

## FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the Community Services Committee meeting held at the Folkestone Town Council offices, The Town Hall, 1 – 2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone on Tuesday 3 October 2017 at 7pm.**

**PRESENT: Councillors Ann Berry, John Collier, Mary Lawes, Sue Wallace, Pat West and Roger West (Chairman).**

**In attendance: Vicky Deakin – Tourism and Community Events Officer**

**931. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Emily Arnold, Claire Jeffrey and Carol Sacre.

**932. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**933. MINUTES**

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 1 August 2017 and to authorise the Chairman of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting 1 August 2017 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor Ann Berry

Seconded: Councillor Sue Wallace

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

At this juncture it was

**RESOLVED: To bring Items 7 & 8 forward for consideration as members of the Guildhall Street Community Group were in attendance to hear the debate.**

Proposed: Councillor Ann Berry

Seconded: Councillor Sue Wallace

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**934. FOLKESTONE MARKET & HEALTH CHECK REPORT**

At its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the Committee was asked to consider the Market Health Check Report compiled in May 2017 by NAMBA. It was

*RESOLVED: That consideration of this Item be deferred until a meeting between Jennifer Childs (Town Clerk), Cllr Roger West (Town Mayor), Ben Sharp (Chairman – FTCM), Licensing Officer (KCC), Graham Hammond (Economic Development Officer – SDC) and Cllr John Collier (SDC Cabinet Member for the District Economy) is held to consider current proposals for the Town Centre.*

Following the resolution, a meeting took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> July and FTFCM discussed their wish to provide quality markets in the precinct area only and that they were intending to submit a planning application for 52 weeks for 104 days with 10 of which being allocated to FTFC. It was agreed that if they did not submit their application within 3 months, FTFC would apply for an extension to the existing planning permissions as outlined in the Market Health Check Report, to date a planning application has not been submitted.

The Town Clerk and Councillor John Collier have subsequently met with The Guildhall Committee, a new group of business representatives who want to regenerate Guildhall Street. The group advised they have been in discussions with SDC regarding holding markets in Guildhall Street on Thursdays & Saturdays for £10 per pitch but they would like to work with FTFC to ensure any income is used to regenerate Guildhall Street.

Members views on how to progress were sought.

Councillor John Collier briefed the committee in respect of the meeting with the Guildhall Committee and advised that FTFCM have an agreement and license with KCC to operate a market and manage the Town Centre in general although it was highlighted that we still don't have full clarification on what Kent County Council, Shepway District Council and Folkestone Town Centre Management are respectively responsible and the authority for.

Members are minded that they would like Folkestone Town Council to independently take responsibility to manage and coordinate Guildhall Street, specifically any market trading and as such

**RESOLVED: To request that Folkestone Town Council submit an application to Shepway District Council seeking permission to operate an independent market on Guildhall Street.**

Proposed: Councillor John Collier

Seconded: Councillor Sue Wallace

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

### **935. GUILDHALL STREET COMMUNITY GROUP**

The Guildhall Committee consisting of local businesses are seeking to work in partnership with FTFC, SDC and East Kent College to provide flower tubs in Guildhall Street to help improve the appearance of the area.

This initiative supports the Floral Folkestone aims of the Town Plan. The committee's views were sought.

Councillor John Collier informed members that FTFC have met with Nic Weakly from East Kent College who have agreed to coordinate the construction of wooden planters for Guildhall Street being the first of many proposed initiatives for the street.

Members also expressed a desire to have a large scale restoration of this area conducted, regularly followed up with litter picking and general cleaning.

**RESOLVED:**

**i) That £3,500 from the Local Projects be earmarked for viable and appropriate Guildhall Street projects.**

Proposed: Councillor John Collier

Seconded: Councillor Sue Wallace

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

**ii) That further to working with Giles Barnard (SDC) the Community Payback Team be employed by FTC to improve the local environment including the general clean-up of Guildhall Street.**

Proposed: Councillor John Collier

Seconded: Councillor Ann Berry

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

**936. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CS/17/219**

The committee were asked to receive and note the Museum Report and adopt the revised policies contained therein.

The Chairman asked that thanks be given to Jennifer Buchman (Museum Manager) for her informative and interesting presentation to the Working Group and a requirement was expressed for focus to remain on achieving accreditation.

**RESOLVED:**

**i) That the Town Clerk secure written confirmation from Coombs in respect of their liability for full damages caused as a direct consequence of malfunctioning of the environmental control units.**

Proposed: Councillor John Collier

Seconded: Councillor Sue Wallace

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**ii) That the Museum Report and revised policies are adopted.**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Ann Berry

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**937. TOWN PLAN REVIEW**

Following the review of the Town Plan by the Town Plan Working Group, the Town Clerk has amended and rebranded the plan as a Corporate Plan which members were asked to consider.

