

THE MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Monday 9 December 2019

Present:

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

In attendance: Louise Bareham, Town Clerk

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

127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Blair due to work commitments. It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Knights, and, on being put to the meeting, it was **RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr Blair**

128. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Dispensations were given to The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds, Cllrs Hook and Jackson to discuss West Faversham Community Association.

129. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS TO REPORT

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council held on 11th November 2019.**

130. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds reported on events attended.

131. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Barker proposed that *Faversham Town Council accepts the endorsements of the 12 Market Place Working Group to take forward Options 2 and 4 which were a Heritage Hub and Magna Carta Exhibition and Community Exhibition Space.*

Cllr Saunders tabled the following amendment to the motion *“The Town Council notes the Working Group’s recommendation to take forward elements of option 2 and 4 as a specific proposal. It also notes that this is not supported by any detailed analysis laying out the relevant social and cost benefits of particular options.*

It supports the proposal to discount the letting of the space for retail. It also resolves to make the ground floor of 12 Market Place available for community use during financial year 2020/21.

However before it takes a decision on moving forward with any longer term option, it asks the Committee Working Group to carry out a proper analysis of the cost benefits and risks associated with all the remaining options, so that an informed decision on the best option for utilising 12 Market Place can be made by the Town Council. It asks that this analysis is completed in the next six months so a decision can be made on which option to move forward with, early in the coming financial year.”

The amendment was seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was LOST. Cllr Jackson requested a recorded vote.

FOR – Cllrs Saunders and Jackson
AGAINST – Cllrs Irwin, Thomas, B J Martin, T Martin, Barker, Williams, Perkin, Knights, Hook, Reynolds, Belsom
ABSTENTIONS – None

Cllr Irwin seconded the substantive motion and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the endorsements of the 12 Market Place Working Group to take forward Options 2 and 4 which were a Heritage Hub and Magna Carta Exhibition and Community Exhibition Space**

FOR – Cllrs Irwin, Thomas, B J Martin, T Martin, Barker, Williams, Perkin, Knights, Hook, Reynolds, Belsom
AGAINST – Cllrs Saunders and Jackson
ABSTENTIONS – None

132. 20’s PLENTY COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Saunders and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the proposal from PJA**

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Saunders and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to note the Minutes of the 20's Plenty Committee Meeting dated 2nd December 2019.**

133. PUBLIC SPACES COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to forward the Abbey Neighbourhood Association's Proposal to the Swale JTB.**

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to note the Minutes of the Public Spaces Committee dated 5th December 2019**

134. SUNILI FUNDING

It was proposed by The Mayor Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that the donation of £5,000 from the Bollywood Film be given to the No 72 Youth Bus Project for the benefit of all young people.**

135. WEST FAVERSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders that *"This Council notes the key role that the West Faversham Community Association plays in providing community facilities and activities from the West Faversham Community Centre, for a wide range of people in Faversham and beyond.*

It supports the Association's aspiration to expand the community activities it provides, including its youth service, training facilities, fitness opportunities and affordable restaurant. It looks forward to commenting on any planning application that the Association brings forward."

Cllr B J Martin proposed an amendment to the motion to remove the last sentence. Cllr Saunders accepted the amendment.

Cllr Saunders proposed, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council notes the key role that the West Faversham Community Association plays in providing community facilities and activities from the West**

Faversham Community Centre, for a wide range of people in Faversham and beyond.

It supports the Association's aspiration to expand the community activities it provides, including its youth service, training facilities, fitness opportunities and affordable restaurant.

136. ABBEYFIELDS

Cllr Williams proposed, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council writes to all organisations responsible for the maintenance of Abbeyfields road including Southern Water, Swale Borough Council and Optivo to ensure they fulfil their obligation to maintain their respective road surfaces.**

VOTE: FOR 13 ABSENTIONS 1 (Cllr B J Martin)

137. NEWSLETTER

It was proposed by Cllr Hook, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED agree the draft Winter newsletter**

138. NO 72 BUS FUNDING

It was proposed by The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree to provide funding to the No 72 if Cllrs Hook and B J Martin were unable to assist.**

139. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

It was agreed to hold the Annual Town Meeting on Monday 23 March at the Assembly Rooms.

140. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

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

It was Resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, 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 commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

141. STAFFING COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to increase the Deputy Clerk's salary by 2 points***

It was proposed by the Mayor Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr B J Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to increase the Finance Assistant's hours by 5 per week***

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to change the title of Town Caretaker to Facilities Manager***

ANNEX

Mr E Wilcox was pleased the Town Council was not selling Magna Carta and asked if the Town Council would agree to not selling any artefacts and to seek funding to house them.

The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds stated she would never agree to sell the charters all the time she was Mayor.

Cllr Barker confirmed that the sale had never been discussed and not been an agenda item.

Mr G Fenton spoke on Item 8 Abbey Residents and noted their meetings were well attended. He raised concerns regarding parking and passing problems in Abbey Street and the proposal put forward was low cost.

Mr B Pain noted a vote of thanks to KCC for their magnificent job in lifting the bridge.

Mr D Taylor asked if there was any further feedback on Lady Dane.

Cllr Thomas had emailed Swale Planning, who were taking it up with the developers and noted that Southern Water had legal obligations and will ensure they were enforced.

Mr F MacDonald asked if the recent budget workshop discussed funding for a possible by-election, what was the notice period to be given by a councillor if resigning. He also noted that when the Town Council voted for a Mayor, Cllr Hook said the council didn't need a Deputy Mayor, and thought the title should be taken off the councillor as she was not representing the Town Council.

Cllr Barker confirmed that the budget workshop noted earmarked reserves for elections. The Deputy Mayor was not present as she was busy at work. The Town Clerk confirmed that a resignation came in force immediately.

Mr N Kay noted the new era of transparency and asked for the previous design for the Magna Carta exhibition for the backroom be put on the website and asked if funding would be applied for.

Cllr Barker confirmed the Council was transparent and was aware of funding.

Mr C Oswald-Jones noted the recent difficulty of members of the public accessing the Guildhall for a meeting and confirmed they had not been locked out deliberately.

The Town Clerk confirmed a replacement door bell had been installed.