

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

RESOLVED: That (A) the proposals set out by Cllr. King following the discussions with Mssrs. Gavin Waite and Geoff Dunne be accepted; and
(B) the agreement or MOU negotiated with TDC be placed before Council for its ratification.

The vote was carried; 5 votes for the proposition and 3 against: Cllr Morrish voted against the proposition and Cllr. Cornford abstained.

Cllr. Charlton left the meeting at 8.45pm following discussion of the above item.

255. DUSTBIN COLLECTION SERVICE BY TDC

Council received representations from a resident in Harold Avenue on behalf of 225 residents of the road concerning missed refuse collection due in part because large vehicles could not access the road. The residents wanted the Town Council to ask TDC for the small TDC refuse collection vehicle to be sent to the road instead of the large refuse vehicle each week.

Cllr. Ashbee undertook to refer this matter to TDC and report back.

256. KINGDOM SECURITY

Council Rickett circulated a document from Kingdom Security setting out the services the Company could offer to the Town Council. Cllr Ashbee reminded Members that the Company were undertaking a contract within the TDC area.

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

RESOLVED: That (A) Kingdom Security be invited to give a presentation to a future meeting of the Council; and

(B) the Interim Town Clerk makes enquiries of the Section 151 officer at TDC in respect of the services the Company offer and undertake.

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

Cllr. Morrish reported that he had been in in contact with Mr. Chantrill-Smith of TDC and was awaiting a reply. He would report further to a future meeting.

Signed:



Chairman of the Council

Dated: 4th April 2016

WESTGATE-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the FIRST ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL held at 7pm, Monday 11TH April 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Buildings, 31 St. Mildred's Road, Westgate-on-Sea.

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

Also present: Dr. Dawn Crouch, Jacquie Williams, Roy Wade (Interim Town Council) and 29 residents

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman opened the meeting by firstly welcoming the residents of Westgate-on-Sea and gave the usual "housekeeping" instructions.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Charlton.

3. PRESENTATION BY DR. DAWN CROUCH

Dawn thanked The Town Council for inviting her to address the first Town Assembly meeting and said that the presentation would be on "What made Westgate-on-Sea such a special place, giving it a unique place in the history of the seaside resort".

In opening the presentation the audience were informed that Dawn had first come to Westgate in 1970 and fell in love with the town and eventually leading to the research of its history and to her doctorate. However the information available was so great that it would be impossible to cover it all at this meeting.

The last meeting of the Parish Council had been held in 1934 in what is now the Carlton Cinema. Amongst those present was Alderman Cornford, the father of Joanna, and the Mayor of Margate during the difficult period of World War 2 together with Councillor Whitlock.

Westgate was not as generally thought a suburb of Margate but separated from it by marshes and farmland. It was during the 19th century that business men from London began the exclusive development of what is now Westgate-on-Sea and this in part resulted in unusual and well designed properties being built on substantial plots of up to one acre. This early development was on the north side of what is now Canterbury Road and ran down to the sea and West Bay which was a particularly favourite bay for holiday makers. There was a

need to protect the coast and newly built properties from the erosion of the sea and this meant the first construction of promenades which became a great attraction to tourists and residents.

The meeting was advised of the vast records relating to Westgate and held in many archives in Canterbury and Westgate's Heritage Centre.

Dawn then responded to questions:

- i) She would not, probably, be writing a history of the Town,
- ii) The Memorial Ground was probably owned by Thanet District Council following its creation in 1974; and
- iii) Regarding the production of a plaque residents were advised that lottery funding was available for such project.

The Chairman thanked Dawn for her interesting and informative lecture and the audience generously clapped in appreciation.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2015/16

The Chairman reported upon the first year since the formation of the Town Council. Much of the year has been focused on establishing good working practices and setting the ground rules for the future. The financial future of local and indeed central government was precarious because of financial constraints and shrinking budgets.

The Council had formed a Planning and Environment Committee under the excellent stewardship of Cllr Dave Morrish and the committee had commented to TDC on every planning application and had been helped in this role by Clare Wheeler of CAAG and Geoff Orton of Margate Civic Society.

A council web site had been set up and thanks go to Cllr. Rickett who has listened to the views expressed on measures to improve it and he and a small group of councillors will meet to discuss and implement improvements.

Concerns are constantly being expressed about the local plan and TDC's draft proposals to build up to 1000 housing units in Westgate. Cllr. Hannah Scott is doing a great deal of research and work on these proposals to ensure that the best interests of Westgate are listened to. This has meant Hannah spending many hours looking into the best use of brownfield sites and the infrastructure that will need to be put in place to support any future development.

Residents were also advised that Cllr. Scott had worked hard on producing and analysing the War against Rubbish survey and this had revealed the desire of the community to have a cleaner and more environmentally pleasing environment. The Town Council had set aside a budget to tackle this acknowledged problem and the Council would be considering the best ways of

implementing services to deal with this problem. Discussions had been held with TDC and they were happy to support the Town Council in putting in place and making available at peppercorn payments the equipment to manage the residents' concerns.

The Town Council was now responsible for the administration of the allotments in Lymington Road and meetings had been held with representatives of the Allotments Assn. to discuss future management arrangements.

The Town Council was also aware of the need to support local groups and organisations and a grant scheme had been put in place to achieve this.

Finally the Chairman paid tribute to the Members of the Town Council, many of whom had no experience in local politics. They had worked well as an adhesive team to put the wellbeing of the Town into the forefront and would continue to try to achieve measurements that would make Westgate-on-Sea an even more attractive place to live in.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION FORUM

The Chairman invited questions from those residents in attendance: the following matters were raised:

- i) Refuse collection was not being undertaken in Redhill Road. Cllr. Ashbee outlined the problems of the size of the refuse collection vehicles and undertook to refer this matter to TDC to resolve.**
- ii) Web site criticism that recent agendas and minutes had not appeared on the site and the Interim Town Clerk undertook to resolve the issue**
- iii) Notification of increase to allotment charges – the Town Council had not been advised of this and would investigate.**
- iv) Local Plan and increased build and impact on road structure particularly Minster Road and Shottendane Road. Cllr Scott was aware of these problems and reported that there were proposals to widen Shottendane Road and that the proposals for future development would be undertaken by high class and reputable builders.**
- v) The existing sewerage infrastructure would not support further development and Cllr. Scott responded that this problem had been identified and holding tanks were being considered.**
- vi) Minster Road and the lack of sweeping and the problem of roosting birds. This would form part of the Town Council's deliberations on introducing measures to improve the cleanliness of the Town.**
- vii) Redhill Road/Guildford Avenue – the bollard was restricting free movement of traffic and the Town Clerk to investigate in consultation with Cllr. Ashbee who had been made aware of the problems. Cllr.**

Scott was also aware of this problem and the need to service the area by the use of small refuse collection vehicles.

- viii) Traffic problems in Bridge Road/Westbrook Avenue – Cllr Ashbee reminded the meeting that these roads were in Westbrook and that she was aware of the problems. Funds had been set aside to deal with these issues which could involve the setting of 20mph speed restricting areas and the construction of “sleeping policemen”. Cllr Cornford advised that she was aware that speed mobile tests had been undertaken and “green tapes” had been laid out to identify the many problems relating to that area.

There being no more questions the Chairman closed the meeting and invited residents to join with Members and take refreshments.

Time Concluded: 7.35pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ashbee', written in a cursive style.