

Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council

The Guildhall

Monday 6th September 2021, 7pm

Present:

Mayor of Faversham, Cllr A Reynolds	Cllr Saunders	Cllr Hook
Deputy Mayor, Cllr T Martin	Cllr Williams	Cllr Henderson
Cllr Jackson		Cllr Rowlands

In Attendance:

L Bareham (Town Clerk)

3 members of the public

440. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for lateness of attendance due to the JTB meeting were received from Cllrs Hook. Apologies, with reasons, were received from Cllrs Cavanagh, Thomas, Barker, B J Martin and Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the apologies from Cllrs Cavanagh, Thomas, Barker, B J Martin and Perkin**

441. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None

442. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Henderson, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the Minutes dated 2nd August 2021.**

443. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor's Announcements were noted.

444. Climate & Biodiversity Working Group

Cllr Williams proposed, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to co-opt SBC Officer, Grace Crouch, on to the Working Group.**

Cllr Williams noted that the community maintained spaces at South Road and Napleton Road received a Certificate of Excellence.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being

put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Climate and Biodiversity Working Group dated 12th July 2021**

445. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Cllr Irwin reported on the Summer Exhibition and open evening which most Councillors attended. Feedback had not been as much as the first exhibition. It was anticipated that SBC would be sent a draft of the plan September/October but will be circulate to the Town Council first.

Cllr Irwin proposed, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group dated 19th July 2021**

446. Public Spaces Working Group

Cllr Saunders noted the £2,000 contribution towards work on the tree planters at Queen's Hall Car Park, but hoped SBC would fund all of the works.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Public Spaces Working Group dated 22nd July 2021**

447. Heritage Working Group

Cllr T Martin proposed, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the revised quotation for the conservation repairs for the 3 town maps at £3,480.**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £1,600 to set up a website for the Faversham Charters and Magna Carta exhibition**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree to extend the proposed lease to the Faversham Society to 21 years**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Heritage Committee dated 18th August 2021.**

448. LCWIP

Cllr Saunders noted they were awaiting the results of a bid for further government funding for active travel.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the LCWIP Working Group dated 28th July 2021**

20:00 Cllr Hook joined the meeting

449. Youth Working Group

Cllr Rowlands noted that feedback from the Youth Day events had been good and they had been well attended.

Cllr Rowlands proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to co-opt Dan Corcoran to the Youth Working Group**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Youth Working Group dated 3rd August 2021**

20:05 Cllr Henderson left the meeting

450. Equality and Diversity Working Group

The meeting noted the Minutes of the Equality and Diversity Working Group dated 15th July 2021.

451. Lottery Working Group

The meeting noted the Minutes of the Lottery Working Group dated 21st July 2021.

452. Autumn Newsletter

Cllr Williams proposed, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the draft Autumn Newsletter**

453. Receipt and Payments

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree the receipts and payments**

454. Private Session

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Reynolds, and on being put to the meeting 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.

445. Staffing Sub-Committee

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the recruitment of Joseph Hannah as Property Maintenance and Facilities Apprentice.***

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the change of job title and role for Brooke Williams to Community Development Officer***

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to recruit a Youth Worker as details provided.***

ANNEX

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

When I last spoke here on the 2 August 2021 I raised issues about Sundays 1st August flooding event in the Whitstable Road and Cyprus Rd, all as documented at that time. I handed out the notes I read from but you did not publish these in the minutes?

Why??

Did I think I would be here one month later to relate to you about a further flooding incident of **even greater magnitude**, which occurred on Sunday 22nd August in Whitstable Road and Cyprus Road that nearly flood houses in Park View and Park Row and further along Whitstable Rd up to the Coop and also Cyprus Rd. This has all been documented by those Residents and I know that you as local councillors are fully aware of this incident.

You might be interested to know that Cyprus Rd highway also flooded akin to when we **last flooded in 1994** that was observed by me and fellow residents, despite the operation the Cyprus Rd flood relief scheme!!!

The two separate garage forecourt areas they lie behind Cyprus Rd houses also flooded. I also took some photo of the garage area behind my house.

The severity of this flooding incident was captured by local Residents of the Whitstable Rd and we have seen the extent of that flooding which can best be described as river forming along the Whitstable Rd!!!!

The police closed the Whitstable Rd highway I was told.

Again, as observed on the 22nd August the flood water was not just rainwater but diluted foul sewage. **First and foremost this is threat to everyone's public health as foul sewage carries Covid Virus and other harmful viruses.**

On the 22 August the whole local sewer catchment in North eastern Faversham was hydraulically locked up ie to much flow which resulted in rainwater and foul sewage mixing and being forced to the surface in the Whitstable Rd and Cyprus Rd and also the sewers from the QE School that connect with sewers in Cyprus Rd also were surcharged and spilled out of the manhole nest to the foot bridge and overflowed into the Cooksditch stream causing further pollution of this water course.

