

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Sandwich Town Council held Monday 29th January 2018, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Sandwich at 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors: The Mayor, Cllr Graeme (in the chair)
HJ Bragg
PI Carter
RA Daw
Ms C Felton
JE Franklin
D Friend
JEM Gisbey
MJ Holloway
Ms V Liote
MW Moorhouse
Ms L O'Donoghue
JO Sneller
JJ Watts
DMA Wood

Officer: A Hollobon-Baxter

34.01.18 APOLOGIES
 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Dunay, Holloway and Moorhouse.

35.01.18 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS
 Cllr Wood requested that minutes for December 2017 be amended to show that Cllr Wood's request to ask a question was denied.
 Cllr Watts stated an interest in planning application 17/01520 and item 26 (iii)
 Cllr Liote stated an interest in planning application 17/01540

36.01.18 MINUTES
 (i) To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 18th December 2017 and to consider any matters arising from those minutes not covered elsewhere on this agenda.
RESOLUTION: Subject to the amendment above from Cllr Wood, The Minutes were approved and signed.

37.01.18 MONKS WALL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE
 To approve the draft Minutes of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve Committee held on 17th January 2018 and to consider the recommendations therein.
 Finns to meet with The Environment Agency asap regarding MWNR claim and that the pen stock and sluice be installed as soon as possible pending the complete outcome of this claim.
 Committee agreed to terminate UK Power Networks agreement. Mark Chandler to facilitate.
 Flail and chemical treat again at the end of September 2018.
 Adopt, finalise and circulate the Management Plan.
 The Warden to list exactly what needs doing together with quotations and make enquiries regarding signage for the next meeting.

The Warden to supply Acting Town Clerk with a copy of Sheila Coop, EKHR's, document.
Mark Chandler to obtain quotations for hedge cutting on the embankment of A256.
Cllr Daw to locate contact for the Footpath Society for The Warden to contact and discuss.
Mark Chandler to chase EA Claim.
Committee agreed to pay Finns Annual Management Fee.
RESOLUTION: The Minutes were approved and signed.

38.01.18

TOURISM COMMITTEE

To approve the draft Minutes of the Tourism Committee held on 17th January 2018 and to consider the recommendations therein.

Mrs M Outen to be added to Tourism Committee.

TIC to open Friday 23rd March 2018.

Mrs K Palmer to address printing paper qualities for tourism leaflets and renegotiate with SPC printers, if no success, use Big Red Branding.

Following printing questions raised above Mrs K Palmer to produce another draft of both leaflets for circulation and approval of Committee.

Mrs K Palmer to look at town trail update/reprint costs and advise Committee accordingly via email.

Mrs K Palmer was asked to advise where £2450 had come from and revert with budget.

Mrs K Palmer to advise why £500 Chamber of Commerce was missing from 18/19 budget forecast.

Mayors Secretary to acquire more information relating to Gluten free enquiry and circulate.
Cllr Holloway to pursue introduction of Sunday parking charges and advise.

Mr Laslett to supply extra information gained from this year's Great for Groups event due to barcoding entry and tour and coach operator contact details and to report upon the measured added value from this event.

Acting Town Clerk and Museum and Heritage Manager look into brown signage and Ms Mungall to look at alternative signage.

Cllr O'Donoghue to bring Waterfront Town Trail Boards back on track.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were approved and signed.

39.01.18

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The schedule of payments, totalling £122,725.78 was received, approved and signed.

40.01.18

PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK

Mr N Gray and Professor C Ungerson both spoke one after the other in relation to the Boatyard Action Group – see attached

Mrs S Doyle spoke regarding the plans for Sandwich in Bloom and fund raising being paramount.

41.01.18

POLICE CRIME STATISTICS & COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Council received and considered a report setting out the most recent crime and anti-social behaviour statistics available via the Police.UK website (November 2017).

RESOLUTION: That this information be noted.

42.01.18

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (application plans and papers may be viewed via the Dover District Council website – use of a computer in the Town Clerk's office is possible by arrangement)

(i) 17/01529 | 2no. replacement entrance doors; alterations 2no. ground floor west elevation entrance windows; blocking of an existing and the formation of a new internal

door opening; alteration of existing staircase; extension of existing garage and widening of boundary wall vehicular access with the insertion of new timber gates. (re-advertisement) | Wheelwrights, 82 Strand Street, Sandwich, CT13 9HX

RESOLUTION: To raise no objections subject to suitable joinery information.

