

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE INTERNAL COMMITTEE **MEETING HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2019**

Councillors Present: H. Edwards, M. Freeman, R. Isworth (Vice-Chair), J. Nelson, and Substitutes: M. Carter, Mrs. J. Curteis and C. Knowles.

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

Others Present: Cllr. J. Crawford, Mrs. S. Ferguson and A. Sugden (not members of this Committee) and four members of the public.

0384 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllrs. M. Hickmott Dr. L. Lovelidge (Chair), Mrs. P. Smith and Mrs. C. Walder. Cllrs. Miss. N. Gooch and Mulholland (not members of this committee).

0385 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None

0386 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2019 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

0387 **MATTERS ARISING.** None

0388 **REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.** None.

0389 **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.**

- (a) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson raised the issue of the neglected noticeboards outside White Stuff and WH Smith. The noticeboards are supposed to be used for various information, including the regeneration projects, however, out of date posters are still displayed and some have fallen down. Complaints are being received and a decision needs to be made at the next meeting as to what these should contain. Cllr. Isworth agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting.
- (b) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson commented on the Town map which is contained on the opposite side of the WKPS Noticeboards (outside WH Smith, White Stuff and the Leisure Centre). Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson suggested that the Committee might consider getting the map updated by the artist once TENT1a is more advanced. It was agreed that this should be on the next agenda.

0390 **SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS REPORTS.**

- (a) Town Hall Focus Group. The Town Clerk reported that Price Whitehead had assisted with the tender and guided the Focus Group on what to look for in the tenders. The decisions were made by the Group and confirmed by Price

Whitehead. As a result, five candidates were short-listed and would be interviewed on 14th February 2019.

The Committee moved into closed session. *Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, the public and press will be excluded from the closed meeting session due to the confidential nature of this part of the meeting which involves the discussion of confidential staffing matters and confidential financial negotiations.*

- (b) Project Overview Sub-committee. Confidential minute 607M refers.

End of closed session.

- 0391 **STANDING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE.** It was **RESOLVED** to move Planning Committee meetings to the first Monday of each month from the new Council year. Cllr. Edwards abstained from voting.
- 0392 **PROOF OF LIFE CERTIFICATES.** It was **RESOLVED** to request a payment of £5.00 per visit from members of the public requiring attestation certification. The payment would be donated to the Mayor's charities.
- 0393 **HORSE CHESTNUT TREE ON RECREATION GROUND.** It was **RESOLVED** to remove decaying tree at a cost of £850.00 plus VAT. It was agreed that the offer of a replacement Horse Chestnut be accepted, but installation deferred pending the Recreation Ground re-ordering.
- 0394 **WEDDINGS AT THE TOWN HALL.** The current charges for wedding ceremonies at the Town Hall were reviewed and the following was **RESOLVED**:
- (a) prices do not increase for Tenterden residents, i.e. bride/groom/parent on electoral role;
- (b) for non-residents, prices would be increased to be comparable with the nearest competitive venue.
- 0395 **SITING OF LIBRARY.** The Committee **RESOLVED** to reject the suggestion of the library being re-sited in the re-ordered Town Hall; this would be communicated back to Cllr. M. Hill at Kent County Council. It was agreed that moving the library out of the Gateway would severely damage the Post Office. Cllr. Knowles reported that Tenterden cannot be compared to other libraries given its unique situation with the Post Office and placement within the Town. It was agreed that Cllr. Hill's view would still be heard at the 11th March 2019 Internal meeting.
- 0396 **MAINTENANCE FACILITY.** The Committee reviewed the quotations provided from the four Consultants. Councillors did not feel able to make a decision based on the information provided; it was not clear if the Consultants fees were fixed rate. Cllr. Knowles suggested asking Consultant B what they would envisage their exclusions will add cost wise to their quotation. Cllr. Carter suggested that the Quantity Surveyor who was assisting with the Tenterden Recreation Ground re-ordering should be consulted for advice. It was **RESOLVED** to seek the advice of the Quantity Surveyor. Cllr. Edwards abstained from voting.
- 0397 **ST. MICHAELS RECREATION GROUND.** The Town Clerk reported that he was waiting for confirmation from Ashford Borough Council as to whether the maintenance facility would qualify under the Section 106 funds that might be available for the recreation ground. Cllr. Crawford suggested improving the footpaths and matting on the recreation ground; there was a lack of paving to the equipment and public were having to walk across the grass. Cllr. Knowles reported

that the Police had made some recommendations about equipment and these should be followed up. Cllr. Freeman suggested installing goal posts to encourage footballers and suggested contacting the St Michaels Village Community Group for further ideas.

0398 **CORRESPONDENCE.** None.

0399 **MINOR MATTERS.** None.

0400 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIRMAN.**

- (a) Cllr. Isworth reported that the Meet Your Councillors Coffee Morning would be taking place on Saturday, 16th February 2019 from 10am to 12 noon.
- (b) Cllr. Isworth reported on the exemplary service provided by the Maintenance Team for assisting with the dangerous situation on the Smallhythe Road on Friday, 8th February 2019; electricity cables and a tree were down causing an obstruction.

The meeting opened at 9.20pm and closed at 9.40pm.

The foregoing Minutes and Reports were confirmed and signed at the Internal Meeting held on the 11th day of March 2019.

Chairman _____ (11.03.2019)