

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7pm, Tuesday 6th March 2018 held in the United Reform Church. 54 Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea.

Present: Councillors King (Chairman), Miss J Cornford, Nightingale, Mrs. H Page, Pennington, Rolfe, Ms. H Scott and M. Scott.

Also present: Gill Gray (Town Clerk)

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sam Bambridge, Councillor Emma Dawson and Councillor Carol Partington.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th February 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

KENT COUNTY AND/OR THANET DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

No KCC or TDC Councillors present to provide a report for Council

PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK

No members of the public requested to speak at Council.

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY WARDEN

The Community Warden provided the Council with a report for the month of February 2018. Various items were discussed including pot holes, trading standards visits, social services visits, fly-tipping, bins and a particular issue in relation to persistent begging outside the Co-Operative store in Westgate on Sea. The Community Warden also reported that there was now a dedicated police officer in the Town and the Town Council will be entitled to know the mobile contact telephone number as this is not available for the general public to use.

- Council discussed the issue of general rubbish being left on the streets following waste collections and it was agreed that the Town Clerk should report to TDC and clarify the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding that was agreed with the Town Council. The Community Warden added that

best practice was to provide pictures to TDC of any problems experienced as this clearly demonstrated issues.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION PARTNERSHIPS

Dr Reg Race attended the meeting to provide information in relation to the proposed Sustainable Transformation Partnerships and how they could have a potential impact on the local medical provision for Westgate on Sea. Dr Race outlined the proposals and the options that were being considered and advised that everyone should become involved at the consultation stage later this year. Councillor Liz Frost joined the meeting.

Dr Race added that the Town Council should formulate a strong approach for any concerns and engage with other local authorities to provide a collective approach. The Chairman thanked Dr Race for his time and the information given to Council and requested that the Town Clerk should contact Dr Race to advise of the date for the Annual Town Meeting and invite Dr Race to attend if he is available.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

F/TH/18/0174 – Unit 1 18-20A Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea

Council gave consideration to the change of use proposed from Storage and Distribution (Use Class B8) to Community Use (Use Class D1).

Councillor Hannah Scott moved that this application should not be supported by the Council and seconded by Councillor Rolfe

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to send comments to TDC Planning Department and raise objection and confirm not supported by the Council due to not in keeping with emerging policies from the Neighbourhood Plan, parking policies and object to change of use from Commercial to Community for the site.

6 votes to not support the application and 2 abstentions

FH/TH/18/0212 – 17 Victoria Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea

Council gave consideration to the planning application for the erection of two storey 2 bed dwelling.

Councillor Page moved that this application should not be supported by the Council and seconded by Councillor Cornford

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to send comments to TDC Planning Department and raise objection and confirm not supported by the Council due to over-development of the site, not in line with current building line and potential to cause congestion on Quex Road.

F/TH/18/0257 – The Why Not Micro Pub 3 Lymington Road, Westgate-on-Sea

Council gave consideration to the change of use proposed from Micro Pub (Use Class A4) to restaurant (Use Class A3)

The Chairman voiced concern to this proposed change of use and requested that the Town Clerk should make contact with TDC to enquire how this property was dealt with under an asset disposal policy and potential community use.

The Chairman moved that this application should not be supported by the Council and seconded by Councillor Pennington

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to send the comments to TDC Planning department and raise objection and confirm not supported by the Council due to lack of community facilities in the vicinity and this site should be retained as a Micro Pub and does not follow emerging policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised that the Office Administrator Mrs Kirkman was expecting a baby and would therefore be commencing maternity leave in the near future. The Town Clerk will raise the need for temporary cover in the office with the HR Committee. The Chairman passed on best wishes to Mrs Kirkman on behalf of all Members. The Chairman was pleased to report that the Town Council had been in a position to support the services provided by KCC and TDC during the period of recent adverse weather and that local gritting and snow/ice clearing had been undertaken by the two operatives employed by the Town Council. The Chairman requested that the Town Clerk should contact KCC and request details of the Bad Weather Plan and apply for inclusion for future years to ensure access to grit and salt is maintained for the Town Council.

POLICIES

Councillor Page moved and seconded by Councillor Pennington

RESOLVED: To adopt the Cyber Policy for the Town Council

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The Town Clerk reported on the current position in relation to GDPR and advised that the best place for advice and resources had been Kent Association Local Clerks. The Information Commissioners Office newsletters also provide another source for the latest developments in the legislation and the likely impact from 25th May 2018. Members were provided with the 12 Steps to Take Now overview document which outlines the initial preparation to be undertaken before the regulation comes into force. The Town Clerk added that in relation to the appointment of a Data Protection Officer information has been obtained from KALC for four providers and quotations along with details of the services they can provide will be sought with an update to be provided to Members at the next Council meeting.

