



**Minutes of the Virtual Town Council Meeting of  
Westgate on Sea Town Council  
Held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 7pm**

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Present	Cllrs Cornford (Chairperson), O'Connor (Vice-chair), Donaldson, Green, Nightingale, Page, Pennington, M Scott, Wallin	
Also, in attendance	Mrs Gill Gray (Town Clerk) and 8 residents	
25 89	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b> Cllr Dr H Scott and Cllr Bambridge (TDC)	
25 90	<b>Members' Declarations of Interest</b> There were none.	
25 91	<b>Minutes</b> It was moved by Cllr Wallin and seconded by Cllr Pennington and <b>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 be signed and approved as a true record of the meeting.</b> It was moved by Cllr Pennington and seconded by Cllr Donaldson and <b>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the PH&amp;E Committees held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were received.</b>	
25 92	<b>Town Clerk Report</b> Town Clerk reported on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defibrillator update</li> <li>• Westgate in Bloom update</li> <li>• Dates for events this year, including Census Day 21.03.21; the train station birthday 12.04.21; Annual Town Meeting 22.04.21; Food and Drink Festival 11-13.06.21 and Annual Town Anniversary 18.07.21.</li> <li>• War Memorial Recreation Ground update</li> <li>• Town Council magazine</li> <li>• Budget explanation for 2021/22 – approved Precept request for £149,475.00 (represents an increase of £3.60 (6.37%) on last year) with a confirmed tax base figure from TDC of 2,482.41; this equates to an equivalent Band D figure of £60.21. The approved Budget figure for 2021/22 is £154,135.00 for the Town Council.</li> <li>• Covid-19 support update</li> <li>• Report on recent attendance to SLCC Practitioner Conference</li> <li>• Report on recent IT equipment donations initiative for schools</li> </ul>	
25 93	<b>KCC/TDC Councillor Reports</b>	

	<p>Cllr M Scott reported on TDC items including new PCSO and a planned walkabout when restrictions are relaxed. Update on recent issues with the train station being used for drug dealing activity.</p>	
25 94	<p><b>Councillor Reports</b>  Cllr Donaldson reported on attendance to SLCC conference.  Cllr Page reported on attendance to Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy meeting at KCC and an Extra Ordinary meeting of Birchington Parish Council with Cllr Cornford.  Cllr Cornford reported on need for promotion for Speedwatch volunteers.  Cllr Nightingale reported on continuing to provide support for Changing Minds Kent CIC and the Lifeboat Project and supporting residents with advice.</p>	
25 95	<p><b>Public Participation Session</b>  There were two requests to speak on the proposed outline planning application for the Gallops and on the subject of new defibrillators and the proposed Scarecrow Festival.  One resident reported on progress of an action group – Westgate and Garlinge Group Against Housing Development. Town Clerk advised that recent letter shared with Sir Roger Gale MP to support lobbying for change of law for developing on agricultural land has been sent to two Ministers and the Prime Minister. Town Clerk confirmed that there will be further opportunities for all interested parties to consult on additional reports when they are available.  One resident reported support for the train station birthday by confirming manufacture of train silhouette. The same resident reported on the bulb and seed sowing on the green near to the Community Centre for WIB; also, an update on the defibrillator project including training and the Scarecrow Festival commencing on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021.</p>	
25 96	<p><b>Finance Reports</b>  A) Bank Reconciliations 31.01.21  B) Payment and Receipt Reports 31.01.21  C) Receipts and Payments by Budget Heading 31.01.21  D) Annual Budget by Combined Account Code  E) Grants/Donations budget remaining £2,400, proposed to fund new defibrillator for St Mildreds Bay.  F) Proposed Capital Expenditure Projects for next Financial Year</p>	

