

**AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Monday 11 February 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

Absent: Cllr N Green

In attendance: Louise Bareham, Town Clerk

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

**597. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mulhern and Campbell. 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 Campbell.***

**598. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**599. MINUTES**

With regard to the Annex attached to the Minutes, Cllr Cosgrove confirmed that following the letter drafted by Cllr Hook, it was clear from the response from Mr Hill, the prime reason for the reduction in hours was the need to reduce the library budget by £1m. Cllr Martin asked if Cllr Kay could clarify dilapidation costs for 12 Market Place. Cllr Kay responded that it did not apply to freehold properties and was therefore unable to provide an answer.

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meetings of Faversham Town Council held 14<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019***

**600. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor's Announcements were noted.

**601. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Hook suggested an additional bullet point on the Annual Action Plan to include crime and antisocial behaviour and noted that the public realm did not just include the town centre. He also pointed out the need for a review of dropped kerbs, Cllr Cosgrove said he had been provided with a survey of dropped kerbs undertaken by a resident for St Ann's Ward which he would share. It was agreed that the Public Realm Group would look into this. Cllr Wilcox reminded councillors that the PRG undertook a walkabout prior to the meetings and invited suggestions for the next area.

Cllr Martin agreed all points were valid but noted there was no support for good employment or jobs within the town. Cllr Wade felt that Five Year Strategic Plan covered economic development.

It was proposed by Cllr Wade and seconded by Cllr Kay and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to adopt the Annual Action Plan as amended.**

General concerns regarding issues of operational policing were discussed, although it was recognised there had been a reduction in the police budget it was felt that they should still be delivering more. It was agreed that the Town Council should be engaging more with the police and suggested a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner be arranged.

Cllr Simmons supported the need to review the Medium Term Financial Plan every six months, but questioned the lack of figures. It was proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to adopt the Medium Term Financial Plan**

It was generally agreed that by registering for the Local Council Award Scheme it would provide affirmation of the Council's intent of achieving openness and transparency. It was proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to register for a quality award**

## **602. 20's PLENTY WORKING GROUP**

Amanda Russell, Chair of the Working Group, thanked Members for their support of the campaign and reported that they were looking to commission PJA Consultants for further work. Cllr Hook confirmed that there had been much progress since engaging PJA, who had broken the logjam by persuading KCC to agree to a wider area with less traffic

calming. Cllr Simmons noted the methods of traffic calming would be signage on the road and removal of the middle white lines, rather than physical humps etc.

It was proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to engage PJA Consultants for Step 1**

### **603. HISTORIC HARBOUR**

Cllr Flower provided background to the proposal to become a heritage harbour, similar to those in France and Holland where they have seen success in increasing jobs and leisure. Cllr Wade thought the proposal aligned to the Action Plan through threads such as the Town Jetty and recognised that people had been championing the vision for many years. He thought the volunteers should build up options and opportunities and bring them back to the Town Council later in the year. Cllr Wilcox saw it as a long term project and asked if they would be seeking funding. Cllr Simmons wanted time to consider and digest the tabled paper but felt it was vital that the bridge must include the sluices. Cllr Cosgrove raised concerns about getting the mechanism right, as there had been failures in the past, and asked how it fitted with the Bridge Steering Group and the 29 landowners. Cllr Hook loved the idea of increasing access to the creek but was uncomfortable with the term heritage harbour as it might give a quaint vision, rather than something more lively. He suggested involving the sea cadets and scouts.

Cllr Flower agreed the proposal needed a mechanism and the involvement of the landowners. He noted the attendees of the meeting were varied and had uniformity of agreement that was not out of step with the NHP. He was asked to provide a funding and reporting mechanism.

Cllr Flower proposed, seconded by Cllr Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the proposal Faversham Town Council considers developing the concept of a Historic Harbour in Faversham Creek.**

### **604. YEAR END ACCOUNTS PREPARATION**

It was agreed to engage RBS to carry out the year end accounts preparation.

**605. LONE WORKING**

The report on lone working was noted. It was agreed that it should be made clear to members of the public that unacceptable behaviour towards staff would not be tolerated. The Town Council has a clear responsibility to its staff. It was agreed to take appropriate measures and decisions be delegated to the Staffing Committee and Heritage Committee where appropriate.

**606. VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT**

It was proposed by the Mayor Cllr Abram and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to adopt the Volunteer Policy***

**607. 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.***

**608. SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter was agreed as drafted, with minor amendments. It was noted that the print was very small and sometimes the background colour made the print difficult to see. These issues would be addressed in future issues.

**609. KENT RESILIENCE FORUM PLAN**

The plan was noted but it was felt not relevant to the Town Council.

## ANNEX

Mr Oswald-Jones was disappointed he had not received a response to his question to whether the plot for which the Albion was seeking planning permission was part of the town green or a green open space.

Mr Chamberlain raised concerns that The Mall was not being considered with the Ashford Road junction A251/A2. The Highways England spatial manager stated in a letter that he was continuing to monitor M2,J6 and the A2/A251 regarding Preston Fields and no further work was to continue on Perry Court until the junction had been sorted, but work at Perry Court has started. He requested the Town Council write to KCC Highways to ask for a proposed plan for the junction and asked what should be coming first, action or money and thought that BDW Homes were negligent.

Cllr Simmons asked if a copy of the letter referred to could be forwarded to the Town Clerk and the Council agreed that a letter should be written to KCC.

Cllr Henderson considered that Cllr Cosgrove had been misleading in his statement the previous month, when questioned about the proposed shortening of library hours and that there had been no mention of budgets.

Mr Macdonald had written a letter the previous month and asked for it to be sent to all Members for comment. He was disappointed that he had not seen a full house of councillors for some time and felt there should be accountability rather than just accepting apologies, Members should police themselves.

Mr Jaynes raised concerns regarding the potential rehoming of the rugby club at Faversham Rec. The building is listed, with drug dealing and drinking is an unpleasant area not being policed. The rugby club refurbished the lodge and protect the building, what will happen to the rugby club.

Cllr David Simmons confirmed the rugby club was not being rehoused and was keen for it to stay on the Rec. He noted the comments regarding vandalism and the help previously provided by the club. The lodge is the principal heritage asset at the rec and the corner post of the HLF bid was the restoration of the building. He urged the rugby club to engage with the borough council by having a direct meeting, rather than via the media.

Cllr Antony Hook was concerned the club had not been offered a fair deal, they were particularly important as none of the local schools offered rugby. He

understood there was a meeting that evening at SBC where the club were facing increased rent.

Cllr Simmons corrected the comment about rent, as no agreement or discussion had been held and was unaware that any figure had been quoted.