

AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Monday 11 June 2018

Present: The Mayor, T Abram, Deputy Mayor, M Cosgrove, Cllrs B Mulhern, E J Wilcox, A J Walker, N Kay, G Wade, 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.

447. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Martin and Green due to work commitments, Cllr Simmons at a prior meeting and Cllr Campbell on holiday. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram, and, on being put to the meeting, it was:

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllrs Simmons, Campbell, Martin and Green

448. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mulhern reconfirmed his DPI on planning as Chairman of the Swale Borough Council Planning Committee.

449. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings of Faversham Town Council held 8th May and 14th May 2018 were approved by Members and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

450. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor's announcements were noted.

451. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Wade noted the Quinquennial Report, which the Town Caretaker was working through and the Committee will report back in due course.

It was proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Walker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee***

452. 20's PLENTY WORKING GROUP

Cllr Hook reported this was the first meeting since becoming an official working group of the Town Council. He congratulated Cllr Simmons on his tact and diplomacy in reassuring members that the group gave the public a better view on what was happening. Following a site meeting with Paul Brand it had been highlighted that the A2 and Love Lane were unlikely to be suitable for 20mph, although Cllr Hook realised not all group members agreed with this view.

Cllr Cosgrove asked where the Westbrook traffic calming referred to and what the group was for, should it be to discuss all areas of road safety or just 20mph, otherwise it could get bogged down? Cllr Hook confirmed the area was Curtis Way to Stonebridge Pond and that Paul Brand's view was it would be safer with an island, however an alternative scheme was being drawn up but agreed it was not strictly part of 20's Plenty remit. It was suggested that this should be looked at by the Public Realm Group.

Whilst Cllr Mulhern confirmed his support of 20mph, he noted his new car gave emission information when driving and emissions were higher when in second gear travelling at 20mph. He felt both issues needed to be addressed.

Cllr Hook reiterated the overwhelming evidence of safety for travelling at 20mph, with fewer deaths, but there was only some evidence regarding emissions.

It was proposed by Cllr Hook, seconded by Cllr Cosgrove and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the 20's Plenty Working Group***

453. PUBLIC REALM GROUP

Cllr Wilcox spoke of the need for a new RTO to allow the return of Sunday markets. It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Wade and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to support the RTO application for Sunday markets***

Cllr Wilcox also reported on the walkabout which took place through The Mall into the Preston church yard, had highlighted a number of issues. Cllr Flower will bring a discussion on cycle racks to the next meeting.

Responsibility for the interpretation boards in the town should fall to the Town Council. It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Mulhern and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED ownership of the boards should be confirmed and that responsibility of them to be taken over by the Town Council***

It was agreed that the new Town Council van should be very visible with logos. It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Wade and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to lease a van for the Town Caretaker***

Cllr Wade felt the Town Caretaker would supplement the work of Swale Borough and Kent County Councils. He noted the weed spraying had been cancelled because of the weather. Cllr Mulhern through the Rec was looking particularly bad and had sent an email to Graeme Tuff. Cllr Wilcox agreed, the grass verges were also out of control, which were KCC's responsibility. Cllr Wilcox considered the Town Caretaker should improve the town but not take over others' responsibilities.

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Walker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to appoint KPS Joinery to carry out replacement works to the wooden carriages supporting the cannons outside the swimming pool***

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Cosgrove and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to appoint LTM Fire Safety to undertake the fire risk assessment at The Guildhall***

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Cosgrove and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to appoint Contrast Surveys, subject to satisfactory references***

Cllr Flower asked whether a business impact assessment had taken place regarding the installation of gates in East Street. However, there is a road closure order in place, which had not been fully enforced and the use of temporary cones were not sufficient. The new gates will be in a similar style to the existing. It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Walker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to appoint S&A Steel Services to fabricate and install gates to the entrance of East Street and to repair the existing gates in Court Street***

Cllr Wilcox confirmed the next walkabout would be on 19th July and welcomed Councillors' ideas for the next route.

454. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Internal Audit Report was noted.

455. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Annual Governance Statement was approved by Members and signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk.

456. ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

The Accounting Statements were approved by Members and signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk.

457. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to transfer the sum of £200,000 (two hundred thousand pounds) from the NatWest Account to the Lloyds Account.***

458. BANK SIGNATORIES

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllrs Mulhern and Flower become signatories on all bank accounts.***

459. FAVERSHAM CREEK COMMITTEE

Cllr Flower proposed the motion of a separate committee or focus group to consider the Creek, particularly as it was a heritage asset. He suggested it dealt with things like the proposed planning permission of the footpath, work at the oil depot and a long list of issues with a proper way of reporting back to the Town Council.

It was agreed that this would be put on the agenda of the next Policy and Finance Committee for a full discussion.

460. FAVERSHAM PRIDE

Cllr Hook proposed the motion that the Town Council should fly a Pride flag in support of the West Faversham Community Centre's Pride event. He went on to congratulate the Mayor for the excellent statement of inclusion. Cllr Hook noted the town was against prejudice and everyone

was equal. Cllr Mulhern supported the motion and recognised that there was a large LGBT fraternity in Abbey Ward. He was enthusiastic about the idea and supported the new venture. Cllr Mulhern said he would be happy if they wanted to do something on carnival day too, such as a procession.

Cllr Wilcox said he had no problem with supporting flying a flag on the Guildhall and a flag was flown currently 30 times a year. However he listed a series of special days which were taking place over the coming week and suggested that everyone involved with those would think they were important enough to have a flag too. Cllr Wilcox went on to say that it would dilute the meaning of the flag and that the Town Council should fly flags for Royal and Military events and the Mayor's birthday.

Cllr Cosgrove was sympathetic and thought all residents of Faversham were given respect and what people did in their private life was up to them. He felt Pride was an American concept following a killing, but didn't think it covered diversity issues like Windrush. He was delighted that the event was taking place at WFCC, but felt a flag should only be flown on statutory days.

Cllr Flower felt that other groups should also be given an opportunity to fly a flag.

Cllr Wade confirmed he would abstain from voting, he remarked that LGBT diversity had been a large part of his past work. He felt that the town should not be judged by whether it flies a flag or not, but by its contribution to diversity. He had no problem with the concept, but there was more to it than flying a flag.

Cllr Kay agreed that it was good to have the event, but wondered if people would want to see a flag, as everyone was part of the team.

Cllr Hook confirmed that none of the people involved with Faversham Pride saw flying a flag as demeaning. He went on to say the Pride flag was a symbol of equality for everyone.

It was proposed by Cllr Hook, seconded by Cllr Mulhern and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to fly the Pride flag the weekend of the Pride Festival at WFCC***

For: 4 Against: 4 Abstention: 1
Carried by the Mayor's Vote For

461. MERCHANT SEAMAN DAY

Cllr Wilcox felt the flying of the Red Ensign fitted in with what the Town Council did and it was in memory of people who had died. Cllr Kay also agreed that the flag should be flown. Cllr Cosgrove agreed that the Creek was an important part of Faversham's long involvement with Merchant Seamen.

Cllr Wilcox proposed an amendment to the motion that the Town Council fly the Red Ensign to mark Merchant Seaman Day and the Town Flag should be flown when no other flags were flying.

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Mulhern and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Seaman Day and the Town Flag whenever another flag was not being flown***

For: 7 Against: 1 Abstention: 2

462. FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT FORUM

It was agreed to invite SBC and KCC officers to the forum to discuss the standard of grass cutting and weeding etc and to also include the rural bus service consultation on the agenda.

463. FAVERSHAM MUNICIPAL CHARITIES

It was proposed by Cllr Mulhern, seconded by Cllr Walker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to re-appoint Cllr Wilcox as trustee to the Municipal Charities for a term of 4 years..***

464. LITTER PICKING

The date for the litter picking on Saturday 14 July was noted, although it was noted that it clashed with other events.

465. OPEN HOUSE

The payment was agreed.

466. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram 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.

467. NEWSLETTER

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Walker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the draft newsletter, as tabled, for publication***

468. TRANSPORT WEEKEND

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to donate the sum of £600 to the Faversham Rotary Club in recognition of their assistance at the Transport Weekend***

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to donate the sum of £1,000 to the Faversham Market Co-operative in recognition of their assistance at the Transport Weekend.***

ANNEX

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Resident 1: Commented on the flying of flags, whilst not being disrespectful to Pride, it was only agreed in December 2014 to fly the English, Scottish and Welsh flags on country days. He suggested that the French flag could be flown to mark the town's twinning on the French national day.