

**AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Monday 12 November 2018

**Present:** The Mayor, T Abram, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr M Cosgrove, Cllrs E J Wilcox, A J Walker, D Simmons, N Kay, S Campbell, G Wade, B Martin, C Belsom, P Flower, A Hook

In attendance: Louise Bareham, Town Clerk

Absent: Cllrs B Mulhern, N Green

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

**526. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**527. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**528. 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 8 October 2018.**

*The Mayor, Cllr Abram, used his discretionary power, as detailed in Standing Order 1a, to change the order of the Agenda.*

**529. FAVERSHAM CREEK SWING BRIDGE**

Cllr Kay spoke on his proposed motion "The Faversham Town Council wishes to express its appreciation of the ongoing work of the KCC Members, including the leader Mr Paul Carter, and KCC Officers in their attempts to secure an opening bridge for the Faversham Creek that will provide significant regeneration for the Town of Faversham and preserve the Town's maritime heritage. It supports the Leader of Kent County Council in his efforts to press Peel Ports, the statutory navigation authority, to undertake its obligations for the renewal of the swing bridge. The Town Council confirms its support for KCC's efforts by confirming its commitment to cover £175,000 of the cost, which is a very significant commitment in view of the financial resources, available to the Council. It

is confirmed that this decision and the appreciation of his and KCC Officers efforts on this project, should formally conveyed to Mr Paul Carter.”

Cllr Hook thought the wording sent the wrong message and proposed an amendment to the motion, seconded by Cllr Belsom to add:

- a) Request clarification of whether the Town Council's £175,000 is in fact needed and, if so, why in light of KCC's stance now being that Peel Ports are financially responsible for the bridge;
- b) Request clarification of how much money, if any at all, KCC now intends to provide for this project;
- c) Request explanation of why the obligations of Peel Ports were not notified to the Town Council in 2015 when our financial commitment was solicited, or at any time until a Question was tabled at the County Council on 18 October 2018; and
- d) Express our deep concern that over 3 years on from money being raised there is no clear plan of action such as a start date for work, agreed design or appointment of contractors.

As seconder of the original motion, Cllr Cosgrove reserved his right to speak and requested a recorded vote.

Cllr Simmons reinforced the desire for a fully opening bridge as a key to unlocking the heritage and tourism potential. He supported (b) and (d) amendments.

Cllr Wade agreed with Cllr Simmons and felt the Council should not be over critical or look backwards. Cllr Wilcox agreed and felt the Council had been misled in the early stages and it was vital that KCC now confirmed how much they were putting towards the bridge. Both supported (b) and (d) amendments.

Cllr Campbell felt the motion was premature and asked for it to be withdrawn until after the public meeting.

Cllr Cosgrove thought previous work had been undertaken covertly, the Creek Steering Bridge Group was not a committee of KCC but had been set up by the Regeneration Member and this had led to some of the problems that had subsequently arisen. He felt (b) was open ended; as much as it takes? There was no reference to Peel Ports, who were the elephant in the room. KCC should undertake to provide the legitimate amount required.

Cllr Hook agreed to the amendment to his motion, seconded by Cllr Belsom and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to send a letter to Paul Carter, Leader of KCC with the agreed additions.***

FOR: The Mayor Cllr Abram, Deputy Mayor Cllr Cosgrove, Cllrs Wilcox, Simmons, Kay, Wade, Martin, Belsom, Flower, Hook

AGAINST: Cllrs Walker, Campbell

ABSTENTIONS: Nil

### **530. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor's announcements were noted. Cllr Hook proposed thanks to the Mayor for his commitment to the town for attending events on 21 days of the month.

### **531. COMMUNITY MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

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.***

### **532. HERITAGE COMMITTEE 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

It was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Simmons and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously ***RESOLVED that should a positive response for HLF be received to the Expression of Interest a formal grant application is lodged under HLT's "Our Heritage" Grant Scheme for a discreet project based on the Town's Medieval Heritage and Treasures.***

It was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Wade and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously ***RESOLVED to develop a detailed proposal for the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry VIII's visit to Faversham.***

It was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Wade and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the quotation for signage for 12 Market Place saying Faversham Town Council**  
**FOR: 9 AGAINST:0 ABSTENTION:3**

**533. 20's PLENTY WORKING GROUP**

Cllr Hook confirmed that PJA Consultant's report would be available by 20<sup>th</sup> November in time for the next JTB deadline. Cllr Cosgrove asked if the 20's Plenty Working Group could set out a timeline to get a clear idea of progress. Cllr Hook agreed, he confirmed that KCC were supportive of 61% of the routes but the majority of the group wanted to hold out for 100%.

