

Minutes of a Ordinary Meeting of Sandwich Town Council held Monday 21st March 2016, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Sandwich at 7:00pm.

Present: **Councillors:** **The Mayor, Cllr Graeme (in the chair)**

HJ Bragg
PI Carter
JE Franklin
JEM Gisbey
MJ Holloway
Mrs VA Lioté
MW Moorhouse
MB Trussler
JJ Watts
DMA Wood

Officer: **Miss L Fidler**

01.03.16 MAYOR'S OPENING COMMENTS

The Mayor thanked everyone who contributed to the Annual Town Meeting, which took place in conjunction with the Sandwich Neighbourhood Forum. The combination of these events worked well and feedback has been very positive.

The Mayor reported that the casual vacancy is currently advertised and the Council will know after the 29th March if an election is required or whether the Council can co-opt to the vacant position.

Lastly, the Mayor provided an update on Cllr Trim's ongoing health concerns and best wishes for a speedy recovery were received from Councillors.

02.03.16 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Daw (personal commitment), Cllr Mrs Dunay (personal commitment), Cllr Mrs O'Donoghue (holiday) and Cllr Trim (ill health). There was one absence due to a councillor vacancy and the Revd. Canon Roberts also sent apologies.

03.03.16 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

Cllrs Moorhouse declared an interest in item 08.03.16 (iii) matters relating to planning application DOV/16/00045 | Erection of a 4230sqm research, development and manufacturing building, ancillary office floorspace (Class B2), car park and servicing area | Discovery Park, Site North East, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, CT13 9ND.

04.03.16 MINUTES

The Council approved the Minutes of the Quarterly Town Council meeting held on 25th January 2016 with two minor amendments. There were no matters arising from those minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

05.03.16 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The schedule of payments, totalling £22,593.13, was received, approved and signed.

06.03.16 PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK

There were no requests to speak.

07.03.16 CRIME STATISTICS & COMMUNITY SAFETY

(i) Council received a report from Ms T. Weir, Assistant Town Clerk & Mayor's Secretary, setting out the most recent crime and anti-social behaviour statistics available via the

Police.UK website (January 2016) and comparing them against the statistics for the same month in 2015.

The Mayor also provided an update on matters relating to a local homeless person and confirmed that Kent Police are taking appropriate action; but this is a lengthy process.

RESOLUTIONS:

(i) Craig Mackinlay MP will be asked to enquire how a 3.4% increase in Council Tax can be justified when the service level for the police is decreasing.

(ii) The Clerk will expedite arranging a meeting with the PCC candidates (as resolved at a previous meeting of the Council).

08.03.16

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(i) DOV/15/01278 | Installation of cladding to first floor elevations and replacement rainwater goods and repainting of bargeboards | North Ridings, 1 Fosters Court, Dover Road, Sandwich, CT13 0QU.

RESOLUTION: That no objections be raised.

(ii) DOV/16/00044 | Erection of a guyed steel lattice mast (324m in height) with 9 anchor points, installation of telecommunications and associated equipment, site compound, secure fencing, single storey equipment structure, and associated works. | Site at former Richborough Power Station, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, CT13 9NL

RESOLUTION: That no objections be raised, however, any businesses proposing to erect communications masts should be encouraged to work together to reduce the number of masts.

(iii) DOV/16/00045 | Erection of a 4230sqm research, development and manufacturing building, ancillary office floorspace (Class B2), car park and servicing area | Discovery Park, Site North East, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, CT13 9ND.

RESOLUTION: That approval be recommended.

(iv) DOV/16/00046 | Variation of Condition 3 of planning permission DOV/01/01167 (residential development) to allow amendments to approved drawings (plots 1 -5) (application under Section 73) | Willowbank, Sandwich, CT13 9QA.

RESOLUTION: To strongly recommend refusal; the waterfront is an extremely important frontage in the town and the proposed development is bland and is not sympathetic with the conservation area.

(v) DOV/16/00083 | Erection of a single storey front extension | 20 Stone Cross Lees, Sandwich, CT13 0BZ.

RESOLUTION: That no objections be raised.

(vi) DOV/16/00092 | Erection of a detached dwelling and associated vehicular access | Land to the rear of 2 John's Green, Sandwich, CT13 0DE.

RESOLUTION: To strongly recommend refusal; there continue to be access problems from Dover Road with this proposal and there will be a negative visual impact on the surroundings.

