

AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF FAVERSHAM held in the Assembly Rooms, Preston Street, Faversham on Tuesday, 22 May 2018

Present: The Mayor, T Abram, Town Councillors and members of the public.

The Mayor, Cllr Trevor Abram, thanked all the groups for bringing along their stands and praised everyone for their great community spirit.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Faversham Annual Town Meeting held on 22 May 2017 were agreed by the meeting and signed by the Mayor as a correct record

Matters Arising

None

3. MAYOR'S PLAN

The Mayor pledged to use his time wisely and prioritise visits to events within the town. He looked forward to working with Cllr Mike Cosgrove as Deputy Mayor. He noted the long association with Faversham's twin town of Hazebrouck in France and encouraged everyone to visit.

The Mayor was first elected to the Town Council in 2012. He noted how heartening it was to see so many people at the meeting this year, compared to his first one. He confirmed that quarterly councillor surgeries now taking place and thanked members of staff of their assistance.

This year will see the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One; the Town Council has been promoting a bunting project in recognition of all the men from the town who lost their lives. This will be on display during November 2018.

4. FAVERSHAM FUTURE FORUM

It was confirmed that Cllr Geoff Wade would take over as chair of the forum. Cllr Wade acknowledged that the forum consisted of a group of people who had a passion for the town and were not political, but instead driven to influence the shape of the town. He had met with the Head of Planning at Swale, together with the Duchy representative and knew that a number of people had participated in the recent workshops. Cllr Wade referred to the More Faversham report and the FFF planning guidelines which were sent to Swale BC. The FFF was now taking forward the idea of BIMBY in order to influence the way forward and how it can be shaped as a whole over the next 30 years, rather than having bolt on developments.

5. PAST MAYOR'S CHARITIES

Past Mayor, Cllr Campbell, recognised longstanding charities in her last mayoral year and presented cheques of £1,500 each to the Faversham Community Christmas Lights and Faversham Carnival. She also presented the Faversham Umbrella Charity with the remaining £150 and informed every one

of their AGM which will take place on 28th June.

6. MAYOR'S CHARITY FUND 2018-2019

The Mayor announced the Faversham Sea Cadets and Faversham First Responders as his charities for the forthcoming year.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A question was raised regarding the Creek bridge. It was reported that the recent tenders for the work had been expected at £1.2m, however were in fact over £2m. KCC has an obligation to provide the bridge and the Town Council will continue to fight for the swing bridge. Different options were being looked at, but the process had not been helped by the continual change to the KCC team.

A question was raised regarding fully accessible play equipment for the recreation ground. This was unknown at the time, as Swale Borough Council were still waiting to hear if they had been successful in the second round of the HLF bid.

The Mayor was asked what plans he had for young people. He responded that the Town Council was in the process of setting up a Youth Council and had also pledged £15,000 for improvements to the skate park.

The recent cleanliness of footpaths along the Creek was noted. The Friends of the Earth and Plastic Free Faversham were thanked. However, it was asked whether additional litter bins could be placed by the end of the sewage works and near the car park. Overflowing bins and dog faeces were also raised as an issue.

The proposed solar park in Graveney was discussed; the site is expected to be the largest in Europe. The consultation period is currently underway. It was asked whether the Council had a position, but the application had not yet been discussed at a meeting. Others supported the site and felt the bigger picture needed to be looked at as solar energy would reduce fossil fuels and global warming. Further comments received agreed that renewable energy needed to be considered, but the power produced would be for the UK and not just Faversham. The proposed site was in the middle of a designated protection area and it was felt it would be better placed at Kingsnorth.

Air quality concerns in Ospringe were raised and noted that there had been a failure to deal with the issue.

Concerns were raised regarding the border in Crescent Road, corner of East Street and whether the area could be paid for by sponsorship. The possibility of fundraising was also discussed. Faversham in Bloom now had a permit to cultivate and were working on several areas, they had tried planting poppies which had not taken. Abel's Acre was being well looked after by volunteers. It was agreed that KCC did not make it easy for volunteers to cultivate areas. It was hoped that the new Town Caretaker would assist with this. It was questioned by the S106 from Tesco's was being used to purchase hanging baskets and it was asked why bulbs could not be planted. It was confirmed that

hanging baskets were what people had requested. It was agreed that bulbs were value for money as they would last longer.

8. KALC COMMUNITY AWARD: FAVERSHAM HERO

The Mayor, Cllr Abram, presented the KALC Community Award for 2018 to Mrs Alison Reynolds for her work with the Faversham Gym Club. The Faversham Christmas Community Lights Committee and Nuala Brenchley-Sayers received certificate from the Mayor in recognition of their voluntary work.

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