

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

544. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mulhern due to illness and Cllr Martin due to work commitments. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram, and, on being put to the meeting, it was **RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllrs Mulhern and Martin**

545. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

546. 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 12 November 2018.**

547. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor's Announcements were noted.

548. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree the grant payments as recommended:**

ORGANISATION	RECOMMENDATION
Faversham Umbrella Centre	£4,000
Alexander Centre	£800
Faversham Antiques Market	£1,755
Faversham Assistance	£2,500

Centre FACE	
TOTAL	£9,055

Following a few minor amendments, it was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to adopt the Flag Flying Policy**

FOR: 10 AGAINST:1 ABSTENTION:0

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram and on being put the meeting it was unanimously **RESOLVED to agree the objective “Ensuring that the Doddington Collection remains within Faversham in first class condition. Is available through secure access for legitimate research and provides a long term heritage resource that is nationally recognised”.**

549. PUBLIC REALM GROUP

Swale Borough Council were the first to introduce Tikspac dog waste bag dispensers into the county and have since won an award as the project was so successful. SBC has now asked whether other councils would like to purchase the dispensers on a two year contract at £300 per year. Cllr Kay noted that he would like some in St Ann’s Ward. It was proposed by The Mayor, Cllr Abram and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously **RESOLVED to purchase 3 no tikspac dog waste bag dispensers.**

Cllr Wilcox thanked the Caretaker for his comprehensive report and noted the real difference he had made around the town. The next walkabout would be on 17th January 2019.

550. 20’s PLENTY WORKING GROUP

Cllr Hook confirmed that PJA’s report was being presented at the next JTB meeting. He noted that Cllr Mike Whiting, KCC Cabinet Member had announced a review on 20mph policy. It is expected that Adrian Brendt will make representations on this review on behalf of Faversham. Cllr Cosgrove questioned 28% child obesity in St Ann’s, as noted in the report. Cllr Hook noted that a further report to the JTB includes a map with obesity issues with Priory Ward being the worst for health.

551. CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK

Cllr Belsom proposed, seconded by Cllr Wade and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council registers as**

an Interested Party on the Cleve Hill Solar Park application by making a Relevant Representation

552. KCC LIBRARIES, REGISTRATION AND ARCHIVES DRAFT STRATEGY 2019-2022

It was agreed that Cllr Hook would draft a letter of objection to the reduction in hours at Faversham Library for agreement at the next meeting.

553. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN 2018-2022

Concerns were raised that traffic movements from the proposed new developments had not been taken into account. The A2 was the emergency route when there were issues with the M2 and the new Lower Thames Crossing could double the traffic. It was agreed that Swale Borough Council should press Highways England for additional measures on trunk routes. Questions were asked whether the reported levels for air quality were accurate and it was noted that the World Health Authority used different analysis figures. Cllr Campbell felt it was more of an inaction plan, talking about statistics and an alternative route away from the A2 at Ospringe should be pursued from the Western Link. Cllr Kay confirmed that alternative routes were being considered including the potential junction 5A which could be funded by a garden development.

554. SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2022

Cllr Campbell raised concerns that Brexit was not mentioned in the plan and there was nothing to help businesses plan for the future. There was no specific mention of Faversham and it was agreed to draft sentence to encompass the concept of economic development, additional footfall, self-help and social regeneration taking place in Faversham, with particular regard to the Creek. Cllr Wilcox noted page 12 refers to a 'thriving Faversham' and commented that "they think we are winning".

Cllr Flower left the meeting at 21.41

555. LOWER THAMES CROSSING STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Concerns were raised regarding implications to the M2 and A2 from the pressure of additional traffic, particularly the pressure junctions. It was agreed that that M2 would need to be three lanes once the crossing was completed. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would respond.

556. 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.***

557. TOWN MAP AND EVENTS GUIDE 2019

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree the draft guide subject to Members contacting the Economic Development Officer direct with comments**

558. BUSINESS AND TOURISM IN FAVERSHAM

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

- ***Faversham Town Council supports all local businesses, whether they are FTA members, Visit Faversham group members or affiliated to neither.***
- ***The Economic Development Officer will work in a supportive and advisory capacity to all sectors.***
- ***Whilst Faversham Town Council is supportive of the FTA it is not considered appropriate to renew membership.***

ANNEX

Presentations were made by the following:

Southern Water – Paul Kent, Simon Sharp
South East Water – Lee Dance, Jo Shippey

South East Water's plan is from 2020 to 2080, locally water is provided 100% from ground supply. There has been a decreased of 21m litres in water use despite 47,000 new homes. Leakage will be reduced by half by 2050. Demand has reduced due to the introduction of meters. They renew their plan every five years taking into account the Local Plans. Agriculture users have licenses and the Environment Agency provide projections for water use, but there are changes in irrigation systems. Pipework is not replaced on age only performance. 2,500 homes will use 1m litres a day. Whilst they can't rule out droughts, they work to a 1 in 200 year resilience plan. You cannot just rely on collecting water. Fracking doesn't use as much water as suspected, but there has not been any discussion about fracking in the area.

Southern Water is responsible for foul and surface sewers. Predictions are based on information from Local Plans and developers. There is headroom for a further 1,000 houses at Abbey Fields treatment works before it reaches capacity and SW will make an investment to build in more capacity. Blocked road gulleys are the reason for the flooding in Whitstable Road which are the responsibility of KCC, who are not proactive and only work on demand. Only two tankers a day for Southern Water and only one vehicle has arrived before 8am in the last six months and none on weekends. Cesspool contractors are 15 to 25 a day but are not the responsibility of Southern Water, who has a duty to provide facilities within a reasonable distance. In 2017 they spent £10k on the maintenance of Abbey Fields and £6k in 2015/16.

When it was suggested that if a £2 levy was put on all cesspool contractors, that could provide £16k a year to fund road repairs Mr Kent noted that the road was private and the cesspool contractors were not their responsibility.

Members agreed that Southern Water had an obligation to listen and engage with to residents. It was recommended that Mr Kent went to Abbey Fields as he had not been there for 15 years. It was asked whether a different discharge area could be built at the Nova site but Mr Kent didn't think that the residents there would like that.

Residents raised concerns about plasterwork cracking in their properties due to the number of lorries using the road. Others suggested rerouting the entrance via the Lady Dane site, which would be a shorter distance. It was agreed that Southern Water had come ill-prepared and they should have taken a look at Abbey Fields prior to attending the meeting.

It was agreed that the next steps should be to find a more sustainable way of engaging and working together to find a solution. Faversham Town Council has an obligation to listen to residents and engage with the statutory authorities and it was evident that frustration amongst the residents was running high. Identify the problem and work together. A further meeting is to be arranged with Southern Water.

Julian Saunders noted an online petition regarding the cut in library hours, which had 650 signatures and asked for support for the campaign. The proposed cut had not taken any account in social or educational needs.

Findlay Macdonald suggested that the library should be knocked down as it had a massive footprint and could provide flats above.

Hannah Perkin raised concerns about the anti-social behaviour around Morrisons, that there was no CCTV and felt Swale Borough Council should reinstate CCTV

Cllr Cosgrove noted that people were aware of the thefts taking place and that Morrisons was reviewing how it protects its staff and store. He confirmed that the CCTV was low definition and was outdated and SBC had reviewed its usage with Kent Police. He suggested there be better cooperation between Morrisons and the police.

Findlay Macdonald felt that shops needed to punish the thieves. He asked about the annual meeting with the police.

Cllr Wilcox suggested people obtained crime numbers then speak to the press

David Taylor questioned why a bin had been removed from the alleyway near Abbey Street and asked for a replacement.

This will be taken up at the next Public Realm Group meeting.