(ii) 17/01478 | Erection of 2.4 metre high fencing and gate to replace existing boundary treatment | Harps Meadow, The Butts, Sandwich, CT13 9BA

RESOLUTION: To raise no objections subject to palisade metal painted green.

(iii) 17/01520 | Replacement of the front basement windows and the rebuilding of the chimney. | Bartlemas & Little Bartlemas, 7 Dover Road, Sandwich, CT13 0BH

RESOLUTION: To raise no objections.

(iv) 18/00016 | Erection of a flat roof two storey rear extension | 19 Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich, CT13 0AA

RESOLUTION: To raise no objections.

(v) 17/01528 | Erection of a rear extension to existing garage, widening of vehicular access and installation of new timber gates (part demolition of boundary wall) | Wheelwrights, 82 Strand Street, Sandwich, CT13 9HX

RESOLUTION: To raise no objections subject to suitable joinery information.

(vi) 17/01540 | Erection of single storey rear extension (existing extension to be demolished) | The Apple Tree, 41 High Street, Sandwich, CT13 9EG

RESOLUTION: To raise no objections.

(vii) 17/01541 | Demolition of existing and erection of new single storey rear extension. Reduction of kitchen floor. Conversion of existing cellar. Minor external alterations. | The Apple Tree, 41 High Street, Sandwich, CT13 9EG

RESOLUTION: To raise no objections.

43.01.18

PLANNING DECISIONS

To receive a verbal report on planning decisions from Dover District Council.

17/0136301363 | Erection of a two storey holiday annexe extension | Ash Road Nursery, Ash Road, Sandwich, CT13 9JB - Decision 12/01/2018 - Granted Permission

17/01321 | Erection of an attached dwelling | Site at Land adjacent to 18 Hazelwood Meadow, Sandwich, CT13 0AP - Decision 12/01/2018 - Refused Permission

17/01081 | Alterations and widening of existing access road, formation of a new footway, erection of walls, fencing and gates | Land and Access Road, Sandwich Leisure Park, Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich, CT13 0AA - Decision 11/01/2018 - Granted Permission

17/01426 | Demolition of part wall, blocking up of existing gateway and erection of new wrought iron gate | St Oswalds, New Street, Sandwich, CT13 9BD - Decision 19/01/2018 - Granted Permission

17/01390 | Replace existing windows and door with upvc | 22 Aynsley Court, Strand Street, Sandwich, CT13 9DU - Decision 16/01/2018 - Granted Permission

17/01425 | Demolition of part wall, removal of existing gate, erection of low flint wall and the installation of iron gate and side panel | St Oswalds, New Street, Sandwich, CT13 9BD - Decision 19/01/2018 - Granted Permission

17/01413 | Alterations to existing door and window openings on front and side elevations and roof alterations | Hermitage House, Loop Street, Sandwich CT13 9HE - Decision 23/01/2018 - Granted Permission

17/01472 | Part change of use to residential | 5 Potter Street, Sandwich, CT13 9DR - Decision 26/01/2018 - Granted Permission

44.01.18

FINANCE

Members received The Sandwich Town Council Statement of Accounts as at 31st December 2017.

