

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE **MEETING HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

Councillors Present: M. Carter, J. Crawford, Mrs. J. Curteis, Mrs. S. Ferguson, Miss N. Gooch, K. Mulholland (Chair) A. Sugden and Substitute: Cllr. J. Nelson

Officers Present: Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess, Accounts Clerk Mrs. J. McCollum and Administrative Assistant Ms. S. Ratcliffe.

Others Present: Cllrs. M. Freeman, M. Hickmott and Mrs. P. Smith (not members of this committee) and one member of the public.

0207 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs. C. Knowles (member), H. Edwards, R. Isworth, Dr. Lovelidge and Mrs. C. Walder (non-Members).

0208 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

0209 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2018 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

0210 **MATTERS ARISING.** Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson referred to Minute 0191 – The Great British High Street. Cllr. Mrs. Walder has now investigated the funding offered by 'The Great British High Street' and as there is no time to organise the application it has been deferred to next year. The details required are quite complicated and should have the input of Ashford Borough Council and the Tourism Committee.

0211 **PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.** Mr. T. Evans requested to speak on the Cinema Focus Group Agenda item.

0212 **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.** None.

0213 **SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS.**

(a) Remembrance Sunday Task Group. Cllr. Mrs. Smith provided a report of the meeting held 14th August 2018 which she Chaired. It was decided that the Centenary Remembrance Service would be held at the War Memorial and would proceed to the Railway Station for a further service at the Cavell Van. A lot of preparation would be required to organise the two events. The next meeting will take place 17th September 2018. The Tenterden Lions Club, who have funded the Beacon, will be attending the next meeting to discuss the lighting of the Beacon on the evening of 11th November 2018.

(b) Tent1 Steering Group. A report of the meeting held 21st August 2018 was **NOTED**. Cllr. Sugden mentioned the woodland space used by the BMX riders which for the past fourteen years the landowner had allowed them to use. Cllr. Sugden referred to Cllr. Clokie's reluctance that anything should happen with the area at the moment, however, Dandara own the land and

are keen to pass it over to the new Management Company; the Town Council may get involved after the handover. Cllr. Mulholland reported that there had been no recent complaints and Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson stated that several objections had been received from several neighbours in the past.

(c) Youth Policy. A report of the meeting held 20th August 2018 was **NOTED** and the following recommendations were **RESOLVED**:

- (i) That local Youth Workers should be approached to prepare the needs analysis on a paid-for basis (at KCC overtime rates).
- (ii) That a tender should be run for a youth worker to the value of £20k (18 hrs p.w. approx.) with a view to extending the service to five nights a week subject to sourcing external funding.
- (iii) That the precept budget for 2019-20 should contain £20,000 for youth work as the Town Council's contribution.
- (iv) That the final decision on the selected provider and the 4-year term should be authorised by the new Council. (Elected May 2019).

Cllr. Carter requested that it was noted that Tenterden Town Council are funding this without the help of Ashford Borough Council or Kent County Council and it may cause the precept to rise next year.

(d) Cinema Focus Group. Mr. T. Evans reported that he had Chaired the Focus Group meeting on 30th August 2018, due to Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson having to leave the meeting early. The Group welcomed the Stage 2 Report from Burley, Foley & Fischer. The Group believe that the Pebbles building offers the best opportunity for a cinema in Tenterden and that the business case for investment is strong. However, before making any further recommendations to the Council the Group want to investigate the steps that will be needed and plan a road map. They also want to investigate the legal structures and sources of public and private investment that will be needed and test the level of commitment of the various potential operators that have been identified. Three separate working groups within the Focus Group have been formed and they expect to return to the External Committee in November to report their findings and to make recommendations.

0214 **MEMORIAL BENCHES**. It was **RESOLVED** that a tribute would be allowed, loosely secured to the leg of memorial benches and with no plastic wrapping, once a year. A duration of one week would be allotted, after which time the flowers and any container would be removed by the Council. This ruling would be applied retrospectively. Cllr. Sugden reported that this was a sensitive issue, however, several complaints had been received from members of the public with regard to very old flowers being left. Cllr. Sugden commented that this was a good proposal and would satisfy both members of the public and family members.

0215 **PR CONSULTANT**. It was **RESOLVED** that the agreement with Richard Harvey should be continued with a review period as required by the procurement regulations. Cllr. Mulholland reported that Mr. Harvey had done a very good job in defending the Town Council and making sure that the Council was presented in the right way.

0216 **SUB-COMMITTEE AMALGAMATION.** It was **RESOLVED** that the following Sub-committees be merged:

- (i) Wildlife Venues and Coombe Lane & Kiln Field wildlife reserve
- (ii) War Memorial & Remembrance Sunday.

0217 **HEDGE CUTTER.** Cllr. Sugden suggested that as there is now a Sub-committee looking at the Caretaker Scheme, and that the hedge cutter would not be used until next year, that the decision be deferred to a later meeting after the Sub-committee has met. Cllr. Carter reported that the lead time for the purchase was several months, therefore the Sub-committee should meet soon. Cllr. Nelson reported that if the decision was made that the Caretaker Scheme was not to continue, the purchase would not be necessary. It was agreed to **DEFER** the decision until after the Sub-committee had met. The Town Clerk advised that a Contractor would need to be brought in if the deadline was missed.

0218 **CORRESPONDENCE.** None.

0219 **MINOR MATTERS.** None.

0220 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** None.

The meeting opened at 9.05pm and closed at 9.25pm.

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

Chairman _____ (08.10.2018)