

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 11TH MARCH 2019

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

Officers Present: Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess and Deputy Town Clerk Mrs. C. Gilbert.

Others Present: Sergeant-at-Mace Mr. M. Winter, Reverend Canon L. Hammond, Kent County Councillor M. Hill and 18 members of the public.

Reverend Hammond said prayers.

3256 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllrs. J. Crawford, M. Hickmott, C. Knowles, K. Mulholland and Mrs. C. Walder, PCSO K. Richards and Community Warden Mrs. J. Vos.

3257 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

3258 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14th January 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3259 **MATTERS ARISING.**

Cllr. Edwards presented the Motion, brought to Town Council under Standing Order 9b: "that this Town Council does not adopt the Deal Town model for Mayor Making and Selection as recommended by the Standing Orders & Financial Regulations Sub-committee on 6th August 2018."

Cllr. Edwards outlined the Deal Town model which was included in the Town Clerk's background paper. Cllr. Edwards raised his concerns at denying the Town the traditional ceremony for Mayor making. Cllr. Edwards requested that any changes to this process be deferred for at least another year.

The Town Council voted on Cllr. Edwards Motion; six were for, four were against and there was one abstention.

3260 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.** None.

3261 **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; 14th January 2019 and 11th February 2019. Presented by Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge.

External Committee; 14th January 2019 and 11th February 2019. Presented by Cllr. Miss. Gooch.

Planning Committee; 14th January 2019 and 11th February 2019. Presented by Cllr. Edwards.

3262 **TENTERDEN LIBRARY.** Cllr. M. Hill of Kent County Council addressed the Town Council and outlined the severe financial pressure KCC was under. There are currently 99 libraries in Kent which compared to the similar in size Borough of Hampshire, Kent has double their number. Cllr. Hill is very keen to keep the libraries going and made better use of, however, book lending is slowly declining.

Cllr. Hill reported that, following the consultation process, there has been an increase in the initial reduction; it is proposed that Tenterden's Library will be open 37 hours a week – 11 hours less than currently but 9 hours more than was initially proposed.

Cllr. Edwards commented on the unfortunate reality of finance causing the reduction in hours and suggested St. Mildred's Church as a possible home for the library once re-ordered.

Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge reported on the importance of retaining the post office and library where it is currently situated; this helps drive footfall to the quieter end of the High Street. Cllr. Carter highlighted that the library was used for so much more than just borrowing books. Cllr. Carter also stressed the importance of Kent County Council, Ashford Borough Council, Tenterden Town Council and the Government working together to keep services.

3263 **COMPLAINT AGAINST A COUNCILLOR.** The informal findings of the complaint against Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson, which were circulated with the agenda, was **NOTED**. The conclusion of the findings was that no further action would be taken in this matter.

3264 **PLANNING BUDGET.** It was **RESOLVED** to allocate a separate budget for the Planning Committee for the financial year 2020-21. For the 2019-20 financial year, expenditure will be split between the Neighbourhood Plan budget and professional fees.

3265 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** No report received.

3266 **KENT POLICE.** PCSO K. Richards and PCSO L. Jones had provided a report, which the Town Mayor read out. A copy of the full report, which contains details of crime reports, fraud, rural areas and steps to secure your property will be placed on the Town Council's website.

A Bike Marking Event was held outside the Town Hall on Saturday, 2nd February 11am to 1pm. This was very successful and a total of 27 bikes were marked; this also gave the Police the opportunity to speak to some of the youngsters in the town, in regard to their safety when riding their bikes through the town and other road users.

During Half Term, there was a stand outside the Town Hall and had the support of 10 police cadets from across the area, as part of our Knife Awareness Campaign which Kent Police had been running for three weeks during March. Local shops were visited to make them aware of not selling knives to Under 18s, which they are all doing. The team has also been visiting all the secondary schools in the area and all over Ashford, where talks have been done on Knife crime and they have had support from an ex-gang member. The feedback from the kids when PCSO Richards has been out and about in Tenterden has been very positive. Please be aware there is no specific knife related incidents in Tenterden, this is for educational purposes.

Residents should be aware that if they are reporting a vehicle that they believe is abandoned, this goes through Ashford borough Council 'Abandoned vehicles' and all the information is on their website.

3267 **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

- (a) Cllr. Isworth reported that he had attended the Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board where he had tried to emphasise the lack of use of some of the facilities in Tenterden. Cllr. Isworth was assured that after Ivy Court Surgery have finished using East Cross Clinic next Spring, the clinic would continue to be used for healthcare. Furthermore, following a debate, the Board agreed that in future representatives from ABC Planning should participate in the Board meetings so that health provision can be planned for new housing developments.

Cllr. Isworth also attended a meeting at County Hall as Chairman of the Tenterden Social Hub. The KCC Cabinet member responsible for West View agreed to review the reopening of the closed ward and potential for extension of clinical use.

- (b) Cllr. Edwards reported that Twinning will be celebrating it's 30th anniversary this year. The Twinning Association's Annual General Meeting took place on 8th March 2019 at which nine out of the 21 members attended. Membership numbers are falling; membership peaked in 1999 to 141 members. An Acting Chairman has been appointed to take over from Cllr. Carter. Two members will assist the Committee with this year's Twinning event which will take place from 17th to 20th May 2019. There will be a special church service on Sunday, 20th May at 4pm which will start to the peal of bells. A return visit to Avallon will take place from 20th to 23rd September 2019. Cllr. Edwards reminded Councillors that they automatically become Associate Members of Twinning.

Cllr. Edwards reported on behalf of the Treasurer, that the bank account was currently healthy with £2,976.41 in the account; £59.25 in cash and £500.00 will be received from the Town Council during May 2019.

3268 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- (a) Cllr. Mrs. Smith reported that Purdah comes into force on 22nd March 2019 which leaves the Town Council in limbo with regard to financial decisions. Tonight was the last Town Council meeting of the Council year. Cllr. Mrs. Smith expressed her thanks to her fellow Councillors for all their hard work

and commitment over the term.

- (b) Cllr. Mrs. Smith reported that 'The Rockit's' Make Your Voice Count Beatlemania fundraising event will take place on 6th April at 7.30 pm in St. Mildred's Church. The Mayor's Annual Tour of Tenterden will take place on 12th April 2019; the St. George's Day event will take place on 23rd April 2019. May Fayre takes place on Monday, 6th May 2019 from 12 noon to 4.00 pm and this will be it's 20th Year.
- (c) The Local Council Elections will take place on 2nd May 2019. Cllr. Mrs. Smith passed on her good luck wishes to all those who stand.

The meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 7.40 pm

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 13th day of May 2019.

Chairman _____ (13.05.2019)