



**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of
Westgate on Sea Town Council held in Town Council Office
78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate on Sea CT8 8RF
Held on Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 7.00pm**

Present	Cllrs Donaldson (Chair); D'Abbro; Fenning; King; Mulyina; Veck; Scott; Wallin	
Also, in attendance	Mrs Chloe Wheatley (Deputy Town Clerk), Community Warden and one resident	
	To receive apologies for absence Cllr Crow-Brown (KCC), Cllr Wright (KCC), Cllr Braidwood (TDC) and Cllr Green – due to work commitment	
	Members' Declarations of Interest Cllr King declared a potential interest in agenda item 16 as he is currently Kent Branch Chairman of Unite the Union (retired members) who are campaigning on transport services.	
	Minutes One amendment was requested for the draft Full Council Minutes for 6 th June 2023, change the word "should" to "suggested" <i>have less Town Cllrs than 10</i> when referring to Cllr Wallin's report (minute reference 3792). It was moved by Cllr Veck and seconded by Cllr Wallin and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Full Council held on 6th June 2023 be signed and approved as a true record of the meeting with the one amendment. It was moved by Cllr Wallin and seconded by Cllr Donaldson and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the PH&E Committee held on 30th May 2023 were received. It was moved by Cllr D'Abbro and seconded by Cllr Veck and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the ET&D Committee held on 31st May were received. It was moved by Cllr Wallin and seconded by Cllr King and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the LT Sub-Committee held on 28th March were received.	D.T.C
	Public Participation Session None.	

	<p>KCC/TDC Ward Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Crow-Brown (KCC) shared a report with the Deputy Town Clerk, which was read to members. The report gave:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An update from The Household Waste and Recycling working group committee on the possible closure of the Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre. ▪ Thanks to Gill Gray, the Town Clerk, who is due to leave the Town Council at the end of July. He said “without doubt Gill is one of the best officers I have ever worked with, being the consummate professional, working over and above for the local community. I wish her all the best”. ▪ Congratulations to the Town Council for securing the Football Foundation grant of £10,000. <p>Cllr Scott (TDC) reported on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North Thanet Link Road. Cllr Scott strongly disagreed with the potential link road for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The North Thanet Link road will actually only offer 'relief' from traffic and congestion in the short term. The proposed housing development and increase in traffic will diminish any 'benefits' the road would offer. - The scheme also will see the removal of trees, a reduction in prime agricultural land, a disruption to wildlife and potentially an increase in air pollution. ▪ Fly tipping. There has been an ongoing issue of fly tipping next to public litter bins in St Mildreds Road and Station Road. If any person wished to contact Cllr Scott with information or reports of fly tipping, please email: Cllr-Matthew.Scott@thanet.gov.uk. ▪ Cllr Scott also wished to express his sadness at the Town Clerk’s resignation and wished her all the best in her future endeavours. <p>Cllr Donaldson (TDC) reported on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing Development. Cllr Donaldson has arranged a meeting with Westgate and Garlinge Action Against Housing of Farm Land Action Group to discuss the link road and how the Town Council can support them with their work. ▪ The Neighbourhood Plan. This would go to referendum on 31st August 2023. ▪ Ward Boundaries. These were currently under review but it is believed these changes would not affect Westgate. ▪ The Library. Cllr Veck and Donaldson were meeting with Birchington Parish Council who are also exploring the idea of purchasing their local library. It is hoped the Town Councils can support each other in this common objective. 	
	<p>Councillor’s Report</p> <p>Cllr Veck reported:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential new children’s play area. Cllr Veck has continued exploring the potential costs of a new children’s play area. TDC has not given permission for any play area to be placed in either Ethelbert or Adrian Square so he was now exploring the possibility of the green space at the top of Westbay near to the entrance of Finbars. A further update on this potential project will be given at a future meeting. 	
	<p>Report from Community Warden and PC</p> <p>Jason Gordon, the Community Warden for Westgate-on-Sea updated members on the recent work he had been doing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with the Police, Jason, was part of a multi-agency operation to prevent ongoing conflict between large groups of pupils from two secondary schools escalating. ▪ Supported the All-Day Skate Park Event organised by Westgate Town Council and Skorcha Skate School. ▪ Gave two Scamming Presentations with Trading Standards to a local hearing impaired community group (supported by British Sign Language Interpreters) and residents at Westgate-on-Sea Library. ▪ Completed a presentation to a local Junior School on Drugs and Alcohol Awareness to around 200 Children. 	
	<p>Review of Governance Arrangements</p> <p>A. Standing Orders</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Wallin and RESOLVED to make the following amendment to the Standing Orders:</p> <p>One amendment was requested by Cllr King. To add the following (see bold text) to paragraph d. Section 3 - Meetings Generally:</p> <p>Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The public’s exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public’s exclusion. Westgate-on-Sea Town Councillors in attendance at a Committee or Sub-Committee meeting, but who are not a member of that Committee or Sub-Committee, shall not be excluded from confidential agenda items.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr Veck and RESOLVED: that the Standing Orders had been reviewed and would be adopted with one amendment.</p> <p>B. Financial Regulations</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr Veck and RESOLVED: that the Financial Regulations had been reviewed and would be adopted.</p>	

