

## Town Council 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

### Mayoral Selection

#### Agenda Item 7

This issue has been referred back to revisit the recommendation of the Standing Orders Sub-committee regarding mayoral selection following an objection at Town Council. That recommendation on the 6<sup>th</sup> August was as follows:

“The proposal to appoint a mayor-elect was rejected as it does not guarantee selection at the annual council meeting (ACM - the only legally binding vote). The model used by Deal Town Council was thought to be appropriate. The ACM is treated as a non-robed meeting devoted purely to business, the first item being mayoral selection as required by law. The new Mayor will preside for the remainder of that meeting. All the usual business of the ACM will be carried out at this stage except the civic ceremony. A second Mayoral Invitation evening, held within a short time of the ACM, will see the investiture of the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor.”

The advantage of a mayor-elect system is that the Council knows in advance the Mayor and Deputy for the forthcoming year. This aids advanced planning and avoids the log-jam of invitations awaiting the new mayor following appointment. This system would not, however, have worked in two of the most recent 6 years. It is also not possible to predict whether a favoured candidate would be re-elected in an election year (the next one being 2019). The votes of any new councillors are also unpredictable.

The current system also requires the disrobing of a Deputy Mayor in public session should he/she not be elected Mayor. This procedure is both upsetting and demeaning.

The fact remains that the only true election is that required by law on the night of the Annual Council Meeting. At this point nominations can be legitimately received even for members not previously nominated.

Whilst the recommendation of the Sub-committee is not ideal, it would work consistently and has been tried and tested in two local Cinque Port Councils. One of these Councils in particular (Deal) has used this effectively for 2 years after experiencing greater problems than TTC.

**Proposal: That the recommendation of the Sub-committee should be adopted and the mayoral election should be held in a non-robed Annual Council Meeting followed by a later separate civic investiture for the Mayor and Deputy.**



Phil Burgess  
Town Clerk

Impact on Crime and Disorder : None  
Impact on Bio-diversity : None  
Budgetary Impact : None

**Town Council 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Umbrellas at Civic Events**

**Agenda Item 8**

Following a couple of heavy showers during the Remembrance Day service, the issue of use of umbrellas has been raised again. Previously the policy had always been not to allow umbrellas.

I have sought advice from Ian Russell of the Confederation of Cinque Ports and his response is attached on the next page.

Some councillors purchased the Cinque Port Umbrellas made available after the speaker's day deluge in Dover. These are black with a Cinque Port logo. We have 3 spares for future use in the Town Hall. A consistent approach to umbrella use has also been suggested.

**Proposal: That umbrellas should be allowed for civic events with the following restrictions:**

- 1. The umbrella should be plain black or an official Cinque Port umbrella.**
- 2. That wreath-laying or other mayoral civic function should be carried out without the umbrella.**



Phil Burgess  
Town Clerk

Impact on Crime and Disorder : None  
Impact on Bio-diversity : None  
Budgetary Impact : None

Hi Phil,

I'm not aware of any "standing restrictions" on the use of umbrellas at civic events etc. and Millward doesn't appear to mention the subject.

Certainly, I think it is traditional not to allow them and I remember getting very wet on occasion, over the years. After the soaking we all received on Speaker's Day 2016 in Dover, you may recall that the Standing Committee, in May 2017, resolved *"that the Joint Solicitors be requested to investigate further the cost of purchasing a supply of good quality umbrellas, for re-sale to member towns, for use at Confederation and civic events when necessary, and to circulate details to member town clerks, with a view to their being made available in time for Speaker's Day 2017, subject to the minimum order quantity being achieved."* In the event all but one member town placed orders for umbrellas (Tenterden bought 6) and these were distributed at the following Speaker's Day.

Personally, I took the view that it was better to encourage a degree of consistency rather than witness an inevitable proliferation in various colours, shapes and sizes (many featuring commercial advertising) or trying to impose a ban which would be almost impossible to enforce. This is reflected in guidance on our website ( <https://cinqueports.org/members/guidance/speakers-day/> ) about arrangements for Speaker's Day.

I attended Hastings' Act of Remembrance, yesterday, and although we were luckier than you; only a light shower just as we arrived at the war memorial and before the service started, there were a number of umbrellas in use by members of the procession (myself included).

I did note, watching the television coverage of the various national and international events on television over the weekend, that many of the guests (including some of our "royals", I think!) were using umbrellas as they were waiting, but went without as they moved forward to lay wreaths. That seems to me to be an appropriate compromise. Of course, you will never please everyone and I guess the traditionalists would say that this is being soft!

I hope this helps.

Regards,

*Ian*

Ian Russell  
Registrar & Seneschal

**Town Council 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019**  
**St Mildred's Re-ordering & Funding**  
**Agenda Item 9**

The re-ordering project for St Mildred's was the subject of a grant application received under the community chest process early last year. At that point, a decision was made to consider the application outside that process since the amount requested (£750,000) was unprecedented and grant assistance for this project should be viewed in isolation.

There is no specific bar to assistance being given to religious organisations.

Two councillors were last month appointed to serve on the steering committee for the project and report back to council, and many councillors have attended presentations by the church.

A decision needs to be made on the principle of granting assistance to St Mildred's.

Should that decision go against the church, it is best that the decision is taken now. If the decision is favourable, however, it would aid the church in their project planning, and any assistance from the Town Council will unlock additional outside funding.

Subject, of course, to an agreement in principle, the *level* of funding will be considered by the project overview sub-committee along with all other town projects and their recommendations will be presented to the public.

Exceptionally, this issue has been brought direct to Town Council as it is an unprecedented application. If debate is required, the council may resolve itself into a committee under Standing Order 1v(i).

**Proposal: That a decision should be made in principle only, on whether grant funding should be allowed for St Mildred's re-ordering.**



Phil Burgess  
Town Clerk

Impact on Crime and Disorder	: None
Impact on Bio-diversity	: None
Budgetary Impact	: Major

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**Mayoral Announcements**

**Agenda Item 14**

**1. Note of thanks from Raymond Crawford regarding the beacon lighting:**

Please could I express my thanks to the Town Council for giving me the honour of sharing the lighting of the beacon with my fellow freeman, Roger Champion? Many congratulations on the Council's part in this splendid enterprise and my congratulations especially to Councillor Henry Edwards on the faultless way in which the lighting arrangements were made.