(vii) DOV/16/00109 | Reserved matters application pursuant to outline application DOV/13/00759 for the details of the layout, scale and appearance of the converter station (23.2m high) and substation (12.06 m high), as part of the NEMO Link UK Belgium electrical interconnector. (This is a duplicate of the application submitted to Thanet District Council for which some of the development falls within the administrative boundary of Dover District Council). | Part of Former Power Station Site, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, CT13 9NL.

RESOLUTION: That no objections be raised.

(viii) DOV/16/00121 | Alterations and repairs to the South West boundary wall | 12 Harnet Street, Sandwich, CT13 9ES.

RESOLUTION: That no objections be raised.

(ix) DOV/16/00126 | Alterations and repairs to South West boundary wall | 12 Harnet Street, Sandwich, CT13 9ES.

RESOLUTION: That no objections be raised.

(x) DOV/16/00151 | Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DOV/14/01069 to allow amendments to approved drawings (application under Section 73) | Sandwich Lawn Tennis Club, Sandown Road, Sandwich, CT13 9JZ.

RESOLUTION: That approval be recommended.

(xi) Proposed National Grid (Richborough Connection Project) Development Consent Order – Notice of Acceptance of Application for a Development Consent Order by the Secretary of State (Application Reference No.: EN020017) – Section 56, Planning Act 2008; Regulation 8, Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009; Regulation 13, Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 – consideration deferred from Council meeting on 29th February 2016. A copy of the notification letter was attached to the agenda. Documents relating to the application were available on memory stick in the Town Clerk's office.

RESOLUTION: That no objections be raised.

(xii) DOV/16/00201 | Scoping Opinion under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2011 (as amended) for the erection of a 305m high communications mast | Kings End Farm, Richborough, Sandwich, CT13 9JH.

RESOLUTION: That no objections be raised, however, any businesses proposing to erect communications masts should be encouraged to work together to reduce the number of masts.

(xiii) DOV/16/00163 | Erection of a porch | Bramley Lodge, John's Green, Sandwich, CT13 0DE

RESOLUTION: That approval be recommended.

(xiv) DOV/16/00028 | Erection of a visitor centre and two workshops | Land and access at the Quay, The Quay, Sandwich, CT13 9EN

RESOLUTION: That approval be recommended, however, the following questions will be asked:

a) Where can boat owners access the river if the trailer park next to the slip-way is no longer available?

b) Will this project result in the loss of parking spaces at the Quay?

(xv) DOV/16/00205 | Erection of a two storey rear extension, alterations/replacement of existing windows and installation of a replacement front door | 3 Mulberry Field, Sandwich, CT13 9DJ

RESOLUTION: That no objections be raised.

09.03.16

PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decision was reported from Dover District Council:

(i) DOV/15/01224 | Installation of replacement garage door | Rose Cottage 38 New Street Sandwich CT13 9AB | **Granted permission.**

10.03.16

FINANCE

Councillors received the Statement of Accounts as at 29th February 2016.

RESOLUTION: That this information be noted.

11.03.16

HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

Councillors considered the Council's formal response to KCC's current consultation on the redesign of Breezy Corner. It was confirmed that Stagecoach have been consulted on the proposals.

RESOLUTION: To fully support the proposal in principle but request that Rummey Design (traffic consultants) consider the scheme prior to the Dover Joint Transport Board meeting on the 14th April.

12.03.16

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Councillors received a written report from Richard Linning regarding a Dover District Council Neighbourhood Plan Workshop which he attended on behalf of the Town Council on 7th March 2016.

RESOLUTION: The Council will defer consideration of how to take the Sandwich Neighbourhood Plan forward until a) the national Housing & Planning Bill has been

adopted (currently out for consultation) and b) DDC has updated its core strategy. Both documents will then help inform Sandwich's Neighbourhood Plan.

13.03.16

NEWSLETTER

Members considered the draft Town Council newsletter for April – June 2016, prepared by Ms T. Weir – Assistant Town Clerk & Mayor's Secretary.

RESOLUTION: The newsletter was approved for distribution and Ms Weir was congratulated on her efforts.

14.03.16

POULDERS PLAY AREA

Councillors received an email dated 4th March 2016 from Laura Corby, Principal Leisure Officer – Dover District Council, to the Town Clerk regarding Poulders Play Area, and considered firstly, whether to extend the current Service Level Agreement regarding this play area for one year in the short term and secondly, the Council's initial views regarding how to proceed in terms of future delivery of local play areas.

RESOLUTION: The Service Level Agreement between Sandwich Town Council and Dover District Council for the maintenance of Poulders Play Area and the Bulwarks Play Area was approved for a further year. And a meeting will be arranged in the summer to discuss the long-term future of Poulders Play Area.

15.03.16

DELFT STREAM

Councillors received a verbal update from the Mayor and Cllr Trussler regarding a recent meeting between Ian Nunn – Environment Agency and representatives of Sandwich Town Council. Cllr Trussler reported that the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) hopefully has funding available for dredging the Delf Stream, although not until 2017/18. The meeting was very positive and the EA and IDB were impressed that STC had already considered putting aside match-funding in the budget for future work. The EA and IDB are considering whether water from Roaring Gutter can be forwarded from the North Stream to the South Stream. The IDB is also considering whether to lift the sluices and install a weir to encourage water flow. A report from the IDB will be issued in September.

RESOLUTION: That this information be noted.

16.03.16

LEISURE FACILITIES

(i) Councillors considered a request for support from Sandwich Sports & Leisure Centre Trusts for the outline proposals to develop the following facilities on land adjacent to its existing facilities:

- a centre with a 25m six-lane swimming pool, studios and therapy rooms
- car parking and coach parking.
- an artificial turf pitch, primarily for hockey but possibly dual purpose so as also to carry league soccer

The intention would be that a letter of general support could be shared by the Trust with planning authorities, funding bodies etc. as appropriate.

RESOLUTION: A letter of general support will be written. However, the mix of housing development and leisure facilities on this site will need to be considered carefully when a full planning application is submitted.

(ii) Councillors considered whether the Council wished to submit comments to Dover District Council's informal 'early stages' consultation, *Realising our Vision for a new Leisure Centre in Dover District*.

RESOLUTION: The Council expressed concern regarding the cost of the current plans as outlined and it would be keen to receive more information about the financing of these proposals (option 4 as outlined in the Feasibility & Options Appraisal Study for Dover Leisure Centre). The Council was also concerned about the potential impact of the proposals on the viability of plans for developments at Sandwich Sports & Leisure Centre.

- 17.03.16 WALKING HERITAGE PROJECT**
Councillors received and considered an email chain (latest dated 7th March 2016) between Sonia Frost and Ms T. Weir – Assistant Town Clerk & Mayor’s Secretary, regarding a Walking Heritage Project; and considered whether to write a letter of general support from the Council for the project. The intention would be that a letter of general support could be shared by Sonia Frost with funding bodies etc. as appropriate.
RESOLUTION: A letter of support for the Walking Heritage Project will be written.
- 18.03.16 CORRESPONDENCE**
(i) Councillors received and considered a letter dated 3rd March 2016 from Vicky Vickers, Area Director: Kent Area – HSBC, to the Town Clerk regarding the closure of the HSBC branch in Sandwich on 27th May 2016.
RESOLUTION: That this information be noted.
(ii) Members received and considered a letter from Colin Buckle regarding Sandwich Army Cadets and the Drill Hall.
RESOLUTION: Craig Mackinlay MP will be asked to expedite a response from the South East Reserve Forces’ and Cadets’ Association about the future of the Drill Hall.
- 19.03.16 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO SANDWICH**
Cllr Carter reported that DDC continues to press for work at 57 New Street to take place.
Cllr Holloway reported that the path across Gallows Field will be improved.
Cllr Butcher reported that
- Dover District Council has been selected as one of 73 local authorities in England, and the only one in East Kent, to take part in a pilot Government scheme to develop a register of brownfield development sites. The Council secured £10,000 from the Brownfield Register Pilots Fund. The funding is being used to create a register of brownfield sites throughout the district with potential for housing and employment use. This will include a call to landowners for new brownfield sites, and assisting the Government with preparing criteria for assessing the suitability of brownfield sites. The Brownfield Site Register will be completed in July and published and promoted on both the Dover District Council and Invest in Dover websites.
- DDC fully supports any plans for Manston Airport to re-open, as such if the communication pylons (agenda items 18.03.16 (ii) and (xii)) are in any way adverse to the flight-path for Manston they will not be approved. Cllr Butcher also reported that he is very concerned about the safety of the proposed pylons with regard public health; he has raised this query with DDC and the developers.
- Plans for the Open Parks Project are underway and assistance for Gazen Salts Nature Reserve could be forthcoming.
- 20.03.16 REPORT FROM MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO SANDWICH**
A report from Craig Mackinley MP was not available.
- 21.03.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Monday 25th April 2016, at 7pm, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall (**Ordinary Meeting**).