

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES AND REPORTS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON 24th JUNE 2019

PRESENT:

For Tenterden Town Council:

Town Mayor Cllr. Mrs. J. Curteis, Cllrs. M. Carter, V. Cole, J. Crawford, Mrs. S. Ferguson, M. Hickmott, C. Knowles, Dr. L. Lovelidge, K. Mulholland J. Nelson, R. Parkin, R. Quinton, Mrs. P. Smith, A. Sugden and Mrs. C. Walder. Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess, Deputy Town Clerk Mrs. C. Gilbert, Accounts Clerk Mrs. J. McCollum and Administrative Assistant Mrs. L. Owers.

For Kent County Council:

Cllrs. M. Hill.

For Ashford Borough Council:

Cllrs. P. Clokie and J. Link. Mr. L. Mayatt, Cultural Projects Manager.

For Kent Police:

Inspector J. Atkinson, PCSO K. Richards and Mr. A. Judd (NHW Liaison Officer).

Also present:

65 members of the public.

- 257 **WELCOME BY THE TOWN MAYOR.** The Town Mayor was in the chair and welcomed all attendees. The Councillors of Tenterden Town Council, Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council introduced themselves. Inspector Atkinson, PCSO Richards and Mr. Judd also introduced themselves.
- 258 **DATE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.** The Town Clerk announced that both this year and last year the Annual Town Meeting should have taken place between 1st March and 1st June and apologised for the error. The Annual Town Meeting 2020 will take place during the correct date period.
- 259 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies had been received from MP Mr. D. Green and Mrs. D. Greaves from Tenterden Museum.
- 260 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25th June 2018 were proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Smith and seconded by Cllr. C. Knowles. They were duly agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 261 **MATTERS ARISING.** None.
- 262 **PRESENTATION BY THE TOWN MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS.** The Town Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. Smith, Cllr. Crawford and the Town Clerk conducted a presentation to the public highlighting the challenges over the last year and looking forward to the next year. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation, along with the audio recording can be found on the Town Council's website.
- 263 **REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.** Reports had been received in advance from Tenterden Lions Club, Tenterden Macular Support Group, St. Mildred's Church, Tenterden & District Museum and St. Michaels Village Community Group. These reports were circulated at the meeting and would be made available via the Town Council's website.

264 **QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS.**

- (a) Bridewell Lane. Mr. A. Keates of Bridewell Lane suggested that the idea of turning Bridewell Lane and Highbury Lane into a one-way system should be considered. Mr. Keates had faced many vehicles right up near his front door when two vehicles are trying to pass. The Town Clerk reported that this had been proposed before, but residents did not support the idea. It was suggested that Mr. Keates speak to neighbours to suggest the idea and the Town Council will put this on the agenda for re-discussion.
- (b) Assembly Room Sound System. Mr. A. Clarke of Henley Meadows asked whether the sound system would be replaced as part of the Town Hall refurbishment as it was much needed. Cllr. Mrs. Smith responded that it would be.
- (c) Tenterden Social Hub. Mr. R. Isworth of Elmfield reported that the Social Hub was running a day-time bus service and if anyone was interested in becoming a driver, please could they contact the Social Hub. Last week was National Volunteer Week and the Social Hub are always looking for volunteers to help out. The Social Hub will be holding an open day on Friday, 28th June 2019 from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm and everyone is welcome.
- (d) Friday Street Market & Town Manager. Mr. M. Pearson of High Street asked how many businesses the Town Council supported and why were outsiders trading on the market. Mr. Pearson asked what the job description of the new Town Manager would be. The Town Clerk responded that the Town Council were not subsidising the market; there was a small profit for the Town Council. It is hoped that the market will be extended to attract more visitors to the High Street. With regard to the Town Manager position, a job description was being put together in conjunction with Ashford Borough Council and the position would be part time.
- (e) Speeding in Town. Mr. J. Vickers of Eastwell Barn Mews raised his concerns at the speeding vehicles through the Town, particularly in the early hours of Sunday mornings. The Town Mayor responded that there were several Speedwatch Groups set up in the Town, namely St. Michaels and Woodchurch Road and there is also the Speed Indicator Device which moves between three sites. Cllr. M. Hill (KCC) reported that some years ago the Town Council funded a traffic survey and maybe it was time to conduct another one.
- (f) Parking in Tenterden. A lady resident (not named) raised her concerns about the lack of parking available in Tenterden and if we are trying to promote Tenterden as a place to visit, then this needs to be addressed. Cllr. P. Clokie (ABC) responded that every time lack of parking comes up, it has to be pointed out that Bridewell Lane car park is not always full. Cllr. Mrs. Smith responded that the cost of parking is an issue. Cllr. Carter reported that funds would become available from Section 106 and parking on exit systems could then be installed.
- (g) Citizens Advice. Mrs. A. Lewis, a friend of Ashford Citizens Advice, asked whether in the redesign of the Town Hall if the Citizens Advice service would still be accommodated. The Town Clerk confirmed that they would be and the new building layout will allow for private rooms.

