

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE **MEETING HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 29TH AUGUST 2017**

Councillors Present: Mrs. J. Curteis, Mrs. S. Ferguson, Miss. N. Gooch, K. Mulholland (Vice-chair) and Mrs. P. Smith. Substitutes: H. Hickmott and R. Isworth.

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

Others Present: Cllrs. H. Edwards, R. Knight, J. Nelson and A. Sugden (not members of this committee) and 6 members of the public.

0040 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Members: M. Carter (Chair), C. Knowles and T. Thorpe. Non-members: Cllrs. Dr. L. Lovelidge and R. Lusty.

0041 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr. Curteis declared interests in agenda item 9(d) – St. Michaels “Tributes in the Park” and agenda item 12 – Fire Station path at St. Michaels. Cllr. Curteis would present on each item, but not participate in the discussions.

Cllr. Mulholland voluntarily declared an interest in agenda item 9(d) – St. Michaels “Tributes in the Park”. Although Cllr. Mulholland no longer had dealings with the Community Group after leaving in January 2017, he felt he should inform the Committee of this link. Cllr. Mulholland would still participate in the discussion.

0042 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

0043 **MATTERS ARISING.**

Minute 0034 – Ashford Borough Council’s Housing Policy. Following intervention by Tenterden Town Council, this issue had now been satisfactorily resolved and Ashford Borough Council would allow priority on the first let to residents with a local connection to Tenterden and St. Michaels. Cllr. Ferguson requested that this item be revisited in a couple of months and an update report compiled.

0044 **PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.** None.

0045 **COUNCILLORS’ QUESTIONS.** None.

0046 **SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS.**

(a) May Fayre. Nothing to report.

(b) Donations. Cllr. Mulholland reported on the meeting held on 24th August 2017.

- (i) Tenterden Leisure Centre. It was **AGREED** to loan Tenterden Leisure Centre £450,000.00 which would be repayable over 15 years at an interest rate of 1%. This would provide the Council with £33,750 in interest.
 - (ii) Grand Piano at St. Mildred's Church. It was **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £270 towards the replacement of the hammers.
 - (iii) Mascot Dog. It was **AGREED** to match fund £1,200 for the capital expenditure of the mascot dog subject to testimonials received from interested organisations and DBS check confirmation.
- (c) Sports Review. A report of the meeting held on 18th July 2017 was received and **NOTED**. The Town Clerk agreed to produce a paper with costings once the budget for the 3G artificial turf was received from Homewood School.
 - (d) Village Halls Focus Group. Cllr. Nelson reported that a form had been circulated to hireable venues in Tenterden and the response so far had been positive. An estimate would be obtained from the website developers regarding the setting up of the extra page on the Town Council's website.
 - (e) Cinema Focus Group. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported that the focus group had met for the first time on 1st August 2017 and the minutes had been circulated.
 - (f) Christmas Lighting. The report of the meetings held on 31st July and 21st August were received. The Committee **RESOLVED** the following proposals:
 - (i) the tree lighting would be handled this year by the "pot" method as agreed in Minute 0025;
 - (ii) that power would be provided for the three additional trees, namely East Cross, West Cross and Fat Ox green. The Town Clerk requested clarification to the location of the tree at East Cross. East Cross garden already has lights, therefore, the Town Clerk proposed locating the third tree on the corner of the Recreation Ground near the tree stump. It was **RESOLVED** that the tree's location should be decided by the Christmas Events Sub-Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the proposals to take over the ABC lighting columns and the installation of pop up power points would be discussed at the Sub-Committee's next meeting.

- (g) Christmas Events. The report of the meeting held on 15th August 2017 was received and **NOTED**.
- (h) Tourism & Business. Cllr. Nelson reported that Ms. S. Welch had produced a Destination Management Plan which would be presented at the next Sub-Committee meeting.

0047 **TOWN NET RADIO**. Notification had been received from Ashford & Weald Partnership Against Crime informing the Council that the Scheme had been abandoned for Tenterden due to low uptake.

0048 **GRANT FUNDING REQUESTS.**

- (a) Mascot Dog. The capital expenditure element of the request was agreed in Minute 0046(b)(iii) subject to testimonials. It was **AGREED to DEFER** the decision regarding revenue costs in light of the conditions for the capital expenditure.
- (b) Artificial Turf Pitch at Homewood School. It was **AGREED** to cover the £2,000 consultancy costs for the community use agreement given that Homewood School had already paid £5,000.
- (c) Christmas Market. It was **RESOLVED** that a budget of up to £1,000 would be set aside to ensure the Christmas Market event was a success.
- (d) St Michaels "Tributes in the Park". Cllr. Curteis presented the reasons for St. Michaels Community Group requesting funding for security at the "Tributes in the Park" event on Saturday, 2nd September 2017. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would reimburse the security company direct at a cost of £590.50 plus VAT for four Door Supervisors and two Marshalls.

0049 **CARETAKER SCHEME.** It was **RESOLVED** that the removal of overgrown shrubs in residential areas would take place during the winter months, subject to the consent of residents.

0050 **WAR MEMORIAL.** Mr. F. Walker of Austens Orchard presented to the Committee his concerns regarding the laying of the Royal British Legion (RBL) memorial bricks at the War Memorial. Mr. Walker had suggested the Town Council form a Sub-Committee to look after the War Memorial. It was **AGREED** that a Sub-Committee would be formed to include Cllr. Nelson as Town Council representative and other organisations would be invited for membership. RBL would be informed of this proposal.

0051 **FIRE STATION PATH AT ST. MICHAELS.** Cllr. Curteis presented the statement from Mr. Curteis regarding the proposal to request Ashford Borough Council reopen the footpath that runs behind the Fire Station at St. Michaels. The footpath was renowned for antisocial behaviour and the closure had been supported by the Police, PCSO and Community Warden. The Committee **RESOLVED** not to support the reopening of the footpath.

0052 **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.** It was **RESOLVED** that the Public Engagement Sub-Committee would decide the possible formats for public engagement.

0053 **REFUSE BIN.** It was **RESOLVED** that a refuse bin would be installed at Hales Close.

0054 **SERVICING OF MAINTENANCE VEHICLES.** It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £2,953.92 from Burden Bros. for the maintenance of the Town Council's John Deere vehicles and additional mower.

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.*

0055 **CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.** Confidential document 590 refers.

End of closed session.

0056 **CORRESPONDENCE.** A copy of an email from a resident to Ashford Borough Council Engineering regarding inadequate street lighting between Cherry Orchard and Longfield was **NOTED**.

0057 **MINOR MATTERS.**

- (a) Ashford Borough Council Open Space Strategy. An invitation from Ashford Borough Council to take part in the consultation regarding the open space provision following the review was **NOTED**.
- (b) Rights of Way Improvement Plan. An invitation from Kent County Council requesting the views, via an online survey, of residents who use public rights of way was **NOTED**.

0058 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** None.

The meeting opened at 10.06pm and closed at 11.30pm.

The foregoing Minutes and Reports were confirmed and signed at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on the 9th day of October 2017.

Chairman _____ (09.10.2017)