

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

394. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Belsom due to being on holiday. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr S Campbell, and, on being put to the meeting, it was:

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr Belsom

395. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

396. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council held 12 February 2018 were approved by Members and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

397. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor's announcements were noted.

398. WW1 WORKING GROUP 8 February 2018

It was proposed by Cllr Cosgrove, seconded by Cllr Mulhern and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the WW1 Working Group***

399. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Walker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to adopt the Equality and Diversity Policy***

It was proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Mulhern and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendations for Online Banking made by the Council's Internal Auditor, Mr Buckett**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to make the following grants:**

- **The Alexander Centre of £500 towards The Alexander Centre Collection**
- **Mr Robert Lamoon Bronze Starling Art Installation of £1,500, subject to receiving Art Council funding for the remaining**

400. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS ZF43 AND ZF5

Cllr Simmons attended the recent Inquiry on behalf of the Town Council and felt the Council's position had been totally vindicated. He hoped the Order for the footpath would now proceed without further delay. The Section 106 was found to be valid, as there is no time limit. The riverside path was needed to meet the objective of the NHP and streetscape strategy.

The Mayor offered a vote of thanks to Cllr Simmons.

Cllr Cosgrove noted that this was council policy, which had been followed through. He thought it was heartening that Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council both provided significant input and was sorry that the Faversham Society did not support the coastal footpath, although some members did speak personally.

Cllr Flower pointed out that the land at the front of Faversham Reach was privately owned, with no right of access, which would require an easement order.

Cllr Wade stated that when the properties were built, there was always meant to be a path. Now everyone can move on.

401. CREEK SWING BRIDGE

The letter from Mr David Smith was considered. Cllr Wilcox questioned the meaning of 40 years usable service. Cllr Hook said he had already met with Mr Smith and would be meeting with him again. He felt the previous KCC team made mistakes and thought more scrutiny would be

better. He was also concerned regarding the extension to the life of the bridge and thought KCC needed to be held to account.

Cllr Kay considered the wording of the letter to be very interesting and thought the council needed to be proactive and ask for clear clarification for avoidance of doubt. The Mayor felt the Council should wait until the next meeting of the Bridge Steering Group on 10th April. Cllr Kay didn't think the Council needed to be confrontational, to thank Mr Smith for his letter but to stress the importance of an opening bridge and to confirm whether there will be a fully repaired, opening bridge within three years.

Cllr Cosgrove reiterated that the gates were an integral part of the package for the Town Council and must be included. He considered that the creek bridge meetings should be put on a more formal footing and be clerked by either an officer of the Town Council or County Council in future. The important aim was for a like for like replacement bridge with working gates. He did not want to show opposition to KCC's approach and suggested both councils continued to talk to ensure they were firmly linked, by not asking blunt questions before the next meeting.

Cllr Martin thought there should be a stronger stand and that the bridge should be funded by KCC, or that they should be asking for the cost to be put onto Peel Ports. He also considered there should be a more proactive role for the people of Faversham, where the whole town should pull together; as agreed in the NHP and that KCC should not be allowed any more time.

Cllr Mulhern thought the letter was rather unclear and rather than upset the relationship ask what KCC mean exactly by the 40 years? He felt a 'useable service' should mean a swing bridge and that we should question them without being disruptive.

Cllr Flower disagreed with the importance of the gates and felt they could be achieved after the swing bridge. However, Cllr Simmons considered the two were linked and that a basin capable of holding water would be a hub for tourists.

Cllr Martin asked who was on the Steering Committee and Cllr Hook asked if he could attend. Cllr Mulhern agreed this would be part of his duty.

It was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to respond to Mr Smith's letter with the following points (a) note the importance of the opening bridge to Faversham (b) that the gates are an integral part of the project (c) future steering group meetings to be put on a more formal footing, ie clerked by an officer (d) reiterate the importance of working together**

VOTE: 12 FOR 1 AGAINST

402. STRATEGIC PLANNING IN FAVERSHAM

Members considered the Strategic Planning Paper. Cllr Wade noted the imposition of unwelcome development and how the Faversham Future Forum storyline was coming through. He went on to say how a proactive approach brought everything together and gave the meeting of 8 March at St Mary's Church as an example. He asked that Members agreed the principles.

Cllr Cosgrove was in broad agreement of the principles, but felt they needed sharpening up. His recommendations were (1) to recognise that Faversham Town Council is the only statutory consultee; (2) fully ensure all Faversham residents' views were taken into account with Faversham Town Council leading on the process. He felt that the Faversham Society membership did not represent the majority of the town; (3) Faversham Town Council take a proactive lead and organise a series of Faversham events to coincide with the strategic process of the local plan; (4) given advice from a variety of sources, take a view on options considering the advantages and disadvantages, that Faversham should feed into the local plan. Cllr Cosgrove further noted that Faversham Town Council needed to take a view on the decision to double the size of Faversham or not, but he would prefer to see a new village elsewhere and that there should be a green field boundary. The emerging ideas from Swale Borough Council were only concepts and these needed to be understood over a period of time.

It was proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Cosgrove and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the principles in the Strategic Planning Paper and include the 4 further recommended principles**

VOTE: 12 FOR 1 ABST

403. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Mulhern and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to transfer Two Hundred Thousand Pounds from NatWest Account to Lloyds Account***

404. 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

405. GUILDHALL QUINQUENNIAL REPORT

It was proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Mulhern and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the quotation from FDA Architects***

VOTE: 8 FOR 1 AGAINST 4 ABST

406. FRONT BRENTS JETTY

The condition survey produced by Mr Lester was considered. It was proposed by Cllr Mulhern, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to take the Jetty out of service, with immediate effect, due to its dangerous condition and to seek alternative options for renewal or replacement***

ANNEX

Inspector Craig West introduced himself to Members and gave a brief outline of his work history to date. He confirmed that two men had been arrested for the recent town centre burglary and had provided updates to traders. Resources had been slightly increased by 2 officers attached to the community policy team. Insp West provided further details on recent criminal activity.

Cllr Mulhern was pleased to hear the police were getting results. He noted a number of incidences involving 'boy racers' on quad bikes and motorbikes at twilight hours. Insp West urged him, and others, to report any patterns of behaviour, although they could not pursue motorcyclists due to risks to the riders.

Cllr Wilcox asked about out of date road tax. Insp West thought that the DVLA were not currently checking road tax.

Cllr Cosgrove asked if Insp West would convey Members' thanks to the Wiltshire Force for their work on the recent terrorist incident.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Resident 1 Question: Noted that registration numbers for quad bikes had been supplied to the police, although they were all taxed and MOT'd, but the exhaust had been labelled not for road use.