

# TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017**

**Councillors Present:** M. Carter, Mrs J. Curteis, H. Edwards, Mrs. S. Ferguson, Miss N. Gooch, M. Hickmott, R. Isworth, R. Knight, C Knowles R. Lusty, K. Mulholland, J. Nelson (Town Mayor), Mrs. P. Smith and A. Sugden

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

**Others Present:** Reverend Canon L. Hammond, Cllr. Mr. P. Clokie (ABC) and 84 members of the public.

**Reverend Hammond said prayers.**

3085 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllrs. R. Knight, C. Knowles, Dr. L. Lovelidge, Mrs. P. Smith and T. Thorpe.

3086 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

3087 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3088 **MATTERS ARISING.** None.

3089 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS.**

- (a) Councillors Code of Conduct. Mrs. E. Hannett of Shoreham Lane addressed the Council and raised her concerns regarding Cllr. Isworth's conduct towards the Tentertainment Team. Mrs. Hannett believed that Cllr. Isworth had misled the Council and he was in breach of the Code of Conduct. Mrs. Hannett admitted that she should have reported Cllr. Isworth to the Monitoring Officer last year, whilst she was a Councillor, and publicly apologised for not doing so at the time. Mrs. Hannett believed that Cllr. Isworth had brought the Town Council into disrepute and formally requested that he stepped down and resigned. If he refused, she requested that the Town Council moved to a vote of no confidence so that Councillors have a formal opportunity to show the public whether they agreed with Cllr. Isworth or not.

Cllr. Nelson responded that as Mrs. Hannett was clearly alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct, this would need to be referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation. The complaint and evidence should be sent direct to the Monitoring Officer or via the Town Clerk's office.

- (b) Noise Levels on Recreation Ground. Mr. P. Rosling of Knockwood asked if Cllr. Nelson was prepared to expand on his statement at the External meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 regarding the misunderstanding over noise levels with Tentertainment.

Cllr. Nelson responded that it was not a misunderstanding regarding the noise levels; Tentertainment Organisers and the Town Council had a different understanding of the imposition of a noise level. The Town Council was told by Ashford Borough Council (ABC) that there was not a noise limit and there should be for Tentertainment and all activities on the Recreation Ground, therefore, the limit was set to 65db and this was on the advice of ABC.

- (c) Tent1 Monies. Mr. M. Pearson of High Street referred to Minute 0050 of the Internal Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017: Tent1 Receipts & Section 106 Funding. Mr. Pearson requested clarification as to whether the Town Council would be solely responsible for spending the remainder of the Tent1 funds, after the £165,000 had been transferred to the 'Community Chest'.

Cllr. Nelson responded that the other projects were being discussed with members of the public via the Focus Groups, therefore the Town Council would not be making the decisions solely on its own.

- (d) Allotments. Cllr. Sugden asked about allotments in light of the Section 106 money gained from the Tent1 development. There was £82,000 allocated towards public allotments. As a Council there had been no further discussion regarding the allotments and, as developers were gradually taking available land, Cllr. Sugden requested that this became either an agenda item or a subcommittee should be set up.

- (e) Affordable Housing. Cllr. Ferguson reported that after being asked to prepare a report on affordable housing, which was duly circulated, discrepancies had come up with Ashford Borough Council now saying that Tenterden people would not have preferential rights to the new affordable housing in Tent1; they had been classed as general needs properties and therefore open to any applicant on the ABC Housing Register. Cllr. Ferguson also reported on two main problem areas: the lack of a Local Lettings Policy which ABC promised to produce and the fact that Tenterden is no longer classed as 'rural' due to its size.

Cllr. P. Clokie (ABC) responded that if people had the needs, were in Tenterden and had gained the qualifying points on the ABC system, there should be no problem; however they were still subject to the normal procedures. Cllr. Clokie reported that the procedures were currently being looked into and research was underway to ensure that Tenterden people get their fair share of housing.

- 3090 **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; 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017**. Presented by Cllr. Isworth.

Committee recommendations:

Minute 0050 – Tent1 Receipts and Section 106 Funding. It was **RESOLVED** that a 'community chest' would be set for participatory budgeting at £165,000.

**External Committee; 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.** Presented by Cllr. Carter.

---

**Planning Committee; 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.** Presented by Cllr. Lusty.

---

3091 **COMMUNITY WARDEN.** Ms. J. Vos reported that she had had a busy couple of months. Before the Schools broke up, Ms. Vos had visited the Tenterden Schools and talked about construction site safety given the local building works going on. She had also spoken to children regarding truancing, particularly at primary schools. Ms. Vos had been dealing with various parking issues, namely obstructive parking, and was working closely with the parking officers and PCSOs. Ms. Vos had also attended various training courses, including a first aid refresher course and a course on recognising potential terrorist attacks.

Cllr. Nelson asked Ms. Vos whether she had any response from both the police and Ashford Borough Council regarding parking issues. Ms. Vos responded that the police had issued notices on some vehicles, but this only seemed to work for a short time.

3092 **KENT POLICE.** PCSO Adam Lilley addressed the Council on behalf of PCSO Oliver Welch who was unable to attend and had sent his apologies. PCSO Lilley reported that there had been no concerns with Tentertainment and minimal involvement was needed; there were just a few instances of underage drinking. The increased number of youths congregating on the Recreation Ground and leaving litter had been brought PCSO Welch's attention and he would be paying extra attention to those areas to try and identify those involved. There had been a few instances of shoplifting in the Town and the Police encouraged shopkeepers to remain vigilant. Full in-depth crime statistics can be found by visiting [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). The next Police Surgery would be taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017 from 9.30 am to 10.30 am at the Zion Baptist Church. PCSO Welch was also now available to provide the public with crime prevention and home security advice.

(a) Cllr. Lusty requested that an A Board be put outside the Zion Baptist Church in order for the public to be aware of the Police Surgery. PCSO Lilley responded that leaflets could be provided for noticeboards.

(b) Cllr. Ferguson reported on the issues around the last bus to Ashford being cancelled and that youths were sleeping rough on the Recreation Ground as a result. There had been issues with the Bowls Club furniture being taken and then broken and cannabis could regularly be smelt around the area. PCSO Lilley advised that a drive by could be scheduled, however, there were a limited number of PCSOs. PCSO Lilley also responded that they have a team who work closely with vulnerable children and will find out if there is a relationship with the last bus being cancelled.

(c) Mr. P. Rosling raised his concern at the number of silver canisters being left lying around by youths (legal highs). PCSO Lilley responded that if the Police were made aware of the times when the youths tend to congregate, they could send round the antisocial behaviour car.

3093 **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.**

- (a) Ashford Borough Citizens Advice Bureau. Cllr. Mulholland reported that he had attended a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and it was not an optimistic situation for the Trustees. The first quarter showed a deficit of £4,500 with dwindling reserves and a hike in costs. The Ashford offices were in a building that required major repairs and the rent was being increased by 12%. The service was not funded by Government, but by grants from Ashford Borough Council, other charities and trusts. The Bureau offers a great and valuable service to the community, both emotionally and practically. They were currently looking at other means of funding, including approaching the private sector. A new Trustee had been co-opted who was very experienced in corporate risk assessment.

3094 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Cllr. Nelson thanked the Council for the flowers sent to the Mayoress, Mrs. A. Nelson, who was currently very poorly in hospital.

**The meeting opened at 7.00pm and closed at 7.42pm**

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2017.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ (18.09.2017)