

Minutes of a meeting of the Sandwich Town Council Advisory Committee held on 19th March 2019, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Sandwich, at 2pm.

Present: PG Graeme (in the chair)
HJ Bragg
JE Franklin
MJ Holloway
JO Sneller

Officer: Miss L. Fidler

Cllr Friend was also in attendance.

In the absence of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor it was agreed that Cllr Graeme would Chair the meeting.

23.03.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from the Mayor Cllr Liote who was unwell, Cllr Gisbey who had a family commitment, Cllr Ms O'Donoghue who was away and Cllr Watts who had a family commitment.

24.03.19 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS
No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests or other significant interests were made.

Cllrs Bragg & Holloway arrived during the public right to speak agenda item.

25.03.19 PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK
A local resident from Potter Street spoke of the need to improve communication with local residents at Council meetings.

26.03.19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS
The Committee considered a request from a member of the public that "members of the public should be able to ask and have questions about decisions of the Council answered in the "Public Right to Speak" section of Council Meetings". This matter had been previously considered by the full Council in January and it was resolved that the Advisory Committee should consider this matter. Advise from Kent Association of Local Councils and the Council's current "Protocol for Public Participation" were included for information.

RECOMMENDATION: At the first meeting after the Town Council election in May the new Council will be asked to consider a motion that "the Town Clerk will try to obtain details of what local residents want to ask in advance of speaking before the Council, these questions will be shared with the Councillors along with relevant information so that where possible questions can be answered at the Council meeting".

27.03.19 MONKS WALL NATURE RESERVE
Councillors considered whether the Monks Wall Nature Reserve should be leased to the Gazen Salts Nature Reserve Trust. The combined Sandwich Nature Reserve trust could accommodate several Sandwich Town Council appointed trustees and would allow both reserves to move forward in a more

holistic way in conjunction with the other open spaces and parks projects in Sandwich and the district, bringing everything together. Further information about this proposal was provided by Cllr Graeme. Cllr Friend confirmed that DDC officers and members were already receptive to this idea.

RECOMMENDATION: That a meeting be arranged with representatives from DDC, Gazen Salts Nature Reserve, Sandwich Town Council and Finns to discuss this proposal.

28.03.19 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY – PARISH?TOWN COUNCIL SURVEY

Councillors received and considered completion of the Parish & Town Council Questionnaire for the Dover Green Infrastructure Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION: Cllr Franklin, Graeme and Sneller will help the Project Manager & Town Clerk complete a draft version of this questionnaire for approval by full Council.

29.03.19 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillors received and considered a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk, regarding formation of, and the functions of the Planning Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: The function of the Planning Committee should remain the same, with delegate authority to respond to planning application. However, all councillors can “call in” any planning application for consideration by full council; the Planning Committee would still consider any such application, but the final decision would rest with full Council, not the Committee.

30.03.19 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

(i) It was AGREED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

(ii) Councillors received a written report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk, regarding the Fishergate.

RECOMMENDATION: Councillors and the Council’s architect will inspect the work that has been carried out thus far by the tenant, as per the agreed Schedule of Works. The resulting report will clearly inform the tenant of what is expected prior to the end of five-year period (when rent is not paid in lieu of work being carried out).

(iii) To consider a report from Miss L Fidler, Town Clerk, regarding Boatman’s Hill Field (aka Sandwich Town Football Club).

RECOMMENDATION: Boatman’s Hill Field will be added to DDC’s Green Infrastructure Strategy and a meeting will be arranged with the owners of the field.

31.03.19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged as required.