

THE MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at The Guildhall,
Faversham, on Monday 12 August 2019

Present:

The Mayor Cllr A Reynolds	Cllr K Barker	Cllr H Perkin
Deputy Mayor Cllr S Blair	Cllr D Knights	Cllr J Saunders
Cllr C Belsom	Cllr B J Martin	Cllr E Thomas
Cllr C Jackson	Cllr T Martin	Cllr C Williams

In attendance: Louise Bareham, Town Clerk

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

063. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hook and Irwin. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Reynolds, and, on being put to the meeting, it was ***RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllrs Hook and Irwin***

064. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr D Knights	Minute 072	DPI
Cllr B J Martin	Minute 070	DNPI

A dispensation has been given to Cllr Saunders to speak on footpaths including ZF5. This dispensation stands for this civic term until May 2023.

065. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS TO REPORT

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr B J Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council meetings held on 9th July 2019.***

066. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds reported on events attended.

067. PUBLIC SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Thomas thanked Mr Ely for the photographs and will keep him updated on progress.

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Saunders and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Chris Oswald-Jones and Mr Gareth Reeves to the Public Spaces Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas seconded by Cllr Saunders and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Public Spaces Committee.**

068. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

12 Market Place had been deferred. Cllr B J Martin proposed the recommendation be amended to all the earmarked reserves to be reviewed at the Policy and Finance meeting to consider whether the Council should reallocate to other priority areas seconded by Cllr Saunders. It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council considers all earmarked reserves to consider whether any should be reallocated to other priority areas.**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin seconded by Cllr B J Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee.**

069. 20's PLENTY COMMITTEE

It proposed by Cllr Thomas and was seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the 20's Plenty Committee**

070. 12 MARKET PLACE

Cllr Barker explained the economics of 12 Market Place did not add up, with a current redemption figure of £1.5m which would leave the Council in debt. Instead attention was being turned to make the building the best value for the community. A number of options had been considered and ruled out, leaving the final three options. Cllr Saunders agreed, noting the need to focus on reducing costs or adding more social value. It was proposed by the Mayor Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Barker. and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council explores the following three options for 12 Market Place, by meeting with potential partners and engaging with the wider community through a variety of methods –**

1. Ground Floor: Rental for Retail, First Floor: FTC Offices

2. **Ground Floor: Visitor Information, Heritage Hub, Magna Carta Museum, First Floor: FTC Offices**
3. **Ground Floor: Information Gateway – providing access to a wide range of public, voluntary and community services, First Floor: FTC Offices.**

071. STRATEGIC PLAN

It was agreed that the list covered sensible priority areas for the Council's first year and they had already started looking at climate and biodiversity and youth. This did not exclude any other items and a good dialogue with the community would continue. It was proposed by The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council notes its priorities for the forthcoming year will include:**

- **Improving cycling and walking with a town-wide 20mph scheme**
- **Engaging with all youth, particularly those who are harder to reach**
- **Climate and biodiversity**
- **Diversity and equality**
- **Electric vehicle charging points**
- **Better engagement with the police around the occurrences and perception of anti-social behaviour**
- **Neighbourhood plan feasibility**
- **Ensuring a balanced budget**
- **Opening creek bridge**
- **Homelessness**
- **Sports council**

072. WHITSTABLE ROAD FLOODING

Concerns were raised about the continued flooding in Whitstable Road, with the changing climate and the increase in heavy storms, together with the run-off from the Rec as a contributing factor. Cllr Thomas confirmed that drainage channels were being included in the Rec upgrade, together with more trees being planted. Southern Water were now refusing to communicate and it was agreed that all parties needed to be involved. Cllr Perkin proposed an amendment to the motion that the issues in Abbeyfields were also included in the discussions, seconded by Cllr B J Martin and agreed by the Members. It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was

RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council writes to Southern Water and Kent County Council to urge action to (1) combat ongoing flooding problems caused by inadequate drainage at Whitstable Road (2) liaise with residents of Abbeyfields regarding ongoing road issues

073. UPDATE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Cllr Barker thanked the EDO for her great work and good response to local events. He commented that the Town Clerk's background to the role was ambiguous and the correct dates should be added.

