

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE **MEETING HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2017**

Councillors Present: M. Carter (Chair), Mrs. J. Curteis, Mrs. S. Ferguson, Miss. N. Gooch, C. Knowles, K. Mulholland (Vice-chair) and Mrs. P. Smith.

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

Others Present: Cllrs. H. Hickmott, R. Isworth, Dr. L. Lovelidge, J. Nelson and A. Sugden (not members of this committee), Cllr. P. Clokie (ABC) and 5 members of the public.

0075 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Non-members: Cllrs. H. Edwards, R. Knight and R. Lusty.

0076 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

0077 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

0078 **MATTERS ARISING.**

Minute 0032 – Speed Restricting Methods. The Town Clerk reported that the Kent County Council Highways Inspector had recently conducted site visits with a view to installing portable speed indicators. The Inspector did not find a position that met the suitability criteria on the Woodchurch Road due to the geometry of the road and existing features. However, the Officer did suggest other sites across the Town to be considered and these would be finalised and reported back at a future meeting. Cllr. Nelson commented that the Inspector could not have realised that the existing speed indicator device on the Woodchurch Road was ineffective and did not work. Cllr. Nelson suggested installing a new device where the current one was located and maybe install a second device on the opposite side of the road. The Town Clerk reported that the current device was currently being repaired.

Cllr. Mulholland requested that this item be put back on the Committee's agenda for a future meeting for further discussion.

0079 **PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.** None.

0080 **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.** None.

0081 **SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS.**

(a) May Fayre. Nothing to report; no recent meetings.

- (b) Donations. Nothing to report; no recent meetings.
- (c) Sports Review. The minutes of the Sports Review meeting held on 25th October were circulated with the Agenda. Cllr. Nelson tabled his report of a meeting with Homewood School on 15th November 2017 regarding possible football provision at Appledore Road and a 3G pitch at Homewood School. Cllr. Nelson requested that a decision be made as to whether a group of Councillors should meet with Homewood School and the developers about football provision until the possible development takes place on Appledore Road or agree to not talk about it. Cllr. Knowles advised that the Local Plan was currently at Regulation 19 and he would be happier if the Council waited until Regulation 22 before speaking to developers. Cllr. P. Clokie (ABC) advised that the Local Plan was robust enough to meet the housing need and it would be better to purchase farmland and obtain grants. Cllr. Carter advised that the Council should be looking to talk to all developers about what the Council requires in the Section 106 monies.

Following further discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that 'a working group comprising at least two of Cllrs. Sugden, Carter and Nelson, with the Town Clerk (or Deputy Town Clerk), be delegated to discuss the provision of football pitches and other facilities with Landowners and Agents in Tenterden and involving representation of the local football clubs, with a view to shaping such provision, but without any authority to support any particular proposed development or commit the council in any way, and with an obligation to report back to the council (and the Sports Review group) after each meeting.'

Six Councillors voted for this resolution and Cllr. Carter voted against.

- (d) Village Halls Focus Group. Nothing to report; no recent meetings.
- (e) Cinema Focus Group. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported that the Focus Group were proposing that a pre-feasibility study be carried out. There were currently four possible sites, however, the Consultants would identify any additional sites as well. The cost of Stage 1 would be £2,850 to ascertain if a cinema would be viable. If it was deemed viable, Stage 2 would then be conducted at a cost of £9,300.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Craigmount Consulting to conduct Stage 1 of the Pre-Feasibility Study.

- (f) Christmas Events. Mrs. N. Mahoney provided an update with regard to the Christmas Market. 80 stalls were booked and they had received tremendous support from local businesses. A newsletter had been hand delivered to all shops to keep them informed which was very positively received. There would be four hotspots across the Town for performers, showcasing local talent. Support had been received from Homewood School, Hobbs Parker, Invicta Chamber and Hunters and sponsorship had been received from Dandara and Waitrose.

Ms. S. Welch reported that when they took on the task of organising the Christmas Market back in September they had gone to local businesses first for feedback on previous years. There was a general feeling of apathy. However, this year feedback was much more positive. They were still receiving enquiries for stalls and to date had received 140.

Ms. Welch informed the Committee that there had been the unexpected cost of covering the public liability insurance, which they were given to understand would be covered by the Town Council's policy.

Ms. Welch reported that a footfall survey was being conducted at four entry points along the High Street; this had taken place on Saturday, 18th November and would also take place at the same times at the Christmas Market. An evaluation survey will also be conducted on the whole event and Ms. Welch and Mrs. Mahoney were happy to provide a full report once complete.

