

Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council

Tuesday 6th April, 7pm

Present:

Mayor of Faversham, Cllr A Reynolds	Cllr J Saunders	Cllr J Irwin
Deputy Mayor, Cllr T Martin	Cllr A Hook	Cllr K Barker
Cllr B J Martin	Cllr C Williams	Cllr H Perkin
Cllr C Jackson	Cllr Thomas	

In Attendance:

L Bareham (Town Clerk)

348. Apologies for Absence

None

349. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None

350. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Williams, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Minutes dated 1st March 2021.***

351. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor's announcements were noted.

352. Report from Kent Police

Councillors noted the report.

353. Climate and Biodiversity Committee

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 8th March***

354. Policy and Finance Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the draft Annual Action Plan for 2021-2022***

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Calendar of***

Meetings for 2021-22

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree a 14 year lease with the Faversham Society to house the Visitor Information Centre in 12 Market Place for a peppercorn rent***

The review of some policies was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Policy and Finance Committee Minutes dated 22nd March 2021***

355. Public Spaces Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Public Spaces Committee Minutes dated 25th March 2021***

356. Faversham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

It was proposed by Cllr Irwin seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Minutes dated 15th March 2021.***

357. Youth Working Group

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Youth Working Group dated 24th March 2021***

358. Heritage Working Group

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Heritage Working Group dated 31st March 2021***

359. Face to Face Meetings

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the recommendations in the Town Clerk's Report:***

- a. The Town Council resumes face-to-face meetings from Monday 17th May. The Planning Committee to meet at the Guildhall at 6pm and the Annual Meeting of the Town Council to be held in the Gatefield Hall of the Alexander Centre at 7pm.
- b. The Town Council Meeting of 7th June to take place in the Gatefield Hall.

- c. Following the relaxation of restrictions from 21st June, Town Council monthly meetings from 5th July to be held at the Assembly Rooms, where 1m social distancing can be maintained.
- d. All meetings to be recorded and made available online, with the potential to live stream through Zoom or YouTube.
- e. In order to reduce the amount of face-to-face meetings, the committee structure and terms of reference are reviewed to enable delegation to Officers or working groups (sub-committees).
- f. Standing Orders are amended accordingly.
- g. The Scheme of Delegation to be reviewed and amended accordingly.
- h. Should Committee Meetings proceed they may take place in the Guildhall, but when deciding Committee representatives the number of members should be strictly adhered to.
- i. If necessary, an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council to take place prior to 6th May to agree any amendments to Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation and Committee Structure.
- j. To be reviewed regularly as COVID-19 guidance is updated.

360. Response to Local Plan Regulation 19

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to delegate the collating of the Town Council's response to the Deputy Town Clerk with Cllr Barker's assistance.***

361. Refugee Solidarity Letter

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to support the Faversham and Villages Refugee Solidarity Group's letter to the Home Office***

362. Receipts and Payments

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the receipts and payments.***

ANNEX

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Mike Cosgrove asked does each Town Councillor consider that Faversham with 13% of Swale's population should support the proposed combined Local Plan growth of 28% that equates to some 4000 houses, 12000 people and 3000 cars?

Cllr Irwin confirmed he felt 3500 houses were too many and had been consistent in saying so and further concluded that 10,000 house for Swale was ludicrous, as is the planning system where schools, roads etc were provided by developer contributions.

Cllr Barker was disappointed that the local MP did not add her name to the joint letter on housing and felt the volume of houses would have a damaging impact. He considered the system to be unfair.

Cllr Hook agreed the number was too many, but it would be forced by the planning inspectorate or developers could get planning wherever they wanted. He felt we should be building communities rather than just housing, where everything was in walking distance.

Cllr Jackson sat on the Local Plan at Swale and was the only councillor to vote for the lesser amount of houses.

Cllr B J Martin, noted that he was not pre-determined by felt no one had adequately addressed the difference within the country on house prices. He agrees the number is too many, but statistics can be used to argue in any way. We want to be able to stay in the area and work.

Cllr T Martin also regrets the number of houses but noted the changes over the year and how the area south of the A2 has opened to housing.

Cllr Thomas agreed and condemned housing numbers.

Cllr Saunders noted proper investment in social housing would be better to tackle housing need.

Mr C Oswald-Jones noted items 6, 7, 8 and 9 were missing from the website.

Noted