What we all observed is the direct consequence of more foul sewage flows coming into the existing combined sewer catchment in the Whitstable Rd and Cyprus Road, from the new houses to the eastern side of Love Lane – Lady Dane Park.-know as Kingsmead.

To understand this, all of eastern Faversham's Foul sewage is taken away via a Victorian/Edwardian era sewer network to the Abbeyfields pumping station, from main sewers which flows along the Whitstable Rd and then turn into Cyprus Rd. The foul sewerage flows from Lady Dane Park are pumped into the foul sewers system on the Love Lane Estate. This in turn runs under the railway line down through the Jubilee way estate in sewers that then tun into into the Whitstable road and then into Cyprus Rd sewers

Next to the Tin Church there is a combined sewer over flow (CSO). These sewers and the original CSO are at least 50 - 70 years old, if not older

This CSO is designed to pass excess combined foul sewer flows into a dedicated storm water sewer (600mm diameter that flows along Cyprus Rd to Faversham creek).

In addition, when that **600mm diameter storm water sewer runs full and is surcharged**, the surplus flow is bled off into the **Cyprus Rd flood relief scheme** which is the **Tank** sewer located in the Queen Elizabeth Grammar school, playing fields. This part of the system was installed in 1994 -1996 to prevent the western side Cyprus Road houses from flooding because their ground floors are below highway level. This has a mechanical raking screen underground to rake off sanitary items and foul waste to avoid polluting the creek with visible fould sewage items.

That is this system, how it exists now. That system did work satisfactorily until the increase in foul sewage flows referred to above now being experienced in storm conditions.

18 months ago, KCC put in what was merely a kerb gully (beaney block) on the Northern side of the Whitstable Rd between Park Rd and Cyprus Rd thereabouts that has one 300mm diameter outlet at the head of the Cooksditch stream. That was done to take highway run off when it rains.

On the 22 August 2021, the combined foul sewer system as I have referred to above was **fully surcharged in our local catchment** and so the sewers were hydraulically allowing the combined foul sewage flows to discharge to the surface out through manhole covers etc. This was mixing with the highway run off which was similarly stanching from going anywhere. This is what flooded the Whitstable Rd between Park Rd and Westgate Rd and also Cyprus Rd.

When the storm had abated and the flood water finally cleared householders witnessed the whistling sound of the combined sewers as their level dropped and pulled in air and the remaining surface water of the highways.

In fact the only **non-prescribed/unlicensed** outlet is the 300mm diameter into the head of Cooksditch which means that the Cooksditch was polluted with diluted sewage on the 22nd August 2021. I checked the stream behind my house and the flow in the stream was significant – if I had waded in it would have carried me away due to the speed of the flow!! In my view KCCS's recent works have only made the situation of the stream worse, not better.

Unfortunately, the resolution of this matter solely lies with Southern Water as the sewerage undertaker, as we know.

What I said to you on the 2 August to the Council was what was observed on the 1st August will merely repeat itself going forward because their normal combined sewage flows in the system have increased well above the limit they were designed to take from 50 years ago. The recent occupation of the houses on the new estates on the eastern side of Love Lane (Lady Dane Park) has now increased the peak sewer foul flows to a level that the system was not designed to cope with.

That statement has been borne out by the flooding of the 22 August !!!!!

The only answer – new sewers of a larger capacity or a new tank sewer under the recreation ground to store up the surplus flows. This of course lies in the hand of SWS's who are presently are doing nothing to resolve this problem

Will the Faversham Town council tell residents that given the weight of overwhelming evidence, Swale Council as a planning authority are failing to act and approving further housing

without guarantees from SWS that infrastructure upgrades will be made to their sewers. Also why are the failing to engage at all with SWS's about this matter??

Will the Council also make an emergency decision NOT TO Approve any further housing development at Lady Dane Park going forward and until the issue of this flooding is resolved once and for all.

David Taylor

Cyprus Rd resident

Cllr Henderson responded that Swale Borough Council made the decisions on planning and the Town Council would notify them of concerns with flooding and act as a conduit with Southern Water.

Cllr Williams raised concerns around the environmental issues caused at Cooksditch Stream, where the sewage flooded.

Are the Council aware of this document – information on Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) issued on the 10/2/2021. – here is copy

Are the Council aware if any public buildings including schools and hospitals in Faversham have this material used in their construction because there is risk of structural collapse of roof panels made of such materials!!! And the risk to users of such buildings!

David Taylor

Resident – 59 Cyprus Rd Faversham

Cllr T Martin noted he was aware of the document and Cllr Henderson confirmed the council would look at it.

What is the Council's view on KCC's plans to consider keeping the booking system in force at the Salters Lane Household refuse site going forward

David Taylor

Resident – 59 Cyprus Rd Faversham

Cllr Henderson did not see the need for a booking system

Cllr Jackson liked the idea and thought it was needed

Cllr Williams thought that any barrier to responsible waste removal should not be encouraged and the booking system may cause a problem. Any further barriers by KCC would see a likely increase in flytipping.