

AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Tuesday 8 May 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, A Hook

In attendance: Louise Bareham, Town Clerk

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

416. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr Green

417. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hook	Minute 420	DNPI
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418. MINUTES

Minute 412 reference amended to ‘Salters Lane was good and would be a great loss *should it go ahead*’. The Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council held on 9 April 2018 were approved by Members and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

419. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor’s announcements were noted. Cllr Cosgrove commented on St George’s Day Parade where he believed there were over 300 scouts, beavers etc, who were all well behaved. Cllr Mulhern noted Mr Barnicott’s funeral, explaining why the Honorary Freeman ceremony had to be brought forward so quickly.

420. MOTION ON OSPRINGE BY PASS

Cllr Hook proposed the motion “Faversham Town Council supports the principle of an Ospringe By-Pass Road from the Western Link Roundabout to the M2 or a point near the existing Junction 6.”

Cllr Hook stated that he was fully behind the principle of a bypass for Ospringe from the Western Link to the M2. He felt the congestion of the London Road/A2 was a serious health problem. Last October the 20's Plenty commissioned a traffic survey, where there were 67,000 vehicle movements in one week, 10% of which were lorries. The air quality through Ospringe is in breach of legal limits. Cllr Hook felt more green walls were required and electric vehicles; although there were no charging points in Faversham. He recognised that there was no money to pay for this new road at the present time, however felt the economy would improve and Faversham needed to get ahead.

Cllr Cosgrove agreed that there was too much traffic and that pollution was a silent killer. He noted the likelihood of an additional 9,000 houses between Macknade and Junction 6 would double the size of Faversham. Cllr Cosgrove felt the next Local Plan would provide up to date traffic surveys but noted that Highways England would no longer consider additional junctions within two miles of an existing. He felt supporting Junction 5A would take a large amount of traffic away from Faversham.

Cllr Mulhern agreed that some of the traffic through Ospringe was coming from Teynham, which would probably use Junction 5A and felt that the Town Council should support this additional junction, as it was a real likely option. He also pointed out that Syndale Valley was protected.

Cllr Martin also felt Junction 5A was a good option and it would serve the additional 11,500 houses in Sittingbourne, however he did not feel it would be helpful to the commercial sites at Oare or the 4,500 houses proposed by the Duchy. Cllr Martin confirmed his support for Cllr Hook's motion and felt the scheme, that had originally been drawn up 32 years ago, should be moved forward.

Cllr Wade agreed that we should not lose the option of a road through Perry Court; with the need to secure corridors from the Western Link. He also said that consideration needed to be given to Teynham residents and collectively keep all options open. He felt there was a need to listen and influence.

Cllr Flower felt it was a shame there was divided opinion and complimented Cllr Hook on his research. He thought Junction 5A was unachievable as the Western Link was much closer to the M2.

Cllr Wilcox stated that everyone agreed that Ospringe doesn't work as there is too much traffic and pollution. However, he felt we should be fighting for what was possible, ie Junction 5A, which he believed would take a lot of traffic away from Faversham.

Cllr Cosgrove noted that Swale Borough Council had been successful on a number of HIF bids for road improvements.

Cllr Simmons noted that a similar motion had been brought to the Town Council a year previous, where up until then he had fought against a bypass. However, the Perry Court development had changed the scene and the town was now facing development to the south of the A2 with the M2 being the new boundary. He felt Junction 5A would help and was likely to happen, although not the total answer to Faversham's problem, another way of alleviating traffic was required. Cllr Simmons considered the motion of 'supports in principle' left it open enough and that all potential routes should be safeguarded.

