

**AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Monday 13 August 2018

**Present:** The Mayor, T Abram, Deputy Mayor, M Cosgrove, Cllrs B Mulhern, E J Wilcox, A J Walker, D Simmons, S Campbell, G Wade, 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.

**483. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Martin due to work commitments, and Cllr Kay on holiday and Cllr Belsom illness. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram, and, on being put to the meeting, it was:

***RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllrs Kay, Martin and Belsom***

**484. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**485. MINUTES**

A question from a member of the public was missing from the Annex and is included in the Annex attached to the current minutes.

Minute 474 was noted that it was Martin Goodhew.

The Minutes of the Meetings of Faversham Town Council held 9<sup>th</sup> July were approved by Members and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**486. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor's announcements were noted.

**487. WW1 WORKING GROUP**

Cllr Cosgrove noted the matrix of commemorative events and the WW1 Commemorative magazine, which was due to be launched on 27<sup>th</sup> September. 2,500 copies are to be printed, with each school receiving a complimentary copy.

It was proposed by Cllr Mulhern, seconded by Cllr Simmons and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously ***RESOLVED to grant delegated powers to the WW1 Steering Group to spend the WW1 budget on agreed and appropriate projects.***

#### **488. PUBLIC REALM GROUP**

All Members were concerned about the high air quality figures and agreed that monitoring should also take place in West Street. Cllr Simmons welcomed a letter being sent and reported that the air monitoring had been switched off at Ospringe, due to the building works, but would be turned on again shortly.

Cllr Wilcox noted the next walkabout would be 13<sup>th</sup> September and invited Members to propose an area to be visited.

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously ***RESOLVED to write to Swale Borough Council to express concern over the high figures on the Air Quality Report and to request diffusion tubes to be placed in West Street***

#### **489. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Wilcox reported that the Town Caretaker had been very proactive around the town. Cllr Wade raised concerns that he should not get involved with too much paperwork and that the Caretaker role was to make a visual impact.

It was noted that trees had been removed from Stonebridge Allotment and quotes had been received to repair the adjacent wall at Flood Lane.

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Wade and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED the Town Caretaker investigates safety and planning implications and the works are budgeted for the coming year***

It was agreed that the proposed advertising costs for Faversham.org needed to be discussed in more detail before a recommendation could be made.

Cllr Wilcox explained the idea of Coastal Community Teams, noting there was one at Sheerness, Whitstable and Herne Bay. It was felt this would

be a good vehicle for community involvement, which the Town Council would help with, but not run. Cllr Mulhern agreed it was good to include Westbrook Stream.

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Mulhern and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to explore the idea of Coastal Community Team***

Tools for the Caretaker are to be purchased, which will not be kept in the van overnight.

Cllr Walker had pointed out that the cones in East Street were being moved on market days. Cllr Mulhern asked if the new gate could be sited further in to allow Iceland deliveries, however Cllr Simmons explained that the Police would not allow the gate to be located there. Cllr Wilcox noted that the new gate did not fit the criteria for VAW, as the council did not have the £500,000 required. He confirmed that the other gates in Court Street were being repaired and that there was no plan to have the Town Crest on them. It was agreed that planters, cycle racks or seats could be located as a deterrent dangerous vehicle.

#### **490. DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005**

The statement was noted.

#### **491. PLASTIC FREE FAVERSHAM**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Hook is appointed as representative on the Plastic Free Steering Group.***

#### **492. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

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

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting ***It was RESOLVED under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that 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.***

**493 VISIT FAVERSHAM WORKING GROUP**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to set up a Visit Faversham Working Group with Cllrs Wade, Cosgrove, Mulhern and Wilcox as members following the loss of the Tourism Officer.***

**494 FAVERSHAM TOWN JETTY**

It was proposed by Cllr Mulhern, seconded by Cllr Wade and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the quotation from MDL Marine for an initial scoping report for the Town Jetty***

**495 AUTUMN 2018 NEWSLETTER**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the draft newsletter for publishing***

## **ANNEX**

Swale Borough Councillor Gerry Lewin addressed the meeting, together with David Clifford, Policy and Performance Manager. They explained they were looking for help in shaping the Corporate Plan going forward. The current document set out the broad principles over four years, it was not an action plan but influenced it. Regeneration will be a continuing theme. The main points were a *borough to be proud of* and a *council to be proud of*

Cllr Wade thought the comments were encouraging and showed an active community and voluntary sector. People need to feel listened to and partnership working would get the results we need.

Cllr Wilcox explained how the Town Council's Caretaker would use the borough owned graffiti equipment to assist and how there were many volunteers in Faversham.

Cllr Hook noted that parts of Faversham were in the lowest third for deprivation and asked that a target be set to be 'better than that'. He felt the big regeneration effort had been targeted in Sittingbourne and not Faversham.

Cllr Flower would like to see nautical heritage made a priority and it was important to remember the money raised for the bridge

Cllr Campbell noted social housing needed to prioritise geography rather than to expect people to move to the other side of the borough away from their family and communities.

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Question from 9 July 2018

Resident 4: Had enquired at the Annual Town Meeting why residents need to attend Council Surgeries to ask questions. Why can't their questions be answered at Town Council meetings?

Further the resident asked for the exact figures to be made available for the cost of floral display in Faversham The resident suggested the figures were 2018 £6,000, 2017 £6,000 and 2016 £3,000, but wished for the figures to be confirmed.

The quality of the displays compared to those in Sittingbourne this year was also raised.

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Resident 1: Provided an update on St Nicholas Allotments

Resident 2: Asked why questioners were referred to as Resident 1 etc and if people were prepared to stand up and make a statement you should be accountable.

The Clerk responded that it was guidance from the Kent Association of Local Councils which stated members of the public should not be named.

Resident 3: Raised concerns regarding lack of sewage capacity in new developments and asked how foul sewage will flow. He also asked about flooding in Abbeyfields and other roads, which he felt demonstrated an inadequate system in storm conditions the impact of which would be made worse with the additional housing.

Cllr Simmons noted that improvement works to the Recreation Ground included drainage at the gates.

Resident 4: Asked what property Swale Borough Council owned and suggested partnering with them to build houses as a joint venture as had been done in Hythe.