

AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Monday 14 January 2019

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

In attendance: Louise Bareham, Town Clerk

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

559. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mulhern, Flower, Green, Belsom and Hook. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Abram, and, on being put to the meeting, it was ***RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllrs Mulhern, Hook, Green, Flower and Belsom***

560. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

561. 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 10th December 2018.***

562. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor's Announcements were noted.

563. HERITAGE COMMITTEE 10th December 2018

Cllr Kay reported on progress with the Heritage Hub and the feasibility proposal for the rear exhibition space. It was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Wade and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Heritage Committee***

564. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 12th December 2018

It was proposed by The Mayor, Cllr Abram and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Community Services Committee***

565. CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK

Cllr Belsom was thanked for providing a proposed response as relevant representation as an Interested Party. Cllr Cosgrove proposed, seconded by Cllr Simmons and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the proposal and register as an Interested Party***

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

Cllr Hook was commended for his draft letter. Cllr Cosgrove suggested some minor amendments. Cllr Walker noted that both the young and old needed access to computers and the cut in hours was very concerning. It was agreed that amendments would be circulated for agreement via email.

567. PLASTIC FREE FAVERSHAM

The Town Clerk provided a brief update in Cllr Hook's absence. Although they were pipped at the post to being the first Plastic Free Town in Kent, they had managed to secure 3 out of the 5 objectives and expected to complete all 5 very soon. The Plastic Free group were praised for their hard work and commitment to the project.

568. FAVERSHAM MUNICIPAL CHARITIES

It was proposed by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to appoint Mr Michael Gates as Town Council Representative for 4 years***

569. COUNCIL SURGERY DATES 2019

The following dates were approved:

- Saturday 9th March
- Saturday 8th June
- Saturday 7th September
- Saturday 7th December

570. FAVERSHAM FUTURE FORUM

The group were commended for their work. There was concern how much weight the document could have, Cllr Campbell noted that many decisions had already been made before proposals reached the Town Council. It was proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Campbell and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the principles and ensure they were integrated into the formal statutory process***

571. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that 12 Market Place address could be used as the registered office of the Faversham Community Land Trust**

572. HISTORIC HARBOUR

This item was deferred in Cllr Flower's absence. A written report with costs and benefits, linking to the Creek Neighbourhood Plan were requested prior to the item returning on the agenda.

573 LAND REGISTRY DOCUMENTS

It was agreed that a separate budget was not necessary as the cost of any documents would come out of any specific action/project rather than having a blanket figure.

574. ART UK PARTNER

Members were asked whether they wished to continue to be an Art UK Partner. Cllr Kay felt there was a specific reason why the Town Council had joined and the Town Clerk would investigate Minutes from 2014. It was questioned whether the Doddington Library Collection could be included, or whether it only included art work.

575. 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.***

576. FAVERSAHM HERO 2019

Nominations for the Faversham Hero were considered and will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday 28th May

577. THE ROLE OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would draft a Volunteer Policy and Agreement to ensure volunteers know what is required of them.

ANNEX

Mr Oswald-Jones noted the drawing attached to the Heritage Committee Minutes showed a door which did not exist and was misleading. He also noted that the photographs showing barren land under the solar panels in relation to the Cleve Hill proposal, may have been sprayed.

Mr Sherlock raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in West Street, which included vandalism to cars, eggs through letterboxes, intimidation and cyclists riding the wrong way. A meeting with the police had taken place which he said was helpful in learning when it was appropriate to call 999. Mr Sherlock's concerns were (1) lack of lighting (2) Morrison's 'honeypot' with people stealing to order (3) lack of CCTV and what was the justification for removing it in the first place.

Cllr Cosgrove responded noting that the anti-social behaviour was happening across the town and that there appeared to be a national accepted level of shop lifting but that stores should be made aware that people will take their custom elsewhere if they do not feel it safe to shop.

Mrs Turner was worried that Cllr Campbell's reconciliation attempts during her time as Mayor were being undermined. She noted specifically a pamphlet which was circulated in the town about 12 Market Place and asked the Town Council to make a robust rebuttal.

Cllr Campbell offered her thanks to all councillors who had helped with the reconciliation. She noted that the writer of the article had never been seen in the public gallery of a Town Council meeting, where he could openly raise any issues and confirmed that a response would be made.

Mr Pain responded that the article represented in depth reporting and in the next edition hoped to have lots of views in order to be an inclusive newspaper. He believed it to be factually correct as the contents were received from a number of Freedom of Information requests. He welcomed any rebuttal and confirmed it would be printed.

Cllr Campbell asked what Mr Pain's objective was. He responded that there was no objective other than using modern technology to express views and help democracy.

Cllr Kay had read the article and although the figures quoted were accurate they were used out of context and were misleading. He noted the Faversham Town Action Plan 2020 document and how the Magna Carta 800 generated incredible interest in making a permanent legacy. *Note Cllr Kay's full statement is available to read at www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk*

Cllr Wade said it had been encouraging the amount of community cohesion that had come together with the 11 groups under Heritage Together to increase economic opportunities and also the Faversham Future Forum. He further noted that the Council was listening and that it was not just the great and the good, there was huge community engagement – be part of it.

Mr Saunders raised concerns about the proposed reduction of hours at Faversham Library and asked the Town Council to stand up and support the letter drafted by Cllr Hook. He noted that the KCC Strategy under estimated the contribution and wider objectives; the library had 2,000 visitors a week, which was good footfall; 21 out of 23 busiest libraries faced cuts; provided poor value and no cost benefit with only a 10% saving in costs. He raised concerns about that SBC supported KCC's proposal.

Cllr Cosgrove congratulated Mr Saunders on his address and noted SBC'S motion was specific to KCC having to reduce their budget and not exclusively about the reduction in library hours.

Mrs Turner stated Ashford Borough Council had taken the initiative against the deterioration of town centres to create a civic heartbeat and were at the forefront.

Mrs Jefferies of the Refugee Solidarity Group asked the Town Council to congratulate Swale Borough Council on exceeding their pledge to house 10 Syrian refugee families within five years, despite challenges they had managed to rehome 11 families in three years.

Mrs Perkin reported break in to gardens around Belmont Road and Kingsnorth Road, which she will bring to the attention of the next Local Engagement Forum.

Mr Macdonald asked why Icelands had been provided with a key. He also noted that on visiting the Town Clerk in the Alexander Centre it was clear there was insufficient room, 12 Market Place was better for the town and value for money.

Cllr Simmons noted that Mr Macdonald's letter had been received and would be responded to direct.