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Rolfe seconded by Councillor Pennington and

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20th February 2018 be received.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Hannah Scott presented the minutes of the Working Group held on the 15th February 2018 and these were noted by Members. Councillor Hannah Scott thanked Councillor O'Connor for all the hard work she had contributed to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and advised that further funding had been secured by the Town Clerk. Councillor Hannah Scott advised that a new consultant had been engaged to advise on the final stages of the Neighbourhood Plan and the first meeting was due to take place tomorrow at the Council offices.

ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Chairman invited nominations for an additional Member for the HR Committee as he had stood down from the Committee, the number of Members for this committee will be reviewed at the AGM. No nominations received, will defer to next meeting.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

The Chairman advised that this item will be incorporated with the Items 16 to 19.

MATTER RAISED BY COUNCILLOR PAGE

Foodbank – Councillor Page advised that the donation point for Thanet Foodbank at the Co-Op food-store in Westgate was now operational and the promotion campaign was going well. Councillor Page enquired if the Council would like to consider being involved in the referral system for vouchers for the Thanet Foodbank; this would involve a process of management for the Council on behalf of Storehouse. It was agreed that there should be further information sought in relation to the handling of the vouchers but that the referral forms would be practical and should be supported.

Councillor Pennington moved and seconded by Councillor Cornford

RESOLVED: That the referral forms for Thanet Foodbank be supported by the Town Council

MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLOR ROLFE

Payphones – Councillor Rolfe invited the Town Clerk to provide an update on progress to date for the request to remove the payphones from outside the train station at Westgate on Sea. The Town Clerk advised that extensive communications have been undertaken with 3 different organisations; the Town Clerk is awaiting a response from BT Business as South-eastern Railway have confirmed that they are not liable for the payphones.

Graffiti – Councillor Rolfe voiced disappointment that the issue of graffiti in the town has not been addressed. The Chairman advised that permission must be sought from the relevant organisations in relation to the ownership of the property affected; it was agreed that the Town Clerk should pursue the owners of all the property and try to engage a response in relation to the removal of the graffiti, particularly KCC.

MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW SCOTT

Zebra Crossing request Minster Road – Councillor Matthew Scott stated that there was a real justification for a proposed zebra crossing on Minster Road and this was raised at the recent Saturday Surgery he had facilitated. There were concerns that there was an issue with blind spots on the road which may result in the zebra crossing being difficult to implement. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should pursue and follow up with KCC in relation to the proposal.

Broken bottles and dog excrement near to Memorial on Sea Road – Councillor Matthew Scott requested that the Town Clerk should report these issues to TDC.

Report on Saturday Surgery – Councillor Matthew Scott advised that the first surgery that took place on 17th February received two residents attending. Councillor Matthew Scott requested that additional promotion should be undertaken by the Town Council before the next surgery on 17th March. Councillor Matthew Scott enquired if he could join the next scheduled surgery; the Town Clerk advised that this would depend if the Councillors that were on the rota were in agreement. Councillors Cornford and Page expressed concerns that 3 Members may be overwhelming to residents and intimidating. The Chairman advised that this issue would need to be resolved between individual Councillors and that where possible the rota should be adhered to.

MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLOR CORNFORD

Councillor Conference at Faversham – Councillor Cornford expressed an interest in attending the Councillor Conference at Faversham on 10th July 2018; 2 other Members also expressed an interest and the Chairman advised that any Members interested should advise the Town Clerk.

Planning Conference at Lenham – Councillor Cornford advised that the Planning Conference was scheduled to take place on 16th March; it was agreed that the Town Clerk would investigate if there was availability and provide Councillor Cornford with an update.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

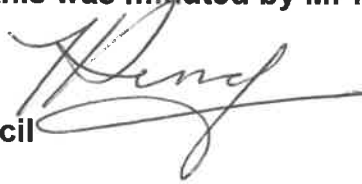
Councillor Pennington moved and seconded by Councillor Rolfe

RESOLVED: That the appointment of Mr David Buckett as internal auditor for the Council for 2018 be approved.

The Chairman requested that Council agree to exclude Press and Public from the remainder of the meeting and the Council then convened in closed session for Items 21 to 23; at this point of the meeting the current Town Clerk left the room for Item 21 and this was minuted by Mr Roy Wade – Locum Town Clerk.

Signed:

Chairman of the Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hendy', written over the text 'Chairman of the Council'.

Dated: 12th March 2018

Time concluded: 9.33pm.