



Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council of

Westgate on Sea Town Council

on Tuesday 3rd March 2020

**Held at 78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-On-Sea, Kent
CT8 8RF**


Present	Cllrs Pennington (Chairperson), O'Connor (Vice-chairperson), Donaldson, Green, Page, H Scott, M Scott, Wallin	
Also, in attendance	Mrs Gill Gray (Town Clerk) and Cllr Dawson (KCC)	
	Chairperson's Welcome The Chairperson opened the meeting and followed with the usual "housekeeping" instructions. Following the resignation of Cllr Micallef there was a By-election on 13 th February 2020 and Cllr Green was duly elected, Cllr Pennington welcomed Cllr Green to the Town Council.	
2156	To receive apologies for absence Cllr Cornford, Cllr Nightingale, Laura Bungard and Cllr Bambridge (TDC)	
2157	Members' Declarations of Interest There were none.	
2158	Minutes It was proposed by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr O'Connor and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th February 2020 be signed and approved as a true record of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Page and seconded by Cllr Wallin and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the P,H&E Committee held on 14th January 2020 were received.	
2159	County and District Councillor Reports There was a report provided by Cllr Dawson (KCC) which covered the following items:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on flooding with the recent severe weather with a report from KCC Highways • Potholes and the materials used for repairs in future • Update on rental charges issued to utility companies • Update on additional PCSO and police including support staff recruited 	

	<p>There was a report provided by Cllr M Scott in his capacity as District Councillor which covered the following items:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on recent Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting attended with a walkabout proposed with the local PCSO having to be cancelled due to the weather • Report on Thanet Tree Initiative and his recent attendance to the tree planting which took place at Dane Valley in Margate recently • Cllr M Scott added that he was happy to provide an update to the Council for any District related matter but requested that this is communicated prior to the Town Council meeting so he has time to collate the information.' 	
2160	<p>Report of the Community Warden The Town Clerk shared the report from the Community Warden which covered the following items:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scams particularly phone and post • Blocked drains • Potholes • Vulnerable visits 	
2161	<p>Councillor's Reports Cllr Page reported on food poverty and advised that the statistics from Thanet Foodlink did not support that there was a huge problem in the Town. The recent planned Speedwatch session had been cancelled due to the weather. Cllr Donaldson reported on the proposed Summer Kitchen project for the Town and the progress to date. Cllr O'Connor updated on the recent meeting with Your Leisure and the discussions for activities for Westgate Day event, attendance as a steward for the Pancake Races event and the reconciliation for the month for the Council finances was completed successfully. Cllr Cornford provided a report to the Town Clerk which included an update on the recent Emergency Plan meeting with the URC and WOSCCA, further details and a draft plan for the next meeting. Cllr Wallin had attended the recent WWRA meeting and advised nothing to report. Cllr H Scott reported on her recent attendance to the tree planting at Dane Valley, Margate, proposal to draft an Environment Policy for Council and the attendance as a steward for the Pancake Races event.</p>	

	<p>Cllr H Scott followed with the update on the Thanet Local Plan and the Westgate Neighbourhood Plan. The report on the examination of the Thanet Local Plan outcome is awaited. At a recent meeting with TDC it was advised that the NP could not progress if it is against the policies which are inline with the National Planning Policy Framework. The Town Council has always stated does not agree with the proposed 2,000 houses on agricultural land. Discussions on the NP Steering Group have been steered towards lobbying for a change of law to protect agricultural land for the future. There followed debate on the subject where Cllr O'Connor stated that if the NP does not progress this will result in no influence in the Town for other planning application sites proposed. Cllr M Scott added that a TDC Members Advisory Group was scheduled for TDC Members with views invited on the adoption of the Thanet Local Plan.</p>	
2162	<p>Chairperson's Report Cllr Pennington reported on :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The induction for the new minister for the United Reform Church • The progress with the proposed Business Forum for the Town • Site visit to the Pavilion on Sea Road • Quiz night for the Christmas Lights that raised over £250.00 in Council community space. • The format for the Annual Town Meeting that will be shared with Members in due course • Articles planned for the next magazine 	
2163	<p>Public Participation Session There were no requests received.</p>	
2164	<p>Finance Reports The Town Clerk presented Members with the Bank Reconciliations for 31st January 2020; Payments and Receipts Report for January 2020; Receipts and Payments Report by Budget Heading to 31st January 2020. TDC have now confirmed the Council tax base of 2,493.94 and the Band D equivalent figure is £56.61. Therefore, the precept figure for the Town Council for 2020/21 is £141,173.00 as resolved in Minute 2055 at the meeting on 3rd December 2019. A, B and C It was moved by Cllr M Scott and seconded by Cllr Wallin and RESOLVED: that the Finance Reports were received.</p>	
2165	<p>Westgate Day Update Cllr Cornford sent a report to the Town Clerk and advised that the recruitment for volunteers was now underway</p>	

