

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7pm, Tuesday 13th February 2018 held in the United Reform Church. 54 Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea.

Present: Councillors King (Chairman), Nightingale, Mrs. P O'Connor, Mrs. H Page, Rolfe, Ms. H Scott, M. Scott and Mrs. S Stewart.

Also present: Gill Gray (Town Clerk)

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Emma Dawson, Councillor Liz Frost and Councillor Pennington.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Page seconded by Councillor Rolfe and

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th January 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillor Sam Bambridge read her report to the meeting; this included an update on the position in relation to the proposed Local Plan from TDC. Councillor Sam Bambridge added that The Westgate Pavilion Community Asset Transfer is under negotiation at present.

PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK

The Chairman advised that Mr Christian Miles was scheduled to speak; Mr Miles thanked everyone at the meeting for the opportunity to attend the meeting and speak about the proposed development for St Peter's Church on Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea. Mr Miles stated that Miles and Barr estate agents are a well established local business with 6 offices in Thanet area and 60% of staff residing in Thanet. Mr Miles advised that the Head Office for the business was currently at the Discovery Park in Sandwich and the lease was coming to an end. Mr Miles added that the St Peter's Church would provide the business with room for expansion and this was the preferred location for the business to relocate the Head Office. Mr Miles explained that the use of the Church had deteriorated with numbers of parishioners reduced to between 50 and 60 which meant it was not sustainable any longer. Mr Miles stated that Miles and Barr are proposing to restore and refurbish the building sympathetically and provide a boost to the local economy in the process.

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Councillor Rolfe enquired if the plans proposed included altering the front of the building; Mr Miles confirmed that any alteration would not be drastic and would be in keeping with the character of the building as it does have a retro appeal. Councillor Page enquired about the proposed office hours for the site as she was aware that a local resident has raised concerns in relation to potential disturbance. Mr Miles stated that the current office hours were 8am until 6pm but a pilot from 8am until 10pm has been undertaken but 8am until 8pm is the preferred option but only a handful of staff in situ with the majority of staff leaving at 6pm. Councillor H Scott queried if all the staff from the Discovery Park site were intended to be transferred to the new site; Mr Miles confirmed that this was the intention and that the St Peter's Church location would provide room for expansion as well as training space. Cllr H Scott enquired if Miles and Barr would encourage staff to use local transport and cycle; Mr Miles advised that this would be considered and that the majority of staff would be at the site all day. Councillor Page queried how the extra staff could be accommodated and Mr Miles explained that if successful the business would propose to install a mezzanine floor to increase the floorspace. Councillor Page enquired how far the projecting plans for the business were envisaged at this stage; Mr Miles advised that initially there were plans to expand the contact team to 12 and the exclusive team to 6. Also, the lettings team in Broadstairs branch were in a small back office so this would provide an opportunity to accommodate them as well at the Head Office.

ST PETER'S CHURCH, CANTERBURY ROAD, WESTGATE-ON-SEA

The Chairman invited any further comments from Members:

It was moved by Councillor Rolfe seconded by Councillor Page and

RESOLVED: That the Council would support the proposed change of use of church and dwelling to offices and development of the site at St Peter's Prestbytery, 117 Canterbury Road, Westgate on Sea, Kent CT8.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

F/TH/17/1757 – 21 Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea

Council gave consideration to the change of use proposed for 21 Station Road and Councillor O'Connor advised that CAAG have commented that it is felt to be overdevelopment of the plot; the Chairman added that a precedent had already been created in the vicinity. No objections be raised by the Council; Councillor H Scott abstained from the vote.

FH/TH/17/1770 – Westerly, Carlton Rise, Westgate-on-Sea

Council gave consideration to the planning application for Westerly, Carlton Rise. No comments or objections raised by the Council

F/TH/18/0015 – 38 St Mildred's Road, Westgate-on-Sea

Council gave consideration to the change of use proposed for 38 St Mildred's Road. No comments or objections raised by the Council.

FH/TH/18/0065 – 33 Minster Road, Westgate-on-Sea

Council gave consideration to the planning application for 33 Minster Road.
No comments or objections raised by the Council.

F/TH/18/0078 - Land rear of 20 and 21 Roxburgh Road, Westgate on Sea
Council gave consideration to the planning application for land rear of 20 and 21 Roxburgh Road; Councillor O'Connor commented that CAAG have advised that this proposal will have an adverse effect on preserving character of the street scene, the comment was noted. Councillor H Scott advised that she did not support this proposal. Councillor Rolfe stated that the proposal goes against Conservation Area ethos, Councillor Rolfe moved that this application should not be supported by the Council and seconded by Councillor Stewart

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to send the comments to TDC Planning department and raise objection and confirm not supported by the Council due to adverse effect on preserving character of the street scene and goes against Conservation Area ethos.

FH/TH/17/1792- 12 Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate on Sea
Council gave consideration to the planning application for 12 Westgate Bay Avenue; Councillor O'Connor commented that vehicular access applications at TDC should be consulted with KCC, comment was noted. No further comments or objections raised by the Council.