	<p>Policies for the Town Council</p> <p>A. Code of Conduct</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr Scott and RESOLVED: that the Code of Conduct had been reviewed and would be adopted.</p> <p>B. Social Media Policy</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr Scott and RESOLVED: that the Code of Conduct had been reviewed and would be adopted.</p>	
	<p>Finance Reports</p> <p>A. Bank reconciliations 30.04.23 & 31.05.23 be received B. Payment and Receipt Reports 30.04.23 & 31.05.23 be received C. Receipts and Payments by Budget Heading 31.05.23 be received D. Annual Budget by Combined Account Code to the end of May 2023 be received</p> <p>It was RESOLVED: that the Bank Reconciliations 30.04.23 & 31.05.23, Payment and Receipt Reports 30.04.23 & 31.05.23; Annual Budget by Combined Account Code 31.05.23 and Annual Budget by Combined Account Code to the end of May 2023 be received.</p>	
	<p>Facebook and Marketing Support</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr D'Abbro and seconded by Cllr Scott and RESOLVED: to extend the appointment of Social Media Matters for the provision of Facebook and marketing support until June 2024.</p>	
	<p>Community Picnic Event</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Veck and seconded by Cllr Wallin and RESOLVED: to allocate a further £1000 to the Community Picnic budget.</p>	
	<p>Co-option of Vacancy Update</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr D'Abbro and seconded by Cllr Donaldson and RESOLVED: to interview the candidate using the agreed procedure for the co-option of councillors. Cllr King abstained.</p>	
	<p>Allotment Plot Water Charges</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr Wallin and RESOLVED: to set the water charges for the upcoming allotment year 2023-2024 to £20.45 for a full plot and £10.20 for a half plot.</p>	

	<p>Memorial Plaque Reinstatement – Lymington Road Recreation Ground</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr Scott and RESOLVED: to give delegated authority to the Town Clerk to proceed with a new planning application and application for advertising consent for the reinstallation of the wall supporting the memorial plaque.</p>	
	<p>Additional Member for the Local Transport Sub-Committee</p> <p>Cllr Veck updated members he would be available to attend the next meeting of the LT Sub-Committee but did not wish to continue as a permanent member.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Fenning and seconded by Cllr Donaldson and RESOLVED: that Cllr Fenning join the LT Sub-Committee as a fourth member.</p>	
	<p>Review of the Town Council Meeting Schedule</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr D’Abbro and RESOLVED: that Committee and Sub-Committee meetings start at 6.00pm from September 2023.</p>	
	<p>Westgate Community CIC</p> <p>Cllr Fenning gave a presentation to members about setting up a CIC, what it is and how it would work to assist with funding for future projects.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr D’Abbro and seconded by Cllr King and RESOLVED: that the Town Council register a CIC with Cllrs Mulyina, D’Abbro and Veck being the interim directors (for the registration process only) at a cost of £40.00.</p>	
	<p>War Memorial Recreation Ground Play Area</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Wallin and seconded by Cllr Donaldson and RESOLVED: that GB Sports and Leisure be contracted to provide soft closers for all four gates for the Lymington Road Recreation Ground play areas.</p>	
	<p>HR Committee Report from Cllr Donaldson</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Wallin and seconded by Cllr Fenning and RESOLVED: to advertise the vacancy of Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with KALC for eight weeks, NALC for four weeks (Standard Package) and SLCC for four weeks (Bronze Package).</p>	

	<p>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>It was RESOLVED: to exclude Press and Public from the remainder of the meeting pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public will be asked to leave the meeting during consideration of the following items: staffing matters.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr D’Abbro and RESOLVED: to extend the meeting for a further 20 minutes, until 9.20pm.</p>	
	<p>Pension LGPS Position.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr Mulyina and RESOLVED: to exit the LGPS.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED: to appoint an Interim Town Clerk and Interim RFO whilst the recruitment of a permanent Town Clerk/RFO is undertaken.</p>	
	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is 5th September 2023.</p>	
	<p>Meeting Closed at 9.20pm</p>	

Signed..... Dated.....

Chair of the Council