- (h) Pedestrian Crossings. Mrs. J. Crickmore-Porter of High Street asked whether the pedestrian traffic lights located near the Smallhythe Road junction could be assimilated into the three-way traffic lights rather than be an extra set further up. There are still issues with drivers not realising the pedestrian traffic lights are on red when accelerating from the junction.

Mrs. Crickmore-Porter also raised the problem of elderly people who wish to use the Post Office and live on the opposite side of the Road, cannot cross easily; please could this be reconsidered.

Cllr. M. Hill (KCC) responded that this had been raised before and the cost of installing a traffic island near the top of Station Road was investigated. KCC will not pay for an island out of funds as the traffic island would cost £30,000 plus infrastructure costs; additional funding would be required.

Mrs. Crickmore-Porter also enquired as to why there are no hanging baskets this year. The Town Clerk responded that it was a KCC requirement that lamp standards are stress tested; the Town Council will fund the work once completed by KCC. Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that baskets will be up this year, but the process will start earlier next year.

Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson also raised her concerns regarding the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of the High Street and thought that changing the lights to high LEDs was being considered. Community Warden, Ms. J. Vos also reported on the dangers of the traffic lights and that she had suffered near misses herself.

- (i) Leigh Green. Mrs. H. Whitehead of Appledore Road asked whether residents near Leigh Green would receive a reduction in Council tax due to the grass verges not being cut in the Leigh Green area. There were also problems with A Boards near the industrial estate and many of the A Boards are for businesses that no longer trade there. The Town Clerk responded that Leigh Green was not included in the Caretaker Scheme as most areas fall in the 30mph speed limit. This would be the responsibility of KCC and it will be investigated. With regard to the A Boards, KCC had delegated authority to the Town Council to police A Boards in the Town and the Town Council will write to all businesses on Leigh Green to enforce the rulings.
- (j) Rephasing of Traffic Lights. Mr. M. Pearson of High Street asked Cllr. M. Hill (KCC) when the rephasing of the traffic lights would take place in the Town as he understood that this was part of the Section 106 from Tent1a. Cllr. Hill agreed to investigate.
- (k) CCTV in St. Michaels. Cllr. J. Link (ABC) enquired as to whether CCTV cameras would be installed in St. Michaels. ABC had told Cllr. Link that if the Town Council buy the cameras, ABC would monitor them. The Town Clerk reported that he had been told by the CCTV Officer at ABC that once the roll out of new cameras across the Borough had taken place, additional cameras may be available and would be open to bids.

265 **CLOSE.** There being no further business the Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting. Attendees were invited to remain for refreshments.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm and closed at 8.30pm.

The foregoing Minutes and Reports were confirmed and signed at the Annual Town Meeting on 18th May 2020.

Chairman (18.05.2020)