074. FAVERSHAM POOLS

Cllr Saunders and Cllr B J Martin had both been proposed as representatives of Faversham Pools but they had requested one only. Cllr Jackson proposed Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Blair and Cllr Thomas proposed Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Barker. On being put to the meeting Cllr Saunders received 3 votes and Cllr B J Martin received 8 votes. It was therefore ***RESOLVED to elect Cllr B J Martin as Representative for Faversham Pools***

075. COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVES

Committee membership was reviewed and the updated list will be published.

076. FAVERSHAM POST OFFICE

The consultation for Faversham Post Office was noted by Members.

077. TRAFFIC ISSUES FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF THE A2

Cllr Perkin highlighted her correspondence which followed the problems caused by the closure of the A2. It was agreed to look at how to prevent traffic problems in the future.

078. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the payments***

ANNEX

Mr Brian Pain gave a presentation on the Town Jetty, which suggested the jetty could be repaired in part for £4-5,000 and the remainder for £37-40,000. He felt it could last a further 30 to 40 years if maintained correctly.

Mr Tom Gates commented that it was good to hear the plan would see the jetty remaining the property of the Council and people of Faversham. He noted it was the only asset of the Council which could make a profit.

Mr Pain responded that it was only a finite income potential maximum of £9,000 less maintenance.

Mr Gates asked if there were any conditions attached to the original grants from the Sports Council, Sondes Estate and Municipal Charities.

Mr Pain noted the Creek Navigation Trust was CIC.

Mr Findlay MacDonald asked if would be going out to tender and would like to see the Town Council have an open mind.

Sir David Melville thought it was a positive proposal, the Faversham Heritage Harbour Group saw the improvement of the jetty as an important step and asked what the timescale for repairing the whole would be.

Mr Pain suggested the lower part by September 2019 and the upper part would be completed by June 2020.

Mrs Margaret Tilley asked what the Town Council had done to have the 666 bus route from Faversham to the William Harvey Hospital restored.

Cllr Perkin noted she had campaigned prior to the elections and would check on the current status.

Resident raised concerns about parked cars in Dark Hill, noting that it restricted sight up the hill. He also noted that Priory Row had been declassified as a trunk road but the gritting lorry still came as Highways considered it to be a main route. Furthermore he questioned the size of the roundabout on the Western Link.

Cllr Saunders supported the concerns about Dark Hill and is working on that together with the crossing issues.

Mr Peter Flower asked if the Council was giving consideration to cycle racks around the town as there was nowhere to leave a bike near the Guildhall, also providing ramps on footbridges for cyclists.

Cllr Saunders confirmed there was funding available for further bike racks and was looking at additional racks in Preston Street. Ramps has not been discussed but he was keen to develop a proper approach. Cllr B J Martin had been in contact with Network Rail and had been advised the bridges were unsuitable. Cllr Perkin noted scooter users had the same problem and the Public Spaces Committee were looking at this.

Andy Hanks suggested removing the cycle path in Bysingwood Road, as no one used it and thought yellow lines and a speed camera were required.

Cllr Thomas advised that KCC would not remove the cycle path due to the cost but agreed that something needed to be done about the parked cars and would look into how passing points could be achieved.

Mrs Lesley Seager thanked Abbey Ward members for meeting residents at Abbeyfields and asked what their feelings were.

Cllr Perkin thanked Mrs Seager for her work and the issue will go to SBC looking at potential ways to achieve road repairs. Cllr Williams and Cllr Knights also thanked Mrs Seager and were shocked by the state of the road.

Mr Findlay MacDonald asked why his email to a councillor had been forwarded to others. He noted that he had been coming to meetings for many years and had always respected the office and was not victimizing any councillors.

Cllr Perkin advised that they were all new councillors, many of whom had jobs and if the council was to diversify it needed younger, working people who were not able to instantaneously respond to emails.

Mrs Hobson asked when the plans to the Whitstable Road crossing would take place, as KCC had been delaying the work. She also asked when the speed would be dropped to 20mph. Mrs Hobson's husband had been killed on the

crossing and she would like a memorial bench near the crossing in her husband's name.

Cllr B J Martin apologized for the delays and incompetence of KCC and suggested the Town Council write to KCC as the delays were not acceptable and it must be delivered. He supported the idea of a bench.

Mr Nigel Kay noted that tourism and economic development had not been listed in the Council's priorities, which he was surprised as SBC had a tourism strategy.

Cllr Barker noted that the Economic Development Officer spent her time promoting businesses and tourism and the Council's priorities were the focus for the first year, but did not limit other priorities.