

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, 7pm

### Present:

Cllr Perkin  
Cllr Rowlands

Cllr B J Martin  
Cllr Williams

Cllr Hook

### In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

### **1. Apologies**

None.

### **2. Election of a Chair and Vice Chair**

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Perkin as Chair***

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr B J Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Rowlands as Vice Chair***

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

It was agreed to ask the Newsletter working group to look at a recorded newsletter.

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Williams, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the previous meeting dated the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2022.***

### **5. Terms of Reference**

The working group noted the terms of reference.

### **6. Project Template and Awareness Calendar**

The awareness calendar was discussed, together with the letters to new residents. The Town Clerk did not consider that this working group should fund the costs for that.

It was agreed to contact Christine Locke regarding Black History Month. Cllr Perkin will write to Swale Pride to see if they would like to co-opt a member onto this group.

24<sup>th</sup> July is was agreed to light up the Town Hall in green for Samaritans Day. Cllr B J Martin will draft a letter to schools regarding Dyslexia Awareness Week. Cllr Perkin will provide branded social media posts.

### **8. Hearing Loops**

The Town Clerk noted a quote is awaited. Portable hearing loops were also discussed.

### **9. Accessible Play**

Officers at SBC had funding for play areas and a petition had been received for wheel chair accessible swings. However, there are no accessible swings meeting the required safety standards. It was agreed to have a discussion in September, but expectations would need to be managed.

### **10. Accessibility of Toilets**

It was noted at the Jubilee proms that the radar key operated disabled toilets were locked, making none available after 6pm. It appeared there had been previous issues where the door did not close properly and they had been vandalized. It was agreed to request a better quality door closer. Cllr Perkin also mentioned a Crohn's UK sticker.

Cllr Perkin proposed, seconded by Cllr B J Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED to write to SBC to ask for options for door closers to enable the radar key operated disabled toilet to be open 24/7.***

### **11. Road Closures**

It was agreed that this subject should be taken to the Disability Forum when it goes to consultation and different disabilities and access should be taken into consideration.

### **12. Disability Forum**

There was a discussion on how the engagement levels in the disability forum can be increased and whether this could be led by different organisations, perhaps taking turns such as Faversham Umbrella and Abbey Physics. Cllr Perkin will contact the groups.

### **13. Matters for Report**

It was noted that Policy & Resources should consider a Safeguarding Policy and training for councillors and officers.

Cllrs Perkin and B J Martin also suggested that all councillors and officers, should have enhanced or basic DBS, particularly if they wished to participate in youth events.