

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7pm, Monday 4th April 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Buildings, 31 St. Mildred's Road, Westgate-on-Sea.

Present: Councillors King (Chairman), Ashbee, Charlton, Cornford, Morrish, Nightingale, Pennington, Rickett, Rolfe and Scott.

Also present: Cllr. Braidwood (TDC) and Roy Wade (Interim Town Clerk)

255. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman opened the meeting and gave the usual "housekeeping" instructions.

259. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

260. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Ashbee made a declaration of interest in respect of Minute No. (Margate Charter Trustees).

260. MINUTES

It was moved by Cllr. Pennington and seconded by Cllr. Ashbee and

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2016, subject to an amendment substituting Cllr Nightingale for Nicholson, be approved and signed by the Chairman.

261. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY WARDEN

The Community Warden reported upon the incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour during the month of March 2016.

PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK

Cllr. Braidwood outlined the reasons for the increase in the Town Council's budget which he attributed to provision being made to increase the cleansing levels within Westgate-on-Sea. Cllr. Braidwood also made reference to the services being provided by Kingdom in Thanet and was advised that the Company would make a presentation to the Town Council.

Ray Taylor read from a detailed report (Appended to the minutes) which dealt primarily with the Town Council's proposals to enhance the level of cleanliness within the Town.

262. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported (i) Guest Speakers – The Town Clerk would be asked to add an item to the agendas of future Council meetings which would allow the elected members for Westgate-on-Sea on the District Council without having to give notice.

Cllr. Morrish asked why the Report of the Chairman had been added to the agenda. The Interim Town Clerk said that it was standard practice to include this item but that the Chairman would not be able to raise any item which required a decision.

Cllr. Scott wished to speak on this item and raised the matter of alternative arrangements that could be considered for the improved cleansing of the Town. Cllr King determined that this was not to be raised as considerable time had been given to the discussion of this matter. Cllr. Scott would not listen to the advice of the Chairman and eventually the Chairman in order to progress the meeting asked Cllr Scott to leave the meeting.

Cllr Scott left the meeting followed by Cllr Pennington who expressed the view that although he did not support totally the comments being made by Cllr Scott he believed she had the right to express them.

263. REPORT OF THE INTERIM TOWN CLERK

Members were advised that (i) agreement had been reached with the Director of Westgate Investments and that the Council office would from 11th April be sited in office 7 in the Town Hall Buildings, (ii) the telephone and e mail connections were to be moved but there may be a delay and disruption to the services for a short period, it was also agreed that the existing web mail arrangements should be kept instead of moving over to a G mail account (iii) Paul Valek of Kent Highways had given assurances that the Margate sing located near to the golf club would be removed within the next two weeks, (iv) Members were advised of the estimated total expenditure of the Town Council for the year 2015/6 and said that the final outturn would be notified to Members as soon as possible, (v) TDC had been advised of the refuse collection problems in Harold Avenue and following an approach made by Cllr. Ashbee the District Council had put in place to ensure that refuse was collected from properties in Harold Avenue and Westbury Road; and (vi) Cllr Rickett reported that TDC had responded to problems in Victoria Avenue and Lymington Road by sending the road sweeper to deal with the problem.

264. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2016, subject to an amendment to minute 254 to make reference to the need for risk assessment, were received.

265. FREEWOMAN OF WESTGATE-ON-SEA - DR. DAWN CROUCH

Cllr Cornford tabled a report on the proposals to honour Dr Crouch by making her a freeman of Westgate-on-Sea. The proposal was to have the ceremony on 25th June 2016 and Members were also shown a scroll that could be drawn up to mark the event. It was also proposed that future consideration be given to the Town Council having a roll of honour and for Members to consider arrangements for the ceremony and to notify Cllr. Cornford accordingly.

266. WESTGATE-ON-SEA – N.H.S. PRACTICE

Cllr. Morrish reported that he had been in contact with Mr. Chantrill-Smith of TDC but was still awaiting a formal report from him.

267. TOWN ASSEMBLY MEETING

Cllr. Ashbee disclosed a voluntary interest in aspects of this item relating to the provision of refreshments and abstained from voting.

It was moved by Cllr. Rickett and seconded by Cllr. Charlton and

RESOLVED: That (A) notices of the Assembly meeting be displayed; and (B) a budget of £300 be approved for the purpose of holding the Assembly meeting.

268. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Council considered at the request of Cllr. Morrish the setting up of a Personnel Committee and received the advice of the KALC that a committee should be set up. Members considered the general question of establishing committees and the number of members to serve on each of the committees.

It was moved by Cllr. Charlton and seconded by Cllr. Rolfe and

RESOLVED: That a Personnel Committee be set up and that the constitution and membership of the Committee be considered at the Annual General Meeting together with the other standing committees.

269. LYMINGTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS

The Chairman reported that TDC had transferred the management of the allotments to the Town Council together with details of the plot holders. A meeting was to be held with representatives of the allotments committee on 30th March 2016.

270. CYCLING ON THE PROMENADES

Cllr. Cornford reported that TDC had been asked to extend the no cycling on the promenades from Windy Corner westwards past the public toilets to the furthest slipway. Cllr. Nightingale suggested that the beach inspectors should monitor more closely the existing bye laws. Concerns were also raised that

barriers should be put out on bank holidays even if they fall outside the dates of the operation of the bye laws.

It was agreed to refer these concerns to the Foreshore Manager (TDC) and a report be made to a future meeting.

271. LIBRARY GARDENS

Council considered the report of Cllr. Scott on discussions with Mrs. Stedman in respect of the planting out of the area in front of the library.

It was moved by Cllr. Morrish and seconded by Cllr. Ashbee

RESOLVED: That a grant of £200 be approved for the purchase and planting of flowers and plants.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to transacted.

272. MARGATE CHARTER TRUSTEES

Cllr. Ashbee disclosed an interest in this matter and left the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon.

RESOLVED: That the Council accept the settlement received from the Margate charter Trustees as a final settlement in respect this matter.

Signed:

Chairman of the Council

Dated: 4th April 2016

Time concluded: 8.55pm.