

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 23RD APRIL 2018

Councillors Present: M. Carter, J. Crawford, Mrs. J. Curteis, H. Edwards, Mrs. S. Ferguson (Deputy Town Mayor), M. Freeman, Miss N. Gooch, R. Isworth, R. Lusty, and A. Sugden

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

Others Present: Sergeant-at-Mace Mr. M. Winter, Reverend Canon L. Hammond, Ashford Borough Councillors Mr. P. Clokie and Mr. B. Bradford, Kent County Councillor Mr. M. Hill, Inspector J. Atkinson of Kent Police, Mr. T. Ford (ABC Licensing), Community Warden Ms. J. Vos and nine members of the public.

3162 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr. M. Hickmott, C. Knowles, Dr. L. Lovelidge, K. Mulholland, J. Nelson (Town Mayor), Mrs. P. Smith and PCSO Ms. K. Richards.

3163 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None

3164 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12th March 2018 were confirmed and signed as correct records, with one amendment to Minute 3160(d) – the date of the next Tenterden Community Hub free lunch should have read '13th April'.

3165 **MATTERS ARISING.** None

3166 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.** None.

3167 **POLICING IN TENTERDEN.** Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson thanked the Ashford Borough Councillors and Officer, Kent County Council Councillor and Community Warden and Inspector Atkinson of Kent Police for attending the Town Council meeting.

- (i) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson commented that although Kent Police do an amazing job with the resources they have, residents do feel that there are problems in Tenterden and there is a lack of policing. The Council would like to set up a Sub-Committee/Forum to help assist Kent Police in reducing crime in Tenterden.
- (ii) Cllr. Crawford highlighted the marked difference in reporting and non-reporting of crime in Tenterden. The idea to set up a forum to include the police, community and Council representatives would help to look at what the real issues are for Tenterden, prioritise and then help problem solve.

- (iii) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson drew the Council's attention to a 'Neighbourhood Alerts' initiative which is currently being used by 21 UK Police forces, but not Kent Police. It is funded by various means, not just the Police force. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson suggested this could be an agenda item for the first forum meeting.
- (iv) Inspector J. Atkinson reported that he had not heard of the Neighbourhood Alerts initiative but would investigate. However, he is part of the Organised Crime Group which could work well in Tenterden. Inspector Atkinson highlighted that the levels of crime and perception of the levels of crime are very different. He encouraged residents to report crime either online, by ringing 101 or if you have information about individuals but wish to remain anonymous, then you can call crime stoppers. Inspector Atkinson also reported that they operate a system called 'Crime Data Integrity' which may start as one generated crime report, but this could then turn into 1-10 reports because of the different elements of that particular incident (e.g. multiple assaults, public order offence, drugs), and this does cause issues with staffing.
- (v) Cllr. B. Bradford reported that they have a Community Safety Unit in Ashford which is used by the people and is a good working part of the Community Safety Partnership; this would be good for Tenterden. It will give people the opportunity to understand what the real crime situation is. Anti-social behaviour issues have climbed in the Borough as a whole and is quite often down to the same one or two individuals.
- (vi) Cllr. Carter reiterated the lack of reporting of crime and the lack of understanding about what is going on in the Town. He stressed the need to get both the CCTV and the Town Net Radio systems up and running. This could help sort out the evening problems, especially in the pubs.
- (vii) Cllr. Lusty highlighted the importance of the Neighbourhood Watch Groups around the Town. Cllr. Lusty suggested these groups be included in the Police Forum.
- (viii) Cllr. M. Hill (KCC) reported that there was a Partners and Community Together (PACT) scheme across the County, which served a useful purpose. Cllr. Hill supported the Council's proposal for a Police Forum and hoped that the Police support the initiative.
- (ix) Cllr. Carter asked whether the pubs could be helped with the issues they currently have in the early and late evenings. Mr. T. Ford, Licensing Team Leader at ABC, reported that he works closely with Kent Police Licensing. They do random swabbing across the Borough, which includes Tenterden, for traces of drugs. If concerns are raised, he liaises with Inspector Atkinson and the Deputy Premises Supervisor to work through the issues. Reviews of premises can be called when necessary, however, the main aim is to work with premises in dealing with all situations including drugs and anti-social behaviour.
- (x) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson asked for expressions of interest from Councillors in joining the forum/sub-committee and Cllrs. Crawford, Mrs. Curteis, Mrs. Ferguson and Sugden put their names forward. Cllr. Mulholland, who was not at the meeting, had indicated he wished to join. The Chairman would be decided at the first meeting.

