Chamber of Commerce. Cllr. Thorpe reported that the TDCC had held its first networking event of the year. Seminars were planned regarding legal matters, advertising etc. It was hoped that membership would continue to grow as a result on this renewed focus on benefits for members.
- (d) Tenterden & District Residents Association. Cllr. Carter had attended a TDRA meeting at which some concern was expressed regarding the outcomes of the consultation carried out by the Lipton Group on behalf of the Town Council. Cllr. Carter had explained how the report was to be used by the Town Council as a starting point for further consideration, and attendees had left the meeting happier, with a clearer understanding of the process.
- (e) Tenterden & District Twinning Association. Cllr. Edwards reported that the AGM was to be held in the Assembly Room at the Town Hall in early March. The annual dinner would be held at the Bull in Benenden on 23rd February 2017. As associate members, Councillors were welcome to attend.
- (f) Tenterden Folk Day Trust. Cllr. Mrs. Curteis reported that planning was underway for the 2017 event; the 25th annual festival.

3039 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.** The Town Mayor would be visiting the Pilgrim's Hospice on Friday 3rd February 2017.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm and closed at 7.45pm

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 13th day of March 2017.

Chairman _____ (13.03.2017)