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

**534. FRONT BRENTS JETTY**

The report from MDL Marine Consultancy was considered. Cllr Kay will undertake a cost based analysis against the potential income stream of an improved jetty. Cllr Martin considered a floating pontoon was the better solution. It was agreed the refurbishment of the jetty would give a clear message that the Town Council intended to see the working Creek fully restored. Various funding streams were noted and would be researched. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously **RESOLVED to accept the quotation for Stage 2 Design and Specification works**

**535. SECOND QUARTER BUDGET AGAINST EXPENDITURE**

The report was noted.

**536. DODDINGTON LIBRARY**

Cllr Cosgrove considered this a very positive suggestion for the town and recommended the Policy & Finance Committee should review the proposal in relation to the formal legal agreement. Cllr Martin agreed it was a valuable collection, but thought it would have a huge cost implication and residents would have little to gain from it. Cllr Hook agreed with the points and questioned what would happen if we didn't want to store it in future, although he pointed out Faversham's proximity to three universities in Canterbury might provide some potential benefit.

It was proposed by Cllr Cosgrove, seconded by Cllr Simmons and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that the Policy & Finance Committee would agree the procedure for the relocation of Doddington Library**

#### **537. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to vire £2,000 from the EMR Neighbourhood Plan to Faversham Community Land Trust**

#### **538. REPORT ON NAMING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The report on naming members of the public in minutes was discussed. It was generally considered it would be helpful and valuable. Cllr Campbell agreed that residents' opinions should be acknowledged.

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously **RESOLVED that members of the public, who provide positive consent, would be named in the minutes. The following statement to be included on the agenda and as part of the Mayor's welcome "When providing your name and address prior to addressing the meeting, please confirm, or otherwise, that you consent to your personal details being recorded in the Minutes. Your personal data will be processed as directed by GDPR Article 5.**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to consider whether the Open Session should become part of the meeting when drafting the new Model Standing Orders FOR:10 AGAINST: 2 ABSTENTIONS:0**

#### **539. 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.**

**540. NEWSLETTER WINTER 2018**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the draft newsletter with amendments**  
**FOR:11 AGAINST:1 ABSTENTIONS:0**

**541. VISIT FAVERSHAM STEERING GROUP**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of the Visit Faversham report.**  
**FOR:11 AGAINST:1 ABSTENTIONS:0**

**542. INSURANCE VALUATIONS**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously **RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Simon Clark, subject to satisfactory references.**

**543. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council wishes to be a participating employer in the Local Government Pension Scheme (i.e. the Kent Pension Fund administered by Kent County Council), as permitted under the LGPS 2013 Regulations Schedule 2, Part 2 Number 2 and,**

- **All its employees are designated as having an entitlement to be members of the LGPS, from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019**
- **We wish for our participation in the Kent Pension Fund to be open to new members and understand the implications of this decision.**
- **In making this resolution Faversham Town Council understands it is resolving to be bound by the statutory provisions of the LGPS and all of the obligations under such, including early retirement strain costs and exit liabilities.**

## **ANNEX**

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Marion Bath – Where's Our Bridge Campaign

Can the Council reassure the regeneration of the Creek and maintenance for navigation?

Findlay MacDonald

Wholeheartedly hopes that names will be in print as it's really important.

Sue Akhurst

Thank you to Town Council, Faversham Society and individuals for the past four years of WW1 commemorations. The bunting exhibition was fantastic and really shows what can be done at 12 Market Place.

Cllr Mike Henderson

Happy to have his name printed. Why are you congratulating the Leader of KCC for achieving little? The Creek Trust made it clear years ago that Peel Ports were responsible for navigation, the motion does not add much and may damage the town's position when nothing has been achieved.

Chris Oswald-Jones

Supports the previous comment. Paul Carter has been invited to speak at the church and to put thanks in advance seems strange.

Cllr Kay

It will be discussed at that point in the meeting

Brian Pain

Reminded the Town Council the enthusiasm in raising the money was never fully recognised. Councillors to congratulate KCC before any evidence is wrong and should be left until after the town has been heard.

Cllr Hook

Asked if the item could be moved up the agenda as there was a lot of interest or withdraw it until the next meeting

Lesley Seager

Thank you for putting Abbeyfields on the agenda again. The lorries are using all the roads in Faversham.

Debbie Lawther

There is a lack of affordable housing, the current legal definition is not affordable and the CLT is a good way of tackling the issue. Thanks to the Town Council for the support and hopes for that to continue.

The Mayor confirmed the Council does support the formation of a CLT.

Jenny Reeves

Are you aware that the 25<sup>th</sup> November is White Ribbon Day, fighting male violence against women. Does the Council support the campaign?

The Mayor confirmed the Council will look into it. Mrs Reeves reinforced her willingness to help.