

# TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



## **MINUTES OF THE INTERNAL COMMITTEE** **MEETING HELD AT TENTERDEN TOWN HALL ON 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**Councillors Present:** H. Edwards, M. Hickmott, R. Isworth (Vice-Chair), R. Knight, Dr. L. Lovelidge (Chair), R. Lusty, J. Nelson and A. Sugden.

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

**Others Present:** Cllrs. M. Carter, Mrs. J. Curteis, Mrs. S. Ferguson, Miss N. Gooch, C. Knowles, K. Mulholland and Mrs. P. Smith (not members of this committee), Cllr. Paul Clokie (ABC) and five members of the public.

0133 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** None.

0134 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

0135 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

0136 **MATTERS ARISING.** None.

0137 **PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.** None.

0138 **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.** None.

### 0139 **SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS REPORTS**

(a) Town Hall Focus Group. Nothing to report. The next meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

(b) Recreation Ground Focus Group. Cllr. Mulholland reported that the second meeting took place recently and essentially consisted of feedback from the residents from the first meeting and also focused on spatial planning; for the first time they saw the draft of potential changes. Attendance was good with two extra people joining the group. There seemed to be a general cohesion of harmony in terms of what the consultants were proposing, and various points were made with regard to the positioning. Suggestions included 'can we move the car park down' and 'is the skate park in exactly the right place?'. The architects have taken the suggestions on board and are to come back regarding these points and with the costs involved. Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson asked if the volunteer gardeners had been contacted and Cllr. Sugden confirmed that they had. Cllr. Sugden reported that Ground Control gave two PowerPoint presentations, the second of which other councillors may like to see.

(c) Standard Orders & Financial Regulations. The notes from the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were **NOTED** and Cllr. Nelson advised that legal

advice was being sought from the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) before decisions were made.

- (d) Public Engagement. Cllr. Sugden reported that he had Chaired the first meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The meeting was very successful and well attended with good ideas being investigated and brought back to the next meeting. Four Councillors attended the meeting. Mr. P. Rosling was voted as the new Chair of the Subcommittee.

Cllr. Mrs Smith queried section 5.17 of the Subcommittee minutes regarding Councillor representation on groups; Councillors are currently representatives at various organisations. Cllr. Nelson advised that the minute referred to one of the Councillors attending group meetings to inform them of what the Council is doing.

Cllr. Mrs Smith referred to Councillor surgeries/coffee mornings and suggested that these should be organised soon. Cllr. Mrs Smith also stated that Mrs. C. Gilbert should be listed as the Deputy Town Clerk in the minutes. Cllr. Isworth stated that in the past the surgeries had not been well attended and that it was a good idea to hold coffee mornings in places other than the Town Hall, for example the Day Centre.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the recommendations.

- 0140 **WASTE FACILITY**. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from Hurstway Construction Company Ltd for £37,862 for the installation of a waste facility at the rear of Tenterden Leisure Centre.

- 0141 **ST. MICHAELS RECREATION GROUND**. Cllr. Curteis had received complaints regarding anti-social behaviour taking place on the Recreation Ground behind the current hedging and families were also feeling intimidated. Removal of the hedge between the Recreation Ground and the Road might deter antisocial behaviour and increase visibility. Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge questioned whether this would only cause the groups to move elsewhere. Cllr. Mrs. Smith agreed the hedge should be cut and suggested that the residents of Henley Meadows adopt the land at the back as part of the dene as has been suggested before, and to consider installing CCTV on opposite sides of the toilets to stop anti-social behaviour. Cllr. Knight asked whether the hedge could just be trimmed and concave mirrors used. Cllr. Hickmott agreed with Cllr. Knight and was opposed to the hedge being cut. Cllr. Hickmott queried whether it would be against the covenant as the land was given to the Town by a local resident who was concerned about the children playing in the Road.

Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson reported that she had been sent some disturbing photos of the site showing about 50 legal high canisters on the grass and the area behind the hedge full of litter, and felt it was unfortunate but railings were needed rather than the hedge.

Cllr. Mulholland felt that it was a hotspot for anti-social behaviour and that a PCSO was needed to patrol. He felt that advice should be sought from ABC regarding the legality of cutting down the hedge in such an extreme way due to the impact on wildlife and that it might not resolve the issue. Cllr. Sugden agreed that advice should be sought from ABC on risk assessments and aesthetics and also whether there is any evidence to prove that cutting the hedge down will cut down on anti-social behaviour.

The Town Clerk reported that evidence of a reduction in anti-social behaviour could only be obtained if the hedge was removed and permission from ABC would be required before this could happen. Cllr. Edwards felt that it was a drastic, desperate reaction and that the older children were spoiling it for the younger children. A hedge helps keep the noise down and stops the fumes from blowing into the field. It was introduced initially due to a minor road traffic accident. He felt it would not stop the behaviour and the groups would just move on and that it should be discussed at the next Annual Town Meeting.

Cllr. Lusty suggested deferring this item and meeting with professionals to ensure the right decision is made. Cllr. Isworth stated that this is a perfect example of where public engagement should be involved. It was agreed to **DEFER** the decision.

- 0142 **MAINTENANCE FACILITY.** Revised plans have been drawn up for the new maintenance facility at St. Michaels Recreation Ground and were to be submitted for planning permission. Cllr. Nelson stated that location of the car parking spaces will narrow the access. Cllr. Edwards advised that ABC must take into account the needs of the Town Council as this was the 7<sup>th</sup> plan and it is essential that the facility is built. Cllr. Sugden agreed but advised that as the west elevation is out of sight this might encourage anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Carter suggested that the Council reverted back to the original scheme in light of the current anti-social behaviour problems at the Recreation Ground. Cllr. Sugden reported that the original plan was disliked as it was a square box and that it should be joined up with the toilet block. The Town Clerk advised that originally the plan was a long, single, detached building and that ABC's pre-planning advice suggested an 'L' shape. It was **RESOLVED** to liaise with ABC and discuss the original design.

- 0143 **MATURITY OF 1 YEAR SAVINGS.** It was **RESOLVED** to renew the one-year bond at a rate of 0.75%.
- 0144 **TOWN CLERKS OFFICE.** The Town Clerk had requested to move office as his current one was extremely damp. Cllr. Lusty suggested that the Councillors Room might be a better option. Cllr. Carter stated that it was decided to dig a pit two years ago to rectify the damp problem and this should be done now. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should move office and the Town Clerk should decide which of the two back offices would suit best.

**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.*

- 0145 **STAFFING ISSUES.** Confidential document 594M refers.

**End of closed session.**

- 0146 **CORRESPONDENCE.** A letter of gratitude from Dr. R. Crawford was **NOTED.**

- 0147 **MINOR MATTERS.** None.

0148 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIRMAN.** None.

**The meeting opened at 7:30pm and closed at 8:20pm.**

The foregoing Minutes and Reports were confirmed and signed at the Internal Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ (11.12.2017)