It was suggested that all members should review the plan and therefore it was

**RESOLVED: That another Town Plan Working Group meeting be scheduled before the amended draft is taken to Full Council and that all Town Councillors be invited to attend the next meeting or email comments to the Town Clerk.**

Proposed: Councillor Mary Lawes

Seconded: Councillor Sue Wallace

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**938. SPEEDWATCH**

Cllr Dan Brook has requested that members give consideration to the implementation of a scheme for Folkestone community groups that have been trained and authorised by Kent Police to use speed monitoring equipment to use FTC's equipment at speeding hotspots in Folkestone. FTC currently do not book out the speed watch equipment and we are not registered on the Kent Speed Watch Scheme as our equipment is insured for use by Councillors only, and under an agreement with Sandgate Parish Council who share ownership.

After some debate the committee

**RESOLVED: That Sandgate Parish Council be contacted to see if they wish others to seek permission to use the equipment.**

Proposed: Councillor Mary Lawes

Seconded: Councillor Sue Wallace

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**939. TREES**

The tree planting budget for 2017/18 is £10,000. With suggestions from the public, Councillors and Tree Wardens, the Tourism & Community Events Officer and Councillor Richard Wallace, along with the KCC Tree Officer, a draft tree planting schedule has been proposed throughout Folkestone Parks and Highways.

The committee were asked to consider the draft schedule and the release of the £10,000 budget.

**RESOLVED: That the £10,000 funds be released from the Parks, Gardens and Recs – Trees budget.**

Proposed: Councillor Pat West

Seconded: Councillor Ann Berry

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

**940. GURKHA MEMORIAL STATUE**

The Chairman of the Gurkha Memorial Statue Fund has contacted Council on behalf of the Gurkhas and the wider community and advised they would like to officially gift the statue in the Garden of Remembrance to Folkestone Town Council subject to a Memorandum of Understanding. At Full Council on 14 September 2017, Councillors discussed the need to ensure that the Nepalese community were aware that if the Town Council did take on this statue, it would be under the same terms as other statues, i.e. cleaning schedule and events etc. The issue of ongoing funding was raised and whether any funding would be passed to FTC from the original fundraising by the Gurkha Memorial Trust. After much consideration it was

*RESOLVED: To refer this to Community Services Committee for further consideration.*

The Town Clerk has made contact with the trustees who advised that:

The process of FTC taking on the statue is acceptable and as trustees they fully agree with the conditions for us to take over custody.

With regards to events, as they hold an annual Gurkha Memorial Day on the first Sunday of October, they wish to continue to handle this themselves as they also celebrate some of the work that the GMF organises and supports. Whilst it is a commemoration, it is also a celebration where they connect with the local Nepalese community to give them the opportunity to share the proceedings and to enhance education and has spearheaded the Gurkha Memorial Day, as there is no other event in the country which recognises the history, past and serving personnel and communities where we all unite.

With regards to the money raised, they regret that there is no funding available as this has been absorbed by ongoing projects.

Members views are were sought and it was

**RESOLVED: That Folkestone Town Council take responsibility for the statue but not organise any commemorations or services relating to the Gurkha Memorial .**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Sue Wallace

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**941. FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL AS LOCAL TREE CHARTER BRANCH AND PLANTING OF A LEGACY TREE**

To mark the launch of the Charter for Trees, Woods and People in November this year, 800 Tree Charter Legacy Trees will be planted across the UK, serving as living reminders of the 800 years that separated the 1217 Charter of the Forest and the new charter.

These trees will be given free of charge to Charter Branches, community groups, universities, colleges, schools and organisations that pledge to stand up the Tree Charter and embody its Principles in their activities and policies going forward.

The Tourism and Community Events Officer briefed the committee on the process, advantages and implications.

Members considered the scheme and

**RESOLVED: To become a ‘Champion’ for the scheme, sign up to the Charter and also apply for a Legacy Tree.**

Proposed: Councillor Pat West

Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**942. FORMAL CONSULTATION – THE FUTURE OF THE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICE (ILS)**

Please see the attached Consultation Document regarding the future of the Independent Living Service (ILS). Members were asked to consider if they wish to formulate a response for this consultation.

**RESOLVED: That Committee members would respond to the consultation independently.**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor John Collier

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**943. BUDGET 2018/19 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS**

At this juncture the Committee were asked to consider proposals for possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for Community Services for next year. The Finance & General Purposes Committee will consider the full list of proposals put forward by all Committees at its meeting on 7 December 2017.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the existing 2017/18 Community Services Committee budget with the following growth item proposals be considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 7 December 2017:**

**i. 2018 WWI Commemoration Event(s): £6,000**

**ii. Parks, Gardens & Recs - Flowerbeds : Additional £1,000 for Dover Hill**

- 2. That FTC wishes to support local cadets in providing an opportunity for them to take part in an annual youth/cadet event with the Youth Festival of Remembrance to receive £2,000 annual funding from the Youth Facilities Budget to facilitate this with immediate effect.**

Proposed: Cllr S Wallace

Seconded: Cllr M Lawes

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

**944. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 21 November 2017**

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**Chairman – 21 November 2017**