

Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council

Tuesday 14 April 2020, 7pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Louise Bareham – Town Clerk

197. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Thomas due to illness. It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the apologies of Cllr Thomas**

198. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Williams – Market Co-operative Shareholder

199. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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 Meetings dated 9th March, 30th March and 2nd April 2020**

200. Mayor's Announcement

An update was received

201. Cleve Hill Solar Park

Cllr Irwin noted the submission made by the Council in November 2019. The application had now gone to the Secretary of State for consideration and determination by the end of May. Cllr Irwin proposed, seconded by The Mayor Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to make a further submission on the project definition.**

202. Emergency Grant Applications

(Cllr William left the discussion)

Cllr Irwin thanked the Market Co-operative for sending additional information and confirming they are a not for profit group. He proposed supporting the Market's request for £3,000, as it was a unique part of Faversham, of cultural important, which provided a place of work for sole traders and brought in money to the wider town. Cllr Saunders agreed the Market was an important part of life and contributed to the town economically and socially. Providing free stalls to voluntary groups was a resource to the town.

Cllr Barker proposed an amendment to support for two weeks for a total of £1,000 and see what other actions were being taken before offering more. Cllr Irwin accepted the amendment, asking the Market to engage with the Town Council so they can better understand the costs going forward and work with them.

Cllr T Martin suggested the town would not lose the market if the group failed as it was tendered through SBC. Although it was well constituted no accounts were available since 2017 with the FSA, which he felt raised concerns. He noted other markets were still operating selling food.

Cllr Hook felt torn as he valued the market but Cllr T Martin had made valid points. Cllr B J Martin felt the Council could not give to one business without giving to all. He questioned whether there was another way to finance them, such as funding the charity stalls in advance. Cllr Knights agreed as she wanted to see all businesses supported and thought SBC should be able to offer more help.

Cllr Saunders proposed a second amendment to grant £500 only, with further funding being dependent on managing the situation, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting

AGAINST 6, FOR 3, ABSTENTION 1

The amendment failed.

The substantive motion to grant £1,000 with further contact with the Market Cooperative, was proposed by Cllr Irwin, seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put the meeting

AGAINST 2, FOR 8, ABSTENTION 0

The motion was carried.

(Cllr Williams returned to the meeting)

203. Coronavirus Update

Cllr B J Martin reported 2,000 letters had been sent to businesses regarding business rate relief funding and 1,000 had applied. The Government's policy of everyone in for rough sleepers costs are not being reimbursed and last week the MHCLG asked for an exit strategy to be prepared. Cllr B J Martin had written to local MPs asking for this to be reconsidered. Bulky waste collections will be started again soon. Public waste bins were still being emptied. Vulnerable people were being supported.

Cllr Perkin reported that the NHS volunteers delivering prescriptions was working well. Cllr Saunders had visited the local hubs at WFCC and they had a good volume of volunteers. Foodbank vouchers were available from WFCC or direct from the Foodbank.

Cllr Hook reported that all KCC meetings were on hold until the following Monday where a virtual cabinet with all Members was taking place. Everyone had been allowed to ask one question, Cllr Hook was asking about bereavement support, noting the £39m received from Government for mental health and been spent and KCC was hoping to receive a further £30m. Faith groups had been written to in order to build up links. Cllr Hook further noted that the air quality in Ospringe had improved and it was not isolated to the one road, but improvement was happening further and the benefit wider. He questioned whether air quality was being measured in the correct way.

Cllr Williams raised concerns regarding the amount of flytipping he had seen and asked whether the recycling centres could be reopened if social distancing was followed. Cllr Hook agreed to write.

The Town Clerk reported that the helpline was continuing to receive calls.

204. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Irwin noted that normal business was being hampered, particularly with community engagement. He confirmed that the Steering Group and Technical Groups had met and FTC was providing leadership as the qualifying body.

Cllr Barker acknowledged that the planning department at SBC had not engaged with the group, having to push for responses and were still awaiting confirmation of the designated area.

Cllr Hook asked if more information could be put on the website, as he couldn't find any key documents. Cllr Irwin agreed.

205. Clerk's Report

Cllr Knights proposed, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to purchase an NHS and VE75 flag**

It was proposed by the Mayor Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to organise a virtual VE75 Day commemoration**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm