

Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council

Monday 5 October 2020, 7pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Louise Bareham – Town Clerk

279. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Barker and Thomas due to illness. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Reynolds, and, on being put to the meeting, it was **RESOLVED to accept the apologies of all Councillors.**

280. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

None

281. **Previous Minutes and Matters to Report**

It was proposed by Deputy Mayor Cllr T Martin, seconded by the Mayor, Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting. **RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting dated 7 September 2020.**

282. **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor's announcements were noted.

283. **Climate and Biodiversity**

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Climate and Biodiversity Committee dated 14 September 2020**

284. **Public Spaces Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Public Spaces Committee dated 24 September 2020**

285. **Policy and Finance Committee**

It was proposed by Deputy Mayor, Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 28 September 2020**

286. **20's Plenty Committee**

It was proposed by the Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the 20's Plenty Committee dated 1 October 2020.**

287. **Faversham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

It was proposed by the Cllr Irwin, seconded by the Mayor, Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group dated 21 September 2020.**

Cllr B J Martin abstained.

288. **Town Council Meetings**

Cllr Irwin proposed the motion that "this Council (a) gives authority to the Town Clerk to post recordings of both full council and committee meetings of this council to Faversham Town Council's YouTube channel.

(b) use Zoom as the default platform for all meetings, as this is the easiest platform for members of the public to speak live. However, have Teams as a fallback platform should Zoom be unsuitable for a particular meeting.

(c) When using Zoom, permit both live and emailed public questions at full council. Also at their discretion permit committee chairs to accept public questions during virtual Zoom meetings."

Cllr Saunders proposed the amendment (b) to trial the use of Zoom and remove (c), Seconded by Cllr Irwin, 6 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions (Cllrs B J Martin and Knights)

It was proposed by Cllr Irwin, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that this Council gives authority to the Town Clerk to post recordings of both full council and committee meetings of this council to Faversham Town Council's YouTube channel and to trial the use Zoom as the default platform for all meetings, as this is the easiest platform for members of the public to speak live. However, have Teams as a fallback platform should Zoom be unsuitable for a particular meeting.**

(Cllr B J Martin abstained)

278. **Receipts and Payments**

It was proposed by Deputy Mayor Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr B J Martin **RESOLVED to accept the payments**

Concern was raised that the Town Council was using Amazon as the company was not ethical and it was agreed to bring a report to the Policy and Finance Committee on ethical purchasing.

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.

279. **Proposal for Change of Staff Role**

It was proposed by Cllr Williams seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the revised role of Visitor and Events Development Officer.***

ANNEX

Maria Newman asked

ST. NICHOLAS ALLOTMENTS

Following my public question submitted to, and considered at, your meeting of 7 September 2020, I would comment as follows:

1) Although Madam Mayor requested that a written reply be sent to me regarding "what you intend to do", I have yet to receive a response.

2) Section 106

I note the comments made by the Town Clerk regarding her *not* having pursued the Section 106 monies in the previous four months, apparently due to the planning permission having not been signed off by Swale Borough Council (SBC) for the security fence. However, I have spoken with Graham Thomas (Area Planning Officer at SBC) in this respect and, more specifically, regarding David Simmons' brokering of an agreement for early release.

Graham Thomas commented:

i) as David Simmons' had remarked "[...early release] *to allow the fencing to go ahead*", Graham understandably concluded that the money had already been paid to FTC by SBC; and

ii) any Section 106 money due to FTC is not dependent on the signing off of the fence planning application. The officers dealing with such funds do not check whether planning consent is required/has been granted.

Graham Thomas suggests that the money should be chased by you accordingly.

3) The aspired path through the middle of the allotment site

I note the Town Clerk's comments regarding the path through the centre of the site no longer being part of the development plans. However, I spoke to Neil Mantell (Director of LRM Planning and representative for Vistry/Bovis) last week who confirmed that this is still on the current plans as far as SBC are concerned (with access via a gate). It is indeed no longer the aspiration of Vistry to have access but they are still negotiating with SBC regarding the final layout of the eastern side of the development site (bordering the allotment).

ALLOTMENT SITES

Following the disbanding of the Community Services Committee (efficiently chaired by Cllr Claire Belson) please clarify which committee has responsibility for the four (soon to be five) allotment sites for the Town. I have been informed that this is Policy and

Finance, although I have yet to observe allotments being mentioned at any of their meetings.

Maria Newman noted

Dear Madam Mayor and Councillors

I write in support of the motion to use Zoom to enable appropriate verbal public participation at FTC meetings.

You will see from my earlier email (subject - the St Nicholas Allotments) that, in the knowledge of your response on the evening of 7 September, I had further comments to add to the debate. Worse still, as I have received no reply following your meeting, I was unable to discover what was discussed until the minutes were posted onto the FTC website on 1 October. Consequently, this "allotments" conversation has become somewhat protracted!

C.R.Oswald-Jones asked

With reference to later AGENDA ITEM, "...Minutes...Public Spaces Committee"

BENCHES -

Subsequent to some 12 year's debate about "Possible Locations of Benches" it was recently noted that 3No.Sites along the Westbrook might be considered; One Bench (with back) was installed to the East of the Beech Close Footbridge.

After just Two Comments (One since Withdrawn) it has been observed, as Minuted, that it had been re-orientated, now facing onto the Westbrook.

Access to it is now via a muddy patch instead of the hard surface; It is arguably too near to the stream, raising Safety Concerns; With one's back to the pathway, there are Additional Security Concerns from people approaching silently from behind.

May it be agreed that future decisions about Location and Orientation be discussed through the Committee and not arbitrarily incurred ?

Looking forward - There remain, subject to Funding, the Two Other proposed Locations - Orientation yet to be agreed.

Cllr Jackson responded after consulting on various sites it was agreed by Public Spaces Committee for a bench to be installed. Following installation a resident objected stating people sitting on it could look into their bedroom. Friends of Westbrook Stream also made comment that it was facing the wrong way, the idea

was to enjoy the view. I was told it was easy to move the bench, which we have done. Having spoken to the neighbour, he is now happy. As for safety, it is no nearer the stream and as for creeping up, it's easier to creep up from the grass. There is no mud, it is grass, no one will sit there in bad weather.

Cllr Saunders responded that at the last meeting of Public Spaces, which Mr Oswald Jones attended, it was agreed further benches would go back to the committee and in relation to another bench on Westbrook there would be consultation with Friends of Westbrook and bring it back to Public Spaces Committee.

Cllr Williams confirmed he had been working with Adam Andrews on allotments and recently carried out inspections. Both North Preston and St Nicks are under the control of the Town Council until proper committees have been formed. With regard to the S106 and planning concerns raised as of yet SBC officers have not responded. Adam has tried to secure a meeting on site, it was clear from the Planning Committee meeting it was not clear on the mitigations required. It feels like the Town Council is being ignored, it would be good to receive a response. Strange that they are happy to speak to members of the public about that and not the owners of the site. I will push this with Swale. Section 106 money had very little clarity. Adam was given delegated authority to manage the allotments and is doing a very good job and has been liaising with myself. I feel it might be worth proposing a bi-monthly report to committee, it's been mentioned Policy and Finance. I suggest Climate and Biodiversity or Public Spaces. Particularly as we have two sites being run by the Town Council it will help to oversee what is being done as clearly there are some ongoing issues. He was happy to formulate a response to Maria Newman.

Cllr B J Martin thought allotments were going to Climate and Biodiversity, but it may have been missed. Due to issues on the eastern side Bovis site, it has been difficult for Swale Planning to meet with the FTC to what mitigations should take place, until they know what that side will look like. There was a desire to have planting along the boundaries, no doubt as the allotments grow the fence can be used to grow climbers as a nature process in the allotments. Send a letter from the Mayor to both Finance Officer and Head of Planning to expedite the process.

Cllr Perkin agrees that allotments fall under Climate and Biodiversity and agrees the benches should be referred back to committee members.