

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR SANDWICH
WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH 2014 AT 7PM, GUILDHALL

Present: The Mayor - Councillor Bernard Butcher
Councillors John Bragg, Richard Daw, Paul Graeme, Susan Laslett,
David Wood, Mark Moorhouse, Pip Russell, Jeff Sneller, Joe
Trussler, Jeremy Watts, Paul Carter, John Scollard
PC Ian Woodland, Kent Police
Mr Ray Foster, Environment Agency
Mr Peter Richardson, Environment Agency
Mr Alan Breck, Jackson Civil Engineering
Mr Nadeem Aziz, DDC
Mr Roger Walton, DDC
PCSO Ian Norton, Kent Police
PCSO Doreen Lee, Kent Police
Mr Jon Holland, Halcrow
Councillor Nick Kenton, Dover District Council
Councillor Sue Chandler, Dover District Council
Mr David Brazier, KCC Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment
County Councillor Leyland Ridings
Approximately 100 Members of the Public

1. The Mayor welcomed all those present, thanked them for attending the meeting and informed them that a selection of relevant paperwork was available from the table at the rear of the hall.
 2. Apologies were given for the following:-
 - Mrs Ann Barnes, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner
 - Mr Paul Marshall, Environment Agency
 - Ms Sally Benge, Kent Highways
 - Mrs Laura Sandys, MP for South Thanet
 - Councillor Paul Watkins, Dover District Council
 - Mr Martin Leggatt, Dover District Council
 - Mr Paul Carter, Leader - Kent County Council
 - Mr Matthew Gould, Jackson Civil Engineering
 - Chief Constable Alan Pughsley, Kent Police
 - Town Councillors Mrs Lioté and Mrs Dunay
- No apologies were received from Mr John Simmonds, KCC Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement.
3. The Mayor presented a report on the Town Council's activities over the past year.
 4. The notes of the Annual Town Meeting, held on 20th March 2013 were read and noted.
 5. Matters arising: there were no matters arising except a query as to why notes of the question & answer session in 2013 were not attached to the minutes of that Annual Town Meeting, when the minutes said they were.

6. Un-audited accounts for the period to 31st December 2013 were circulated. A question was raised regarding the level of expenditure on CCTV and why this had doubled. It was also suggested that the Council should make the accounts available on request at the Council office for a week or so before each Annual Town Meeting (and inform the public of this facility on the notices sent out), since they represented a lot of financial information to look over in a few minutes. The Mayor agreed that this would be a good idea. It was also noted that the Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund accounts did not include the total value of the fund and that with this information it appears the Fund spends a quarter of 1% on grants to local organisations although it continues to provide toilets (this issue was covered in more depth in the question and answer session of which full notes are attached).

7. A question and answer session then took place, details of which are attached.

Following the Q&A session, Cllr Mrs Russell informed all present that the Sandwich Emergency Plan was now finished. Access to the copy giving details of those who had agreed to be involved in an emergency (e.g. providing transport in 4x4 vehicles) would be restricted for data protection purposes. KCC is currently also working on its latest emergency plan.

Cllr Carter said that there was still a lot of work to do on traffic and transport issues. He asked anyone with any concerns to meet him at the back of the hall to exchange contact details and said he was prepared to organise a group to look at traffic and transport problems around town.

PC Ian Woodland informed those present that he was no longer specifically the Police officer for Sandwich and had moved to a larger team in Dover, which would have responsibility for the whole district. As such, he would have access to more resources to support any issues cropping up in Sandwich or elsewhere. PCSOs Ian Norton and Doreen Lee would continue to carry out the day-to-day policing of Sandwich. Success stories would be forthcoming regarding drugs warrants and other Police action based on sound local knowledge and he urged people to keep their contact with the Police going.

Cllr Mrs Laslett said that the Town Team would be feeding traffic issues into the Neighbourhood Plan and asked residents with concerns to come along to a forthcoming Town Team meeting, to email her directly at suelaslett@outlook.com or contact her via the Guildhall. The Town Team is looking at how to maintain the viability of the town and also make it a safer and more pleasant place to live.

8. The Mayor thanked all those present for their input. The meeting ended at 9.00pm.