Cllr Cosgrove proposed an amendment to the motion "Faversham Town Council supports the principle of a new route around Faversham, which reduces congestion and pollution for the whole of Faversham". The amendment was seconded by Cllr Walker and on being put to the meeting the amendment was not carried:

VOTE For: 4 Against: 5 Abstentions: 4

Cllr Mulhern proposed, Cllr Cosgrove seconded that "support of the Borough Council's proposed Junction 5A" be added to the original motion. Cllr Hook felt this should be a separate debate and members of the public notified as it was a completely separate issue. The Town Clerk advised that Members were free to vote for or against the amendment as they felt fit. On being put to the meeting the amendment was carried:

VOTE For: 6 Against: 4 Abstentions: 3

Cllr Hook proposed, seconded by Cllr Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council supports the principle of an Ospringe By-Pass Road from the Western Link**

Roundabout to the M2 or a point near the existing Junction 6 and supports the proposed Junction 5A.

VOTE For: 10 Against: 1 Abstentions: 2

8.30pm Cllr Martin left the meeting

421. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Cllr Belsom reported on Faversham Umbrella, confirming that they had two new trustees and the sale of the building had been put on hold. They will be holding an AGM on 28 June.

Residents had attended the first meeting regarding St Nicholas Allotments and were keen to set up a working group. It was proposed by Cllr Belsom, seconded by Cllr Abram and on being put to meeting it was ***RESOLVED to pay the insurance and not charge plot holders for the first year***

It was proposed by Cllr Belsom, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Services Committee***

422. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Mulhern and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to pledge a seed contribution to Countryside Productions subject to other funding and sufficient information.***

It was proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Kay and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the grant payments as recommended***

Cllr Flower raised concerns that the jetty was not being considered, however Cllr Wade pointed out that the meeting had been lengthy and had only considered the grant applications.

423. HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Cllr Kay reported on the various meetings held with the museum and heritage groups in Faversham. He noted the requirement for the project to be taken seriously, with the HLF requiring a clear steer in the way the project moves forward. Questions were raised whether there will be any community use for the building. Cllr Wade described the vision for digital

equipment, forming links with heritage and community groups, each being able to tell different stories; including primary, secondary schools, as well as university students.

Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Cosgrove and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council supports the following statement “The building, office, staff management and finances are the responsibility of Faversham Town Council. Decisions about the content of displays and presentations lie with the independent board”**

Cllr Kay noted the QS’s report which showed the project was coming in under budget. The second report showed the running costs for the building, which had already been agreed in the budget for 2018-2019.

424. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIONS

The following Members were elected to committees.

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS (2018/19)
PUBLIC REALM GROUP	Councillors E J Wilcox, Mrs A J Walker, T F Abram, G Wade, P Flower Mr C Oswald-Jones, Mr E Thomas
HERITAGE COMMITTEE	Councillors N Kay, , D Simmons, G Wade, M Cosgrove, C Belsom, A Hook Mr Clive Foreman, Mr Ted Davies
STAFFING COMMITTEE	The Mayor Cllr T Abram, Deputy Mayor Cllr M Cosgrove, Cllrs A Walker, S Campbell
PLANNING COMMITTEE	All Councillors
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE	Mayor Cllr S Campbell, Deputy Mayor Cllr T Abram, Councillors Wilcox, N Kay, M Cosgrove, G Wade, C Belsom
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	Deputy Mayor Cllr T Abram, Cllrs E Wilcox, A Walker, N Kay, C Belsom, P Flower

425. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The following Members were elected as representatives.

OUTSIDE BODY	REPRESENTATIVES (2018/19)
AGE UK COMMITTEE	Cllr E J Wilcox
ALEXANDER CENTRE TRUST	Cllr D Simmons
CINQUE PORTS STANDING COMMITTEE	Cllr T Abram
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU IN SWALE	Cllr E J Wilcox
DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE	Cllr S Campbell
VISIT FAVERSHAM	Cllrs E J Wilcox, G Wade
FAVERSHAM IN BLOOM	Cllr E J Wilcox
FAVERSHAM SWIMMING POOL MANAGEMENT	Cllr G Wade
KALC SWALE AREA COMMITTEE	Immediate Past Mayor Cllr S Campbell
SWALE EMERGENCY CONTACTS	The Mayor and Deputy Mayor
SWALE NATURE RESERVES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	Cllr G Wade (Cllr E J Wilcox reserve)
GREEN GRID PARTNERSHIP	Cllr G Wade
TWINNING STEERING COMMITTEE	Cllr P Flower
FAVERSHAM HEALTH MATTERS	Cllr C Belsom
20'S PLENTY	Cllr A Hook
OARE GUNPOWDER WORKS	Cllr C Belsom

426. FOUR YEARLY APPOINTMENTS

No changes were required.