	<p>and it is anticipated that by mid-April there will be a list of experienced and new volunteers for Stewarding.</p> <p>Cllr Pennington reported that discussions were ongoing with the Swan and he will provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Donaldson reported on the progress with the Lottery Bid for the Westgate Day event.</p> <p>Cllr H Scott had a suggestion for an activity for the event and agreed to pass the details to Cllr O'Connor. The details for the bus stops needed for the Open Top Bus was awaiting discussion with Stagecoach.</p> <p>Cllr Page reported that now the projects were not happening with the schools, but the anniversary was still important and there were still planned activities for the lead up to the event with details to follow in due course.</p> <p>Cllr M Scott reported that firm arrangements were now in place with Academy FM for the event and there is a proposed radio interview prior to the event taking place to help with promotion.</p> <p>Cllr Wallin reported he would be working on a map for the event to help with signposting visitors from outside the area.</p> <p>Cllr Green reported that it is likely that a Fire Engine will be available for the event which he has organised.</p>	
2166	<p>Policy Review</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr M Scott and seconded by Cllr Donaldson and RESOLVED: that the Cyber Policy, Vexatious Complaints Policy, Press & Media Policy and Equality & Diversity Policy were adopted by Council.</p>	
2167	<p>Appointment of Internal Auditor</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Page and seconded by Cllr M Scott and RESOLVED: that the internal audit for the Town Council will be undertaken by Mr D Bucket for 2019/20</p>	
2168	<p>Saturday Surgeries</p> <p>Cllr M Scott shared a report with six options for Members to consider. Following debate:</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr M Scott and seconded by Cllr Green and RESOLVED: that the Saturday Surgeries would continue twice a month, one at the Westgate Library and one at the Town Council Office. Both will continue to be 10am until 11.30am with thirty minutes from 11am until 11.30am at the Westgate Library set aside for District related matters by appointment with Cllr M Scott.</p>	

2169	It was proposed by Cllr H Scott and seconded by Cllr Wallin and RESOLVED: that the meeting be extended for a further fifteen minutes.	
2170	Town Council Magazine It was proposed by Cllr O'Connor and seconded by Cllr Donaldson and RESOLVED: that the Town Council continues with the current format for a further four issues over the next year for the Town Council magazine and agrees the general service agreement with HOF Media until 20 April 2021.	
2171	Community Asset Transfers Update It was proposed by Cllr O'Connor and seconded by Cllr Wallin and RESOLVED: that the surveyors fees due to Thanet District Council were agreed at £600.00 plus VAT per asset and a local authority search will be undertaken to meet full due diligence; the community asset transfers for the Lymington Recreation Ground and two shelters on Sea Road will progress.	
2172	Flagpole Town Clerk reported on the offer of a flagpole for the Town and the associated fees for the removal and relocation to the War Memorial on Sea Road. Following debate:- It was RESOLVED: that the flagpole be removed from the site on Canterbury Road and relocated to the War Memorial on Sea Road by a reputable contractor following the guidance from Building Control and TDC Technical Services engineer and dependent on permission from relevant TDC departments and any statutory requirements.	
2173	Thanet Local Plan and Westgate Neighbourhood Plan This item was covered by Cllr H Scott in Item 6 Councillor Reports.	
2174	Next Meeting The next meeting is TBC	
2175	Meeting Closed at 21.12pm	

Signed.....
Chairperson of the Council

Dated.....