

## Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Faversham Town Council

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 7.30pm

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 E Thomas	Cllr C Williams

In attendance:

Louise Bareham – Town Clerk

Adrienne Begent – Deputy Town Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence  
None
2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests  
Cllrs Reynolds, Hook, Jackson – DPI – West Faversham Community Centre  
Cllr Saunders – DNPI – West Faversham Community Centre
3. Coronavirus Emergency Grant Applications  
West Faversham Community Centre requested £500 a month for 3 months. Cllr Saunders will check with SBC what funding they are providing for the centre to act as a hub. Cllr Saunders proposed, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to request WFCC look again at what they have requested funding for and identify an activity, or items, which are not funded from elsewhere, but which tackle the emergency needs of residents**

Service by Emergency Response Volunteers SERV (Kent) requested £500 a month for 3 months. Cllr Irwin proposed supporting the application, seconded by Cllr Thomas. Cllr Saunders proposed an amendment to the motion to make a one-off payment and reconsider the following month, should they have received funds from elsewhere in the interim. Cllr Jackson seconded the amendment.

The amendment was carried by 6 votes for, 1 abstention and 5 against.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to grant £500 to SERV Kent and reconsider the application the following month**

4. Coronavirus Emergency Update  
Banners had been put up around the town and we were receiving a number of enquiries which staff were signposting to various services. Councillors recorded a vote of thanks to the staff. Cllr Hook noted that KCC's website was providing an update on services. He is able to get non-food items from Kent County Supplies.

Cllr Thomas asked that FTC's website have a link to SBC and KCC on the front page.

Parking wardens were only maintaining safe parking to ensure emergency and waste vehicles could pass and loading bays were free of parked cars. They were not checking residents' permits. Cllr Jackson thanked the waste staff.

Cllr Knights thanked the Economic Development Officer for her work on the business page on Facebook, which was working well.

5. Meeting Dates

Planning Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> April

EO Council Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> April

6. Mayor Civic Year 2020-2021

As the Annual Meeting of the Town Council and Mayor Making have been postponed and to ensure stability of the Council during the pandemic, it was agreed to confirm the Mayor Elect for the Civic Year 2020-2021.

Cllr Perkin proposed, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously **RESOLVED that Cllr Reynolds be Mayor of Faversham for the Civic Year 2020-2021**

The Mayor thanked everyone and said the previous year had been a pleasure.

7. Any Other Business

Cllr Knights noted that the Mayor had been amazing.

## Annex

Mr Macdonald

I would like to ask if you have considered putting some members of FTC staff on furloughed leave.

The reason I ask this is if some members of staff full and part time can't fulfil their roll then why should we be paying 100% of the wages (not value for public money).

Then as a town council public authority apply for the coronavirus job retention scheme.

Of course, the town council does have the option to top up salaries with the additional 20%.

Cllr T Martin referred to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme> Particularly this section:

### **If you're a public sector employee**

The government expects that the scheme will not be used by many public sector organisations, as the majority of public sector employees are continuing to provide essential public services or contribute to the response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Where employers receive public funding for staff costs, and that funding is continuing, we expect employers to use that money to continue to pay staff in the usual fashion – and correspondingly not furlough them.

This also applies to non-public sector employers who receive public funding for staff costs. Organisations who are receiving public funding specifically to provide services necessary to respond to COVID-19 are not expected to furlough staff.

In a small number of cases, for example where organisations are not primarily funded by the government and whose staff cannot be redeployed to assist with the coronavirus response, the scheme may be appropriate for some staff.

If you work for the public sector, you can get more information about how the scheme works for you from your UK Government Department, employer or, in the case of employers funded by the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or Northern Ireland Executive, through your respective administration.

Furthermore, Councillors wanted to confirm that staff are working hard from home and carrying on their jobs, with the aid of modern technology. Additionally, we have been advertising a support telephone number and have been receiving an increasing number of calls, including those from outside the Faversham area but with elderly relatives living in the town.

