

Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council

The Alexander Centre, Faversham

Monday 7th June, 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	
Cllr C Cavanagh	Cllr J Rowlands	

In Attendance:

L Bareham (Town Clerk)

9 members of the public

381. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the apologies from Cllr Henderson due to ill health**

382. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr B J Martin, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Thomas – Non Pecuniary Item 385

383. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Barker, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the Minutes dated 17th May 2021**

384. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor's announcements were noted.

The Mayor brought Agenda Item 15 forward to the start of the meeting

385. Swale Borough Council Consultations on Town Centre Road Closures

Cllr Hook thanked the members of the public for coming. He noted that the town centre road closures were popular with some and unpopular with others and there had to be a balance, as it was not black and white; a middle ground had to be found. He felt that closing Market Place but opening Preston Street was an option. Cllr Hook encouraged everyone to

take part in Swale's information consultation.

Cllr Barker stressed that the road closures were started in good faith, but had now changed and any decisions needed to be made independently of Covid-19.

Cllr Jackson disagreed and noted that we didn't know what would happen on 21st June. She noted Preston Street had a pinch point and that there were a lot of disabled and young parents who liked the road closed. She suggested if there were any problems in accessing the online survey, people should request a paper copy.

Cllr Perkin suggested there was a difference between disabled and physically impaired people and that people were saying they can't carry out their business. She felt that was wrong, no matter how few. Cllr Perkin noted that she had requested the accessibility impact statement but was yet to receive it.

Cllr Williams had chaired meetings with businesses at the time to discuss road closures; it wasn't a perfect solution but things were fast paced at the time. He proposed solutions such as opening on non-market days or reducing the hours, but had received no response. He felt that unless SBC was willing to engage with traders, the roads should re-open on non-market days.

Cllr Irwin had reservations about the consultation, that road closures had to be separate to Covid-19 and should be re-visited at an appropriate time.

Cllr Rowlands advised that traders were not completing the consultation as they felt SBC were not listening. He felt if SBC wanted to encourage a café culture, why was the road open on a Sunday?

Cllr T Martin suggested drop down bollards to allow those with permits to enter. He could see both sides of the issues.

Cllr Barker proposed, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was ***PROPOSED that the Town Council writes to the SBC CEO, copying in the Cabinet Member, objecting to the permanent implementation of road closures and revert to the pre-Covid status, but confirming the Town Council would be happy to debate in future as a separate issue.***

Abstentions: Cllrs B J Martin, C Jackson, J Saunders

386. Kent Police Report

The report from PSCO Sarah Jones was noted. Cllr Hook would like to see the bigger picture, particularly around how many crimes are solved. It was agreed that Speedwatch needed to be done in other parts of the town.

387. Annual Governance Statement 2020-21

It was proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 acknowledging responsibility for the Accounting Statements.**

388. Accounting Statements 2020-21

It was noted that the figures for 2019/20 were re-stated due to the Year End Procedure being redone with the assistance of Rialtas. It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21**

389. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Irwin confirmed the meeting the following evening to provide an update. The group was proposing to hold summer exhibitions at the end of June and beginning of July.

Cllr Irwin proposed, seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group dated 18th May 2021**

390. Youth Working Group

Cllr Rowlands confirmed the fun days had been reduced to 2, which was more manageable, these would take place at WFCC and Faversham Rec on the 18th and 25th August respectively.

Cllr Rowlands proposed, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree to purchase Youth Council promotional merchandise for the sum of £404**

Cllr Rowlands proposed, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree to accept the Minutes of the Youth Working Group dated 24th May 2021.**

391. Public Spaces Committee

Cllr Thomas proposed, Cllr Saunders seconded and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the Terms of Reference***

Cllr Thomas proposed, Cllr Saunders seconded and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the refurbishment of the 4 town entry signs at £900***

Cllr Thomas proposed, Cllr Saunders seconded and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the Minutes of the Public Spaces Committee dated 27th May 2021***

392. Policy and Resources Committee

Cllr Barker reported the progress on the Creek Bridge and confirmed the working group had met to consider the business plan, key objectives and WIP report. He noted that the Lottery Working Group had requested £5,000 for additional marketing, but had been asked to provide a marketing plan.

Cllr Barker proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 1st June 2021***

393. Summer Newsletter

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Summer Newsletter with minor amendments***

394. Annual Report 2020-2021

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Annual Report 2020-2021***

395. Barclays Bank Faversham Branch Closure

Cllr B J Martin noted the impact of the loss of the Barclays bank branch would have on the town, both for its customers and appearance and environment. It was suggested the customers should be made aware how to switch bank accounts.

396. Planning Advisor Proposal

Cllr Irwin proposed that Faversham Town Council appointed a Planning Advisor (PA) to support councillors in considering all planning applications in excess of 10 units within the Parish Boundary. This would include but would not be limited to reviewing plans to ensure their compliance with prevailing guidance including the Swale Local Plan, the Faversham Creek

Neighbourhood Plan and any successor plans. In addition, it would be expected that the PA would identify any particular issues arising from the application that they felt would be of relevance to councillors when making their consideration. It would be anticipated that the PA would provide a short report on same. They would also be available to provide a short presentation to answer councillors' questions following receipt of report. They would not be expected to attend or participate in Planning Committee meetings.

Cllrs Saunders agreed that the Town Council needed professional help and proposed, seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the Policy & Resources Committee identifies resources***

397. Guidance on Conduct of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors for Town Council Elections, By-Elections and other Elections

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to discuss the proposal in private session***

398. Receipts and Payments

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin seconded by Cllr K Barker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the receipts and payments.***

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.***

398. Guidance on Conduct of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors for Town Council Elections, By-Elections and other Elections

It was agreed to defer the re-drafting of the guidance to the Policy & Resources Committee

ANNEX

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Oswald-Jones asked when the public would be able to view the Town Council's accounts.

The Town Clerk confirmed they would be available to view from the 14th June for 4 weeks

Mr Brown spoke against the road closures in the town centre.

The item is on the agenda at which point Councillors would comment

Three other members of the public present noted their objections to the road closures

Mrs Reeves spoke about Carer's Week and asked what the Town Council was going to do to support young carers.

Cllr Perkin noted actions she was undertaking as a Borough Council but confirmed the Town Council has limited resources but would put information on social media.

Cllr Barker read a letter on behalf of Mr Harold Goodwin in support of the closing of the town centre.

Mr Goodwin's comments were noted.