

AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Monday 10 September 2018

Present: The Mayor, T Abram, Deputy Mayor, M Cosgrove, Cllrs B Mulhern, E J Wilcox, A J Walker, N Kay, G Wade, B Martin, C Belsom, P Flower, A Hook

In attendance: Louise Bareham, Town Clerk

Absent: Cllr N Green

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

496. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Simmons due to work commitments, and Cllr Campbell attending another meeting. Cllrs Mulhern, Walker and Hook would be late due to attending the JTB. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram, and, on being put to the meeting, it was:

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllrs Simmons and Campbell

497. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

498. MINUTES

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council held 13th August.***

499. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor's announcements were noted.

500. WW1 WORKING GROUP

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

501. 20's PLENTY WORKING GROUP

Cllr Belsom noted that several actions had been undertaken and put forward the recommendation to engage Phil Jones Associates to

undertake further consultancy work. Cllr Kay raised concerns that there was only one quote, the Clerk pointed out that PJA had undertaken the previous work and were exceptional in their field. The funds would come from reserves earmarked for NHP/Traffic Management Plan of £14,000. Cllr Kay suggested that KCC Member Cllr Hook be approached for a contribution and that the decision be deferred for a month.

It was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to defer the decision until next month***

502. NAMING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN MINUTES/ANNEX

KALC's advice was noted. At Swale Borough Council meetings members of the public and councillors are not named within the minutes, unless they had provided a written question. Cllr Flower felt names should be included. Cllr Wilcox raised concerns regarding GDPR and the lack of a policy.

It was proposed by Cllr Flower, seconded by Cllr Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to draft a policy on public participation at meetings***

VOTE: 5 FOR, 3 AGAINST

503. CONTACT DETAILS FOR COUNCILLORS

The Monitoring Officer's responsibilities were noted.

Cllr Kay raised the issue of Cllr Hook not having his address on the website and noted that he himself had received horrendous letters through the post and felt if a job precluded an address being made public then they needed to re-think their position and not have dual standards.

Cllr Cosgrove felt it was not right to have this discussion in a public forum and issues concerning security and sensitivity should be respected and if there was a need to find out more then it should be outside of a public meeting.

504. SWALE CYCLING AND WALKING POLICY CONSULTATION

Cllr Cosgrove had received good feedback from the Secretary of the Faversham Footpath group. The purpose of the consultation was to gain

views for a framework, which would then allow SBC to bid for various grants to improve networks and highways.

Cllr Flower raised concerns that cyclists were in a minority and asked if there was a mechanism within the survey to redress the balance in calculating responses. Cllr Cosgrove felt there would be few responses received and it would be the responsibility of the Town Council to shape the recommendations.

Members were asked to respond to the consultation individually, which closes on 5th October 2018.

505. ILLEGAL CYCLING

Cllr Kay raised concerns regarding dangerous and illegal cycling in the town. Cllr Wilcox agreed that whilst cycling should be encouraged, the law needed to be respected and there was a requirement for designated cycle lanes within the town. He felt the borough council did not take responsibility for those breaking traffic and bye laws. Cllr Martin thought the motion was incorrect and the Council should be looking at how we should be teaching children what's right or wrong.

Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the motion The Town Council deplores the extent of illegal riding of cycles within the town centre, on the town's pavements and on footpaths in the town. It is considered that if something is not done there will be a serious accident when a resident will be injured. It is agreed that the Town Clerk be asked to contact Swale Borough Council's Safety Partnership for their help in tackling this issue by way of a public campaign and enforcement action.***

VOTE: 5 FOR, 3 AGAINST

506. FLY POSTING

Cllr Kay noted that the motion was not suggesting fining offenders, but giving protection to remove the flyposting. Cllr Flower suggested community events be allowed to post four weeks in advance of events. Cllr Wade objected to flyposting but questioned why the Town Council should be duplicating what the Borough Council does.

19.55hrs Cllr Hook joined the meeting

It was reiterated that permission was being sought to remove flyposting which is left for long periods of time, but agreed that it should also be reported. A question was raised regarding private property and the right to remove flyposting.

20.00hrs Cllr Walker joined the meeting

Cllr Flower proposed an amendment to the motion, seconded by Cllr Belsom ***that town events are allowed to post four weeks in advance***

VOTE: 4 FOR, 5 AGAINST, 1 ABST

Amendment to motion was not carried

Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED The Town Council deplores the extent of commercial flyposting in the town, including community events more than two weeks in advance of the event: when it is not taken down after the event or when it is in in appropriate locations. It is agreed that the Town Clerk contact Swale Borough Council to request permission for the Town Council to remove inappropriate flyposting in the town and people in the town be encouraged to report to the Town Council an inappropriate flyposting they see***

VOTE: 8 FOR, 1 AGAINST, 1 ABST

507. PRESTON FOOTBRIDGE

Cllr Flower asked if the footbridge refurbishment included ramps for cyclists. Cllr Wilcox confirmed that item was being following up by the Public Realm Group. Cllr Kay was concerned that the Town Council had not received satisfactory response regarding making the bridge disabled or elderly friendly. He noted that there was a scheme for improvements being offered by Network Rail.

Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Walker and on being put to the meeting it was ***unanimously RESOLVED to write to Helen Whately MP and Network Rail to press for better access for the footbridge and to register a nomination letter for the Access for All.***

508. FLAGS

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to obtain a risk assessment for raising the flag.**

20.10hrs Cllr Mulhern joined the meeting

509. ARMED FORCES DAY

It was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Cosgrove and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to fly the Armed Forces Flag**

510. FLAG FLYING

It was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was **unanimously RESOLVED to provide a report of flag flying to the next meeting**

Cllr Hook asked to raise a matter discussed earlier in his absence. He noted that the issue of his personal details not being on the website had not been raised direct with him. He confirmed it was an independent decision by the Monitoring Officer that is was advantageous to security and safety and anyone could contact him via the Town Council offices. He was sorry it had not been raised privately.

511. 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.***

512. STAFFING COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree the recommendations of the Staffing Committee and confirm, following the successful completion of their 3 month probation period, the following employees in position:**

Mrs Emma Powell – Finance Assistant
Mr Adam Andrews – Town Caretaker
Ms Claire Windridge – Business Officer

513. KALC COMMUNITY AWARD

It was agreed to put the nominated person forward for consideration of the KALC Community Award when it was discussed later in the year.

ANNEX

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Representative of the Faversham Footpath Group noted their letter sent to the Town Council asking for the promotion of an action plan to encourage walking and cycling to ease congestion. Suggesting signposting and a map, with properly planned shared usage with marked out cycle lanes.

Resident 1 Referencing Town Clerk's report item 4, the legal status of the 1953 bye law regarding various no cycling has been requested.

Resident 2 asked the status of the questions asked at the previous meeting regarding Southern Water.

The Town Clerk had written to Southern Water and they had also been invited to the next Faversham & District Engagement Forum and a response was awaited.

Resident 3 was impressed with the street cleaners following the Hop Festival but notice in the past six months how the streets were filthy and the walls of buildings. He would like the company who makes the most profit from the Hop Festival to be asked to pay for a street clean.

Cllr Kay confirmed there was a schedule of deep cleans but the Borough Councillor responsible was unfortunately not at that meeting to respond in detail.

Resident 4 noted he had reported on the state of the bins. He had been advised if the bins were more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full Biffa received a fine. He had requested a list of where all in the bins in Faversham were located but Swale Borough Council were unable to provide the list as they didn't know themselves. He would like to see the Town Council run the town's affairs.

He also advised that he would like his name included as he wanted to be accountable.

Resident 4 further noted that his name had been provided to the police by SBC when he had removed some illegal flyposting, as it was considered to be theft. It was also his opinion that two people were required to raise the flag for safety purposes.

Two meetings ago he had asked the Mayor how many hanging baskets were provided in 2018 for £6,000, 2017 for £6,000 and 2016 for £3,000. He has not received a response and held the Mayor personally accountable.

The Mayor confirmed that he had offered to email the information at the last meeting, but the resident had insisted on a paper copy which had been provided at the current meeting.

Resident 4 remarked on the apology in the local paper for the former Mayor, Cllr Kay and asked who had been representing the Town Council at that time and would the Town Council be investigating what went on at WFCC.