F/TH/18/0114- 14 Domneva Road, Westgate on Sea
Council gave consideration to the planning application for 14 Domneva Road. Councillor O'Connor queried if this property was within the Conservation Area; the Chairman confirmed it was not. No comments or objections raised by the Council.

FH/TH/17/0934- 14 Hundreds Close, Westgate on Sea
Council gave consideration to the planning application for 33 Minster Road.
No comments or objections raised by the Council.

Council gave consideration to the determined applications and there were no further comments.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk advised that there was nothing to report since the despatch of the Agenda.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2017

The Town Clerk reported that the Christmas Lights budget for £4000.00 was resolved and set aside at the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 19.09.17 for Events and Tourism Committee to consider. The Town Clerk reported on the

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expenditure for Christmas Lights 2017 provided by the Council; the total to date for Christmas Tree and lighting for Lymington Road is £1451.00 with one invoice awaited from KCC for the amount of electricity used for the lighting on the Christmas Tree in Lymington Road. Westgate on Sea Lighting and Improvement Committee received £1000.00 as a contribution towards the lights and entertainment on Station Road as agreed at Finance and General Purposes Committee on 19.09.17. The Festive Lighting Company will be contacted much earlier this year to request a quotation for 2018; we will also obtain two further quotations from similar festival lighting providers to ensure a robust procurement process is undertaken.

TOWN COUNCIL'S PRECEPT FOR 2018/19

The Chairman advised that following the question raised by Mr Brazier at the last meeting the calculation was checked with TDC to verify; a decision is now required, Councillor H Scott abstained.

RESOLVED: To confirm to TDC that Precept request from the Council is 132,400 which equates to a band D equivalent of £54.81

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Rolfe seconded by Councillor O'Connor and

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 16th January 2018 be received.

MINUTES OF THE EVENTS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Page seconded by Councillor Nightingale and

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Events and Tourism Committee held on 23rd January 2018 be received.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Ms. Scott presented the minutes of the Working Group held on the 10th January 2018 and these were noted by Members. Members were advised that Councillor H Scott had not received a response from Adrian Verrall at TDC. This is in relation to the explanation that the consultation comments from the Council were not received in March 2017 despite an automatic receipt being generated and received. Councillor H Scott requested that the Town Clerk should email Adrian Verrall at TDC and request an explanation why the open and green spaces had not been included in the Local Plan; Councillor O'Connor added that the green spaces were an important part of the Town and that the omission of the submission was serious for the Town. Councillor H Scott advised that following attendance at Westgate on Sea Placemaking Workshops in 2016 which were facilitated by TDC the Councillors that attended had not received a copy of the report; it was agreed that the Town Clerk should investigate and try to secure a copy for the Council.

Councillor H Scott added that despite efforts to contact Anthony Curwen and Doug Brown to arrange a meeting in December there has been no response; it was agreed that the Town Clerk should email Mr Curwen and Mr Brown and request appropriate dates for a meeting in the next couple of months with Members. Councillor H Scott advised that a separate line of enquiry was for affordable housing and how this could be incorporated in the Neighbourhood Plan with a provision for local people; this is currently being investigated by Councillor H Scott and the Town Clerk. Councillor H Scott added that Councillor Bambridge maybe aware as this issue has been discussed previously; Councillor Partington advised that any allocation would certainly be taken from a housing waiting list first.

It was moved by Councillor H Scott seconded by Councillor Page and

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk to email Adrian Verrall at TDC to ascertain current position in relation to omission of the submission made by the Council for consultation comments for the Local Plan.

ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR EVENTS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That Councillor M Scott is nominated as an additional Member for the Events and Tourism Committee

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Bins – Cllr Rolfe requested an update from Cllr M Scott in relation to the additional bins initiative; Cllr M Scott confirmed that additional bins are available and the Town Clerk added that following a meeting with Neil Jones from TDC a quotation for installation of bins was awaited.

Cllr O'Connor thanked the Town Clerk for hard work and in particular for ensuring the Pancake Races were a success for the town.

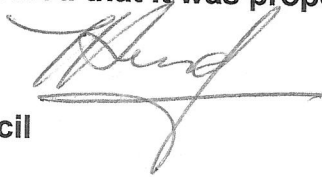
Cllr H Scott reported that some residents in the vicinity of Belmont Road and Victoria were complaining that following the recycling collections by TDC some of the paper and cardboard was being left behind by rushed refuse teams; the Town Clerk to report this matter to TDC. Cllr Page added that this was particularly a problem during windy weather conditions.

Cllr M Scott enquired if the Town Clerk had an update in relation to Speedwatch; the Town Clerk confirmed that contact had been made with Cllr Searle the Thanet Speedwatch Co-ordinator and further information was awaited by email.

Cllr H Scott advised that as no Member had been available to attend the 'last' GDPR Training workshops further investigations should be carried out by the Town Clerk. The Chairman advised that KALC would probably be providing further courses during the year.

Cllr H Scott queried if the Christmas Tree provided at Lymington Road was a real tree and if the subsequent cost each year would be similar to 2017 for a tree; the Chairman advised that it was proposed to purchase a tree for 2018.

Signed:



Chairman of the Council

Dated: 15th February 2018

Time concluded: 7.48pm.