

AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Monday 12 February 2018

Present: The Mayor, Cllr S Campbell, and Cllrs T Abram, B Mulhern, E J Wilcox, A J Walker, D Simmons, N Kay, M Cosgrove, G Wade, B Martin, C Belsom, P Flower, N Green, A Hook

In attendance: Louise Bareham, Town Clerk

Questions from Members of the public are recorded as an annex to the minutes.

372. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

373. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

374. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council held on 8 January 2018 and 15 January 2018 were approved by Members and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

375. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor's announcements were noted.

376. COMMUNITY SERVICES MINUTES 10 January 2018

Cllr Flower noted that he said the position of Business Support Officer should be incentive based and not profit based. Cllr Belsom reported that the Youth Council Steering Group had its first meeting and QE student, Lizzie, was moving things forward.

377. PUBLIC REALM GROUP 25 January 2018

Cllr Wilcox reported that there were a lot of actions for the group to pursue.

Mr Eddie Thomas had put his name forward to become a member of the Public Realm Group. It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Belsom and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Eddie Thomas on to the Public Realm Group.***

The Mayor questioned whether mirrors could be positioned on Creek Creative at the junction of Abbey Street and Court Street to assist lorries. It was agreed that evidence would need to be provided to the JTB.

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the Town Council would support the Lorry Watch Scheme***

378. HERITAGE COMMITTEE MINUTES 31 January 2018

Cllr Kay reported on the recent meeting with the HLF and how the group was working with the Faversham Society and other museums within the town. Cllr Simmons was disappointed that Magna Carta had not been mentioned, however Cllr Kay confirmed it would be part of a permanent display. Cllr Hook questioned the lack of coach parking and thought the Tourism Officer's views should be fully explored. It was agreed to put this on the agenda of the next Public Realm Group.

It was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to give the Town Clerk delegated authority to place an order for office furniture for the lowest quotation.***

379. THIRD QUARTER EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET

The report was noted.

380. NEWSLETTER

The newsletter was discussed and several changes were agreed.

381. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS

The consultation was noted.

382. FAVERSHAM AND DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT FORUM

The Minutes were noted.

383. FLORAL QUOTATION

It was confirmed that the quotation from Amethyst represented best value, particularly as the company was based locally. It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Simmons and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Amethyst for town centre floral displays and hanging baskets***

384. OPEN HOUSE

It was agreed that the Guildhall and 12 Market Place would take part in Open House, subject to there being sufficient stewards and councillors available.

385. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Campbell and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the payments***

Private Session. It was Resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

386. THE ALEXANDER CENTRE

It was agreed that Cllr Simmons and the Town Clerk should meet with the Chair of the Trustees to discuss options.

387. STAFFING COMMITTEE

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Shiel Campbell and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree to advertise the appointment of an Administration Apprentice, Business Support Officer and Town Caretaker.***

ANNEX

A presentation was made by Sasha Mackinnon and Sally Edge of Say No to Throwaway Plastic Week in Faversham. They advised that a steering group would be set up which they hoped a member of the Town Council would join. They asked if the Town Council would put Plastic Free Coastlines on their agenda. Other ways the Town Council could assist is making guidelines for festivals, the market and providing a water refill fountain. Positive steps and long term action could reduce single use plastic.

Cllr Simmons thought the project was very good, however felt it was unrealistic to achieve a plastic free town, as plastic had valuable uses in food and medical packaging. He thought the office did not use much plastic, but proposed support for the week.

Cllr Cosgrove offered his congratulations and support. He felt people should be encouraged to take their rubbish home. He wondered how much employment was provided locally by suppliers of plastic and hoped they would not feel stigmatised.

Cllr Hook thanked them for organising the litter pick at the weekend and thought it was very helpful to have wheelbarrows. It was shocking how much rubbish was found at the Creek and hoped this would prove to have a ripple effect. He supported the idea of a steering group.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Resident 1 Question: Is there an updated plan for the Memorial Garden?

Cllr Cosgrove: The garden is not being concreted over, there will be new benches and gates creating an English country garden. Helpful advice has been received from the Commonwealth Graves Commission, English Heritage. The original gates was just rust and could not be repaired. The old benches are being recycled.

Cllr Simmons: The garden was used by patients from the hospital, although they don't use it so much now. However, the new garden will have full disabled access.

Cllr Cosgrove: The plans are the same, the concept has not changed.

Resident 2: Asked if he could raise a matter for the Chairman of Swale Planning, that when new details are provided for officer delegation, they are not shown on the portal. This lack of information is why people are 'kicking off'.

Cllr Mulhern: There isn't much change to the plan. The Royal British Legion, War Memorial Committee and Swale Officers are working on it.

Resident 3: The original plan was rejected, if there isn't much of a change what's happening? There is mistrust with anything involved with the garden. We were told the gate wouldn't change.

Cllr Simmons. Refusal was for the moving of the memorial, the new plans do not involve that, just the garden.

Cllr Wade: I can understand the public's frustration, the plan should be public, we want the town to be proud of it. Why are we being so secretive?

Cllr Cosgrove: There was consultation across Faversham four times, information was put in St Mary's Church, the Alexander Centre and the library. It was ongoing for some time. Rumours are being spread by a vociferous minority, when the 1000 relatives are the silent majority.

Cllr Henderson Question 1: It is important that the Town Council is heard loud on major development. Preston Fields developers have put in new proposals to change the existing entry/exit on to the A2. It is really important to answer them, the deadline is 26 February.

Question 2: The business support officer doesn't sound ambitious, would you consider a proposal to reduce the cost and add the money to community grants?

Cllr Simmons: There is already £26,000 allowed for community grants. The Town Council is usually very looking at looking at grants and finding a way of supporting them.

Question 3: Would you consider including information about the review of the local plan in the Spring newsletter? The consultation dramatically impacts on the borough. Putting in an initial short update on what is being discussed. Faversham residents should be made aware of it.

Cllr Mulhern: The consultant's report has a number of ideas to create housing growth. The LDF only outlined and agreed the timetables, it didn't accept the findings of the document; only looked and discussed.

Cllr Henderson: The town should know about this and should be informed via the newsletter.

Cllr Cosgrove: Agreed, and confirmed that the Town Council and Faversham Society would undertake events and a series of articles in the newsletter about matters including Junction 5A.