427. 20'S PLENTY

It was proposed that the 20's Plenty group became a working party of the Town Council, which would in no way disadvantage the current members of the public who were members. It had been clear from the meeting with Mr Whiting that the work for the original JTB remit on the feasibility of 20mph scheme for Faversham was complete. It was agreed that the meetings needed to be properly clerked and dates of meetings be well publicised.

It was proposed by Cllr Hook, seconded by Cllr Simmons and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the 20's Plenty Working Group be formed***

428. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES

Comments were noted and would be put to individual committees.

429. DATES FOR MEETINGS

Amendments were noted and a final schedule will be circulated.

430. FINAL QUARTER EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET

The report was noted.

431. VIREMENTS

The virements were noted and agreed.

432. KALC SUBSCRIPTION

The payment was agreed.

433. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

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.

434. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Campbell and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to bestow the Honorary Freeman of Faversham to Mr Kenneth Neame and Mr Andrew Osborne BEM at the Annual Mayor Making Ceremony***

435. STAFFING COMMITTEE

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Campbell and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to confirm the appointments of Mr Adam Andrews as Town Caretaker, Ms Claire Windridge as Business Officer, Miss Brooke Williams as Business Apprentice***

ANNEX

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Cllr Henderson asked that the motion regarding a bypass for Ospringe be supported. He also said Oare Gunpowder Works would welcome a representative from the Town Council, particularly a Priory Ward Member.

Resident 1: Raised concerns, that had been put on Facebook, regarding damage to the building at the Mount, which owners felt had been contributed to by lorries. She also raised concerns regarding air pollution at the park, questioning whether it could be considered as a flagship space by Swale Borough Council.

Resident 2: Asked that the signage in the town centre was made clearer, as cars were driving through a pedestrian area. She also noted that many cars were using it as a cut through whilst not requiring the town services.

Cllr Simmons confirmed that the market closed the gates at 10am, but there was confusion from some drivers if there were already parked. There is also confusion over who is responsible for enforcement, whether it is the parking officers or the police.

Cllr Mulhern noted that the bollards put in East Street to close the road were being moved.

Cllr Martin had experienced cars racing through the town at high speed.

Resident 3: Hoped that the Council would support the motion for a bypass and confirmed that during a two hour period had counted 948 cars, 123 vans and 38 lorries passing the Mount. Concerns were raised regarding Maison Dieu and the need to preserve an historic building.

Cllr Wade said the Borough Council needed to recognize the issues and join the respective developments together. More evidence was needed.

Resident 4: Raised concerns regarding the number of EKR skip lorries using Bysing Wood Road, which now appear to be trying to avoid Ospringe. Mr

Morrison, Chair of UPROARE, thought they may be responsible for the increase, as their lawyer had written to KCC. Illegal traffic was now going through Faversham to avoid prosecution. He felt if a bypass was forthcoming, then EKR would easily get their planning permission. Mr Morrison noted that in 1986 several designs for a bypass were made, but KCC decided it would increase the traffic to Faversham.

Cllr Cosgrove confirmed that the Town Council supported UPROARE and congratulated the residents on their petition. He did not want competition between the roads, as there were historic buildings throughout Faversham.

Cllr Hook said it was important for everyone to write and object, but noted that the application had still not been heard by KCC. He also noted Mr Morrison's point but felt that agreeing a motion for a bypass, some time in the future, would not affect the planning application.

Resident 5: Raised concerns when Brogdale Road was shut and Water Lane was used as a diversion. She felt it was not acceptable for vehicles to be mounting the pavements and it was dangerous for school children. She asked why no wardens had been provided.

Cllr Simmons was not aware of any further road closures that would affect Water Lane.