Ms. Welch reported that both Tesco and Waitrose had been very supportive with regard to the children's treasure hunt and both Store Managers had briefed their staff on the events going on in the Town in order for them to inform customers.

Ms. Welch and Mrs. Mahoney sought agreement for the dates of the Christmas Market next year and it was **RESOLVED** that this would take place on Friday, 23rd and Saturday, 24th November 2018.

- (g) Tourism & Business. A meeting had been arranged for January to look at the desktop survey. However, it was agreed that this should be brought forward in order for Ms. Welch to progress the Destination Management Plan.

0082 **LEAF COLLECTOR**. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a leaf collector at the cost of £3,299.99 subject to no other options being available, i.e. hiring from Ashford Borough Council.

0083 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY EXPENSES**. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would meet the cost of providing a PA system each year at Remembrance Sunday.

0084 **FINANCIAL REPORT**. The income and expenditure report for April to September 2017 was **APPROVED**.

0085 **AFFORDABLE HOMES**. The October update provided by Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson was **NOTED**.

0086 **FRIDAY STREET MARKET**. It was **RESOLVED** that the Friday Market administration would be transferred from Ashford Borough Council to Tenterden Town Council.

0087 **SKATEPARK RESEARCH FUNDING**. It was **RESOLVED** to fund Sk8side (Ashford) representatives up to a maximum of £560.00 to conduct youth visits to skate parks in order to inform the Recreation Ground Focus Group.

0088 **HIGH STREET MEMORIAL BENCHES**. It was **RESOLVED** to limit further applications for memorial benches to two on the South side of the High Street between Montalbano and the William Caxton.

0089 **PRIORY WAY PLAY AREA**. Cllr. P. Clokie (ABC) advised the Council that he would investigate other sources of funding for the improvements proposed for Priory Way play area rather than the Town Council having to match fund. Cllr. Clokie reported that Cllr. M. Bennett was the current portfolio holder. This agenda item was **DEFERRED** pending further information.

Cllr. Miss. Gooch requested that the play area at Longfield be included for upgrading as many children use the area and it is in a poor state.

0090 **KILN FIELD AREA.** It was agreed to obtain a quotation from Kent Wildlife Trust for carrying out a detailed wildlife survey of Kiln Field before making a decision on whether to go ahead. It was agreed to **DEFER** the decision until the quotation was received.

0091 **DONATION TO CHARITY.** It was **RESOLVED** to donate £200 to Dementia UK in memory of Mr. P. Davies who was very active in the Town, including being a founding member of Tenterden Improved. A letter of appreciation would also be sent to Mrs. Davies.

0092 **TENTERTAINMENT.** Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge reported that a meeting had taken place with the Tentertainment Organisers on 10th November 2017 and they had made it clear why they were upset. There were very productive conversations around sound and Mr. T. Ford of Licensing at ABC had indicated that there could be some leeway with regard to the sound levels for 2019. Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge reported that Tentertainment would inform the Council as to whether they would be going ahead in 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.*

0093 **POTENTIAL LAND PURCHASE.** Confidential document 592M refers.

0094 **LAND NEGOTIATIONS.** Confidential document 593M refers.

End of closed session.

0095 **CORRESPONDENCE.**

- (a) Road Safety at Tenterden Infant and Junior Schools. A copy of an email sent to Cllr. M. Hill regarding road safety at Recreation Ground Road was **NOTED**. Cllr. Nelson reported that he had discussed the issues with Cllr. Hill who was not sure if there were many breaches on the terms issued to the developers at Church View. Cllr. Hill had informed Cllr. Nelson that he was arranging for a Highways Engineer to look at the entrance to Waitrose.

0096 **MINOR MATTERS.** None.

0097 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

- (a) Insurance for Christmas in Tenterden. Ms. N. Mahoney informed the Committee that they were hoping to cover the costs of running the market completely from income and sponsorship and would not require the Council's buffer of £1,000. However, due to the last minute unexpected cost of obtaining Public Liability insurance, Ms. Mahoney asked if the Council could cover the cost. It was agreed that the request would be on the next meeting's agenda.

The meeting opened at 8.25pm and closed at 9.55pm.

The foregoing Minutes and Reports were confirmed and signed at the External Meeting held on the 8th day of January 2018.

Chairman _____ (08.01.2018)