	<b>Delegated authority to the Town Clerk for potential load testing for columns requirement.</b>	
2597	<p><b>Westgate Day Town Anniversary 18.07.21</b> Town Clerk provided a report to Members on a proposal for a Town Flag to be purchased to mark the Town Anniversary date of 18<sup>th</sup> July. Further details of ideas for marking the date to be reported at the next meeting. Following debate by Members and considering the ideas proposed:-</p> <p><b>It was moved by Cllr Pennington and seconded by Cllr O'Connor and RESOLVED: that a Westgate Town Flag is purchased at a cost of £146.25 plus VAT and the application for advertisement consent to TDC is submitted by the Town Clerk.</b></p>	
2598	<p><b>Draft Annual Town Meeting Agenda</b> Town Clerk shared a draft Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting with Members and outlined a proposal to recognise those in the community who go above and beyond to receive Community Star awards at the Annual Town Meeting.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED: that the Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting was adopted in principle and that the Town Council will recognise volunteers in the community with Community Star awards at the Annual Town Meeting with a round wooden award.</b></p>	
2599	<p><b>Major Road Network Funding Letter of Support Request</b> Following a meeting with KCC and the PH&amp;E Committee a draft letter of support was shared with Members for debate; it was reiterated that this does not imply support for the housing development. One additional sentence was agreed to be added to the draft letter.</p> <p><b>It was moved by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Page and RESOLVED: that the letter of support for the MRN Funding bid to be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Town Council and sent by the Town Clerk.</b></p>	
2600	<p><b>Renewal for Membership of Action with Communities in Rural Kent</b> Town Clerk shared details of a renewal invitation from ACRK at an annual cost of £105.00.</p> <p><b>It was moved by Cllr Page and seconded by Cllr Donaldson and RESOLVED: that the Town Council will renew the annual membership with Action with Communities in Rural Kent at an annual cost of £105.00 from 01.04.2021.</b></p>	
2601	<b>Proposal for Youth Council for Westgate on Sea</b>	

	<p>It was moved by Cllr Wallin and seconded by Cllr Cornford and <b>RESOLVED</b>: that the Bank Reconciliations, Payment and Receipt Reports for 31.01.21 be received.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Nightingale and <b>RESOLVED</b>: that the Receipts &amp; Payments by Budget Heading and Annual Budget by Combined Account Code for 31.01.21 be received.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Wallin and <b>RESOLVED</b>: that a new defibrillator and outdoor heated cabinet to be sited at St Mildreds Bay and installed by a qualified electrician for a total cost of £1,500.00 to be met from the remainder of budget this financial year for Small Grants and Donations.</p> <p>Town Clerk shared a proposed list of capital projects with Members for the Earmarked Reserves of £15,000.00 for consultation at the April meeting.</p>	
2:602	<p><b>War Memorial Recreation Ground Updates</b></p> <p>a) Town Clerk shared details of proposed fencing for the War Memorial Recreation Ground site to create a compound; three quotations obtained following the recommendation of F&amp;GP Committee. One quotation required the price for a gate to be added before a decision is formally agreed.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Pennington and seconded by Cllr M Scott and <b>RESOLVED</b>: that the decision for appointing a contractor is deferred to the Town Clerk following the receipt of the quotation price for the gate from one contractor; the provision of fencing to provide a compound around the changing rooms and container was agreed by Members.</p>	
2:603	<p><b>Christmas Lighting for the Town</b></p> <p>Following a report from the Town Clerk there followed a debate by Members on the proposal that the Town Council should adopt the installation and maintenance of the Christmas lighting for the Town. It was agreed that the existing lighting on Station Road will not be adopted for maintenance by the Town Council. Town Clerk to have delegated responsibility for load testing and provide a report to Members with options for the April meeting.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr O'Connor and seconded by Cllr Page and <b>RESOLVED</b>: that the Town Council will adopt the responsibility for installation and maintenance of new Christmas lighting for the Town. The Town Council will not maintain the existing Christmas lighting on Station Road.</p>	

	<p>Town Clerk reported on a proposal to form a Youth Council following the Community Asset Transfer of the War Memorial Recreation Ground.</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr O'Connor and seconded by Cllr Green and <b>RESOLVED: that the proposal to form a Youth Council was agreed in principle; Town Clerk to research further and report back to next Full Council meeting in April. Cllr M Scott and Cllr Donaldson to work with the Town Clerk prior to the launch and act as lead Councillors for the project.</b></p>	
2,604	<p><b>Next Meeting</b> The next meeting is 6th April 2021</p>	
2,605	<p><b>Meeting Closed at 20.55pm</b></p>	

Signed  .....

Dated 6th April 2021 .....

Chairman of the Council

