



**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of
Westgate on Sea Town Council held in Town Council
Office, 78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate on Sea CT8 8RF**

Held on 10th January 2023 at 7pm

Present	Cllrs Cornford (Chair), Donaldson (Vice-Chair), Calcutt, Green, King, O'Connor, Parry, Wallin	
Also, in attendance	Kirsty Holroyd (Locum Clerk from Broadstairs and St Peter's Parish Council), Chloe Wheatley (Finance Assistant) and one resident.	
3571	<p>To receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Gill Gray (Town Clerk), Cllr Crow-Brown (KCC), Cllr Wright (KCC), Cllr Scott</p>	
3572	<p>Members' Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None</p>	
3573	<p>Minutes</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Calcutt and seconded by Cllr Donaldson and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 6th December 2022 be signed and approved as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson and seconded by Cllr O'Connor and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting held on 15th December 2022 be signed and approved as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED: that the minutes of the PH&E Committee held on 8th November 2022 were received.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED: that the minutes of the ET&D Sub-Committee held on 2nd November 2022 were received.</p>	
3574	<p>Public Participation Session</p> <p>No requests received from residents.</p>	

3575	<p>Report from the Community Warden and PCSO Neither was present</p>	
3576	<p>Town Clerk Report The Town Clerk was absent and therefore unable to give her report</p>	
3577	<p>KCC/TDC Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Crow-Brown shared a report with the Town Clerk which was read by the Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was fantastic the Carlton Cinema was chosen for the premier of the Empire of the Light film putting Westgate-on-Sea on the map and boosting the local economy. • Economic disruption from the aftermath of the pandemic and from Ukraine war, the highest inflation in 40 years, have had a massive impact on the council's services and finances. This will remain a huge challenge for KCC in 2023 • The large amount of rainfall in recent months has been responsible for hundreds of potholes across Thanet. Members and residents can report highways related issues online by visiting: www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem. 	
3578	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p>Cllr Donaldson reported on the meeting of the local branch of KALC which he had attended recently. James Wraight from KCC had attended and delivered a report on the new inner circuit road which had been well received.</p> <p>Cllr Wallin had received a reports from various local residents on accessibility to the Town Council's website and problems accessing the council's meetings. Other members discussed putting a leaflet or poster in the library to inform residents the Town Council office itself was available for people to come and access the internet.</p> <p>Cllr King reported on ongoing problems for residents due to changes in time tabling of the buses. Several councillors discussed making representations to KCC highlighting their concerns.</p> <p>Cllr King also reported that a Westgate resident had fallen and sustained a nasty injury whilst in Birchington. He agreed to let the local KCC Member know.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Cornford expressed concern at two councillors using social media who actively dishonour the Town Council, the organisation they signed up to support. Cllr Cornford reminded all present that the Town Council has a social media policy and asked everyone to respect it.</p>	
3579	<p>Finance Reports</p> <p>A) Bank Reconciliations 30.11.2022 B) Payment and Receipt Reports 30.11.2022 C) Annual Budget by Combined Account Code to end of November 2022 D) Budget Forecast Report as at 30.11.2022</p> <p>It was RESOLVED: that the Bank Reconciliations 30.11.2022, Payment and Receipt Reports 30.11.2022; Annual Budget by Combined Account Code to end of November 2022 and Budget Forecast Report for 30.11.2022 be received.</p>	
3580	<p>Draft Budget 2023/2024 In the absence of the RFO, Cllr O'Connor as Chairman of the Finance Committee presented four drafts which had been developed in response to Councillor's input.</p> <p>Four options were discussed and Cllr O'Connor explained what projects could be achieved with each and outlined those aspects of the Council's business which would have to be trimmed in order to meet the more modest drafts. It was confirmed that the draft tax base had been received from TDC.</p> <p>After robust discussion members agreed to put each scenario to the vote and requested that the locum clerk record how each member voted.</p> <p>Draft 2 11.4% In favour: no-one Draft 3.1 15.7% In favour: Cllrs Green, Calcutt, Donaldson, King Draft 3.2 12.68% In favour Cllr O'Connor Draft 4 5.3% In Favour Cllrs Wallin, Cornford and Parry</p> <p>It was therefore RESOLVED: that a total resource level of £187089 be requested which results in a Band D Council Tax of £74.78. This represents a 15.8% increase on the current year or £9.83 per annum on the average Band D property.</p>	

3581	<p>Co-option Vacancy Update</p> <p>Interviews were held in December 2022 for the current Councillor Vacancy.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED: that candidate B was co-opted onto the Town Council. Cllrs King and Green abstained from voting. Cllr Calcutt had not attended the interviews and therefore also abstained.</p>	
3582	<p>Town Council Personnel Update</p> <p>Members discussed the continued professional development of the Finance Assistant. All agreed she was very capable and were grateful for her hard work and commitment.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr O'Connor and seconded by Cllr Calcutt and RESOLVED that the role of Deputy Town Clerk was created for the Town Council and the Finance Assistant and any other interested employees be invited to apply with a view to an internal promotion to Deputy Town Clerk.</p> <p>Cllr King wished the minutes to record that he objected to the procedure of this agenda item.</p>	
3583	<p>Town Council Project</p> <p>Members discussed three potential projects which could be explored and developed over the coming year. The debate became heated and Cllr Cornford twice requested that Cllr King modify his tone. On the third occasion Cllr Cornford moved and Cllr O'Connor seconded and it was RESOLVED that Standing Order 2.b be invoked and Cllr King be no longer heard on the matter.</p> <p>It was also RESOLVED: That all three projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development of the existing play area at the war memorial recreation ground, • the Community Transport project and • the development of a new play area merit further research and consultation. 	
3584	<p>Committee Members were requested to pass a resolution 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 were excluded from the meeting during</p>	

	consideration of the next item in respect of matters relating to the I.C Report. It was RESOLVED that the public were asked to leave the meeting during consideration of the following item, I.C. Report.	
3585	I.C REPORT Update Members received a written update from the Town Clerk. Since she was absent it was RESOLVED to defer consideration of asking the Town Clerk to develop a flag flying policy. It was RESOLVED to continue to review the Town Council's IT arrangements. Cllr Wallin did not vote on this item for legal reasons. Cllr King abstained.	
3586	Next Meeting The next meeting is Tuesday 7 th February 2023.	
3587	Meeting Closed at 8.45pm	

Signed David Davidson

Dated 7/2/2023

Chair of the Council

