



**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council of  
Westgate-on-Sea Town Council held in Town Council Office  
78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RF  
Held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.00pm**

Present	Cllrs Donaldson (Chair), Veck (Vice Chair), King, Thomason, and Wallin	
Also, in attendance	Trish Hamilton (Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)	
2024/FC/29	<p><b>EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> with the Chair advising the meeting of the evacuation procedures to follow in the event of an emergency.</p>	
2024/FC/30	<p><b>TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> with apologies and reasons accepted from Cllrs D’Abbro (family commitment) Fenning, Mulyina, Scott (all work commitments).</p>	
2024/FC/31	<p><b>MEMBERS’ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> with no declarations made.</p>	
2024/FC/32	<p><b>TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECT IN WESTGATE-ON-SEA.</b> This included discussion on: -</p> <p><b>(i) Winter Support Scheme</b> where funding of up to £1500 is available from Kent County Council</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Noting that £2,000 is available to the Town Council due to its size and population not the £1,500 as was publicised, Kent County Council (KCC) has emergency grant funding from Central Government which is ringfenced for local councils to apply for to use for projects that provide support to residents experiencing financial hardship as a result of the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p><u>Proposal:</u> To launch a new Town Council Project to help individuals and families with the ongoing increases in the cost of living. To be delivered through two strands: - <b>Parish Winter Support Scheme (KCC) [Project 1]</b> where a small grant is available (KCC – Lead Officer: Abigail Levitt) to provide food stuffs and hygiene products noting in the past the Council has organised similar initiatives with the local Co-op (Tom Plaistow – Co-op Pioneer). In the longer term, the project will expand its scope through funding generated by the Westgate Community CIC. The second strand is through the <b>Fuel Poverty – Home Energy Service (TDC) [Project 2]</b> through the promotion of home energy efficiency measures paid for by grants available from Thanet District Council (TDC – Lead Officer: Lucy Rivers).</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> The Town Council concluded that even though Westgate-on-Sea appeared to be an affluent conurbation with iconic buildings and cosmopolitan cafes and restaurants, there were many individuals and families on low incomes</p>	

	<p>who were struggling financially. Consequently, these individuals and families are making budget choices to either feed themselves or heat their home. It was agreed that Projects 1 and 2 would alleviate this poverty and its resultant hardships</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson, seconded by Cllr. Wallin, carried, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Town Council establish Project 1 aimed at reducing hardship through the supply of food and hygiene products [while stocks last] and apply to the Winter Support Scheme for the £2,000 available to a council of its size for this purpose. Subject to obtaining the necessary funding, work on the project was delegated under the Local Government Act (LGA 1972) Section 101 to Cllrs Thomason and Mulinya to set up and deliver the practicalities with support from the Town Council subject to achieving its consensus on the wider decisions. Regards project items to include “while stocks last “disclaimer.</p> <p>It was also moved by Cllr Donaldson, seconded by Cllr. Wallin, carried, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> that under a separate Project [Project No. 2] aimed at alleviating fuel poverty, the Town Council directs those interested in the <b>Fuel Poverty – Home Energy Service (TDC)</b> to Thanet District Council’s Home Energy Saving Guidance / Climate Action Thanet which can be obtained by calling 01843 577400 , emailing <a href="mailto:energysaving@thanet.gov.uk">energysaving@thanet.gov.uk</a> To apply for specific home energy improvement grants the online form is available via <a href="https://winter.thanet.gov.uk/contact-us/">https://winter.thanet.gov.uk/contact-us/</a> Paper copies if available will be distributed from the Town Council Office. The Town Council will also arrange for copies to be available in prominent places in the town and use social media to promote the initiative.</p> <p>Actions: Lead Officers x 2 to be invited to the Annual Town Meeting to present Schemes – Town Clerk / Copies of Home Energy Booklets to be requested from TDC – Admin</p>	
2024/FC/33	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</b></p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson, seconded by Cllr Thomason, carried, and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Council pass a resolution to exclude the 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, during consideration of the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive update on legal matter</li> </ul> <p>It was moved by Cllr Donaldson, seconded by Cllr Veck, carried, and <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the update be noted, and decision agreed.</p>	
2024/FC/34	<p><b>Next Meeting</b> The next meeting is 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7 pm.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed to the public at 7.15 pm. Meeting ended at 8.05 pm.</p>	

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chair of the Council