

## **Westgate-on-Sea Town Council**

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Buildings, 31 St. Mildred's Road, Westgate-on-Sea.**

**Present: Councillors King (Chairman), Ms. Ashbee, Charlton, Ms. Cornford Nightingale, Pennington, Rickett, Rolfe and Ms. Scott.**

**Also present: Roy Wade (Interim Town Council)**

### **172. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

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

### **173. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Morrish and Ms. Williams (Town Clerk).**

### **174. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Cllr. Ms. Ashbee disclosed an interest in minute no. Margate Charter Trustees and left the room during the discussion and voting thereon.**

### **175. MINUTES**

**It was moved by Cllr. Ms. Scott and seconded by Cllr. Ms. Ashbee that the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman.**

### **176. PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK**

**No member of the public reserved the right to speak or put questions to Council.**

### **177. GRANT APPLICATION – WESTGATE AGAINST RUBBISH**

**Cllr. Pennington paid tribute to the good work being done by the Group and although he suggested that Council should support the grant application he acknowledged that further details from the Group were required. Cllr. Rolfe supported these views and identified the particular problem that the Group had no bank account and a grant application would not be approved without an account. Members expressed concern that insurance cover may be required to enable this Group to operate. It was suggested that the Westgate Residents Association be approached to see whether they would act in support of WAR so that application for grant funding may be applied for.**

**RESOLVED: It was moved by Cllr. Pennington and seconded by Cllr. Rickett that the Clerk contact the Westgate Resident's Association to see whether they would act in support of the War Against Rubbish in obtaining grant funding for these works and they be asked to enquire whether the Group would need public liability insurance cover to undertake these works.**

**Cllr. Charlton abstained in the vote on this item.**

#### **178. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY REVIEW**

It was moved by Cllr. Charlton and seconded by Cllr. Pennington that as the Town Council had only been in existence for less than one year that no action be taken on the Review.

#### **179. REVIEW OF LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEMES**

It was moved by Cllr. Pennington and seconded by Cllr. Charlton that as the Town Council had only been in existence for less than one year that the Review be noted and further consideration be given to it in 2017 and in the meantime TDC be asked for details of the allocation of tax support scheme.

#### **180. KENT FIRE & RESCUE CONSULTATION**

The Interim Clerk was asked to check on the details of the consultation process and advise Members accordingly.

#### **181. REPORT ON THE CHAIRMAN'S/TOWN CLERK'S MEETING WITH TDC**

Council considered the report on the meeting with TDC and the discussions on

- i) Bid for multi-occupancy buildings
- ii) Lymington Recreation War Memorial
- iii) Football pitches at Lymington Road
- iv) Showers and shelters at West Bay
- v) Removal of road sign; and
- vi) Update re allotments

Members expressed surprise and concern that sea gull proof bags could not be made available to the Town Council for distribution to residents. Cllr. Ms. Cornford asked that TDC be made aware of the unfairness at residents are not having their refuse collected even though they are required to pay for this service through their local tax demand. There was also a discussion on the need to re-site the euro refuse bin outside the Council building to an alternative siting and for a new 1200 litre bin to be sited within this area for use by residents in St. Mildred's Road.

**RESOLVED:** That the concerns of the Town Council be conveyed to TDC with the request that immediate action be taken to provide for appropriate refuse bins on a site identified by the Chairman and that Cllr. Ms. Ashbee's offer to approach Gavin Waite (TDC) to facilitate this action be approved.

#### **182. STRATEGIC PLAN**

Member considered the report of the Chairman and Town Clerk which set out 5 proposed aims for the Town Council. The Chairman stressed the need for the Town Council to further improve the cleanliness and environment of Westgate by the appointment of two road sweepers/general duty operatives, a Council general purpose vehicle and the necessary equipment for these operatives. Discussions were taking place to secure a site for the operatives to work from and for the garaging of the vehicle and Members would be kept advised.

**RESOLVED:** It was moved by Cllr. Rickett and seconded by Cllr. Ms. Scott that the five aims and the recommendations contained within the report be adopted and that costings be prepared for consideration at the budget making meeting.

#### **183. NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES**

**Resolved:** That (A) consideration of this document be deferred to the next meeting; and

(B) that the offer of Cllr. Ms. Scott to work with and prepare a report in consultation with Dr. Hillary Newport (CPRE) be accepted and form part of the discussion at the next meeting.

#### **184. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Members note the report of the Town Clerk.

#### **185. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was moved by Cllr. Ms. Scott and seconded by Cllr. Charlton that the press and public be excluded from the rest of the meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings) Act in view of the confidential legal and staffing implications of the matters to be considered.

- (i) Margate Charter Trustees – **RESOLVED:** That having considered the report of the Town Clerk on the legal position the way forward be determined in accordance with the manuscript minute contained within the minute book.
- (ii) Staffing Matters – The Chairman reported upon the health situation of the Town Clerk and on her possible return to her duties. Members were also advised that four (4) applications had been received for the filling of this post in the event that the Town Clerk resigned through ill health.

It was agreed that a panel consisting of the Chairman, Cllrs. Rickett and Scott be appointed to interview the applicants; the interviews to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

#### **186. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was agreed to hold meetings as follows:

Extra-ordinary meeting of the Council (Budget & Precept) – 20 January 2016 at 6 pm; and

(ii) Council Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup>. February 2016 at 7 pm.