3168 **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; 12th March 2018 and 3rd April 2018. Presented by Cllr. Isworth. Minutes of 3rd April 2018 were adopted with the following amendment:

Minute 0231 (b) - Recreation Ground Focus Group. The third session would be taking place on 17th April 2018. Cllr. Carter was concerned that Ground Control's draft costings for the re-ordering of the recreation ground were underestimated and did not include the new buildings and other works that may need to take place. Cllr. Sugden advised that the Focus Group were aware of the budget limit and it was important to let the Focus Group work their way through this stage and identify any potential issues themselves.

External Committee; 3rd April 2018. Presented by Cllr. Carter.

Minute 0143(e) – Cinema Focus Group. It was **RESOLVED** to support the Stage 2 Site Options Appraisal at a cost of £9,300.

Minute 0151 – Priory Way Play Area. It was **RESOLVED** (in principle) to approve a £4,000 contribution following discussions with developers, returnable when Section 106 monies were available.

Planning Committee; 12th March 2018 and 3rd April 2018. Presented by Cllr. Lusty.

Minutes of 12th March 2018 were adopted with the following amendment:

Minute 6758 – Application No. 18/00269/AS – 16 High Street. Change of use from current office accommodation reverting to formal use for 3 No. residential units. **SUPPORT.**

3169 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** Ms. J. Vos reported that she had been involved with the Town Hall and Recreation Ground Focus Groups. She had attended the Recreation Ground Focus Group with youth workers and young people. She had been working with the Tenterden Social Hub in setting up the charity walk on 20th May 2018. She had been involved with the Youth Café and helping the youngsters with their various issues and offering support. Ms. Vos had also attended CARM, Tenterden Disabled in Action, Musical Memories, and local schools. She had also been involved with the Integrated Youth Meeting which includes schools, police, family liaison officers and together they discuss issues and try to come to resolutions. Ms. Vos has continued to do welfare visits and has been involved in delivering the E-Safety training to the new Community Wardens.

Cllr. Edwards commented that the Integrated Youth meetings were probably the best way of dealing with unruly behaviour in the Town. Cllr. Edwards was concerned that if the Police were too productive, it would push the youths out into the fields. The Integrated Youth meetings would be a more effective system, along with the combination of Ms. Vos' good work and the creation of the new Policing sub-committee.

Cllr. Edwards thanked Ms. Vos for the good work she does.

3170 **KENT POLICE.** The following report was received from PCSOs Kate Richards and Luke Jones who had given their apologies.

"Crime Reports

The main crimes reported this month has been theft/ Burglary and criminal damage. It is very important that residents secure their property as much as possible. There has been a spate of burglaries around the area which are currently being investigated.

Reporting

It is extremely important that members of the public report crime even if they seem to be trivial at the time. There is an online reporting system which can be accessed via the Kent police website and will go directly to your local PCSO. This avoids long waits on the 101 system. If the crime is happening at the time of call then this can be called through the 999 service particularly if people or properties are at risk.

There is now a PCSO tasking team who are tasked to tackle many of the major issues in Ashford and surrounding areas. This can be school parking, anti-social behaviour, missing people, and nuisance vehicles among many others. Your local PCSO's Kate Richards and Luke Jones are able to call on the tasking team if they feel that the above issues are occurring in the area.

Steps to secure your property

- Keep front gate closed at all times
- Lock all external doors.
- Spotlights can help deter offenders.
- Alarm System- particularly those linked to the police can deter offenders and help police attend incidents swiftly.
- Timer switchers- for lights when you are out at night or on holiday.
- Keep windows closed particularly at night in the warmer months.
- Alarms for out buildings
- Lock sheds and garages
- Mount CCTV to deter and capture evidence of offences.
- Dash Cam footage can be used in relation to vehicle crime

I would like to remind all residents to be vigilant at all times and to report any suspicious activity via the Kent police non-emergency number 101.

Action Fraud

There have been a few calls in the surrounding area of residents receiving calls from people saying they are from HMRC Tax Office saying they owe money, HMRC never call people. If this happens to you, please report it or contact <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or 03001232040 for Action Fraud.

Please do not hesitate in contacting us if you feel there is something we need to know."

Cllr. Lusty requested that the list of how to secure your property is included in the Town Council's newsletter.

3171 REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.

- (a) Tenterden Leisure Centre Trust. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported that the next meeting will be on 15th May 2018 with three new trustees: Mr. I. Webb (new Chairman), Mr. N. Apsey-Brown and Cllr. J. Crawford, and Ashford Borough Council in attendance. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson also reported that Mr. C. Cheesman and Mr. T. Buttler had resigned.

3172 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- (i) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson wished everyone a Happy St. George's Day.
- (ii) Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reminded councillors of the selection of Confederation of the Cinque Ports items, which were laid out on the Stage, and could be ordered via Cllr. Edwards after the meeting.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm and closed at 7.51pm

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 14th day of May 2018.

Chairman _____ (14.05.2018)