RESOLUTION: Noted

- 45.01.18** **GAZEN SALTS NATURE RESERVE**
To consider Cllr Friend as a replacement member STC Councillor representative for Gazen Salts Nature Reserve.
RESOLUTION: Agreed.
- 46.01.18** **SANDWICH UNITED CHARITY**
To consider and discuss nominations for a trustee to be appointed by STC. The Mayor nominated Ted Cross which was proposed by Cllr Friend and seconded by Cllr Franklin.
RESOLUTION: Agreed.
- 47.01.18** **OPEN 2020**
The Mayor verbally updated Councillors; Visit Kent are very active and working on making this event successful with DDC and R & A. Committees are currently being set up in June with four sub-committees and STC will be represented on all four sub committees. There are currently four train station platform extension options with a decision being finalised at the end of February. KCC are currently clearing the area in preparation.
RESOLUTION: Noted
- 48.01.18** **DELF STREAM WORKING GROUP**
Update was circulated with agenda. Work, circa £2500, has been commission (particularly as no other companies can be found to carry out this work) and will be carried out early April 2018. The study could be of interest to town and perhaps an article within the East Kent Mercury. The Environmental Agency are consulting on demaining as far back as Bettshanger and Eastry. To receive and consider a report and recommendations from this working group from Cllr Bragg.
RESOLUTION: Proposal by Cllr Bragg is to bring work forward into this financial year. Seconded by Cllr Franklin. Agreed.
- 49.01.18** **SANDWICH ON AND OFF-STREET PARKING CHARGES**
Cllr Carter advised of parking charges imposed by DDC for Sundays within Sandwich and its effect on the town. Sandwich cannot be compared to Deal and Dover and should be considered in line with villages. Gazen Salts car park would remain free of charge as a gesture of good will. DDC Scrutiny Committee meeting on 31st January 2018 to ratify or not.
RESOLUTION: Cllr Carter proposed that he writes to DDC to ascertain reasoning behind charging for parking on Sundays. Cllr Bragg seconded. Agreed.
- 50.01.18** **A NEW VISION FOR SANDWICH**
To receive and consider report from Mrs M Outen, Museum and Heritage Manager to obtain approval from Council to move the existing tree within the Guildhall Forecourt. After much discussion between Councillors it was suggested that this decision be deferred to February Council meeting to also include consideration from the consultation taking place on 1st February 2018.
RESOLUTION: Cllr Friend proposed that the decision be deferred to February Council meeting to also include consideration from the consultation taking place on 1st February 2018. Cllr Sneller seconded. Agreed.
- 51.01.18** **SANDWICH IN BLOOM**

To review decision regarding match funding. Again Councillors discussed this at length and agreed that match funding would remain on the basis that if Sandwich In Bloom raised £1,000, STC would match this immediately, subject to grant application and criteria being met and approved, up to the value of £5,000.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Bragg proposed that match funding continue as stated above. Cllr Friend seconded. Cllr Wood voted against and Cllr Carter did not vote. Agreed.

52.01.18 SANDWICH REFUGEE EVENT PROPOSAL

To receive and consider a request from Cllr Wood regarding holding an event within Sandwich relating to the refugee crisis. Cllr Wood has meet with Milbank refugees and is awaiting their application to be hopefully approved. The film is booked for 21st March 2018. Cllr Wood is looking for help, assistance and support in principle. Cllr Carter and O'Donoghue welcomed this idea and offered their support.

RESOLUTION: Noted.

53.01.18 BOATYARD AND FISHERGATE

The Mayor gave a verbal update advising that talks between DDC and Mr Hill had taken place with the outcome unknown at present. Following tonight's verbal information STC will make a statement within 21 working days. Cllr Wood asked STC for independent review of Fishergate Lease. Cllr Wood also felt that STC should state truthfully and apologise for lack of information and not doing due diligence. Other Councillors felt there was nothing to apologise for. Discussions continued and it was felt that STC should wait to issue a statement until all information had been received and the facts were known.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Bragg proposed that STC wait until all facts are known before issuing statement. Cllr Daw seconded. Cllr Wood did not vote. Agreed.

54.01.18 REVISED BUDGET

The Mayor advised that although the budget had been approved at the last Council meeting it had come to light that there had been a formula error and could Councillors approve this new budget.

RESOLUTION: The Mayor proposed that the updated STC budget be approved for 2018/19. Cllr Friend seconded. Agreed.

55.01.18 UPDATES FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS REGARDING OUTSIDE BODIES ON WHICH THEY REPRESENT SANDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr O'Donoghue advised that CAB were experiencing staffing issues and ere launching a project to upgrade IT for banks of pc's in Dover and Deal. CAB estimate that people are losing out on benefits amounting to circa £300,00. CAB require £9,000 and have only obtained £950.00.

Cllr Holloway advised that he was portfolio holder for Communities in DDC and was meeting with CAB very soon.

Cllr Gisbey attended a meeting a St Marys Church with the CCT. A sound limit had been installed. Programme of entertainment under Ms S Matthews had been very successful. The centre can now offer itself as an excellent venue once.

56.01.18 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO SANDWICH

DDC Parking charges for Sundays is going back to DDC Cabinet in February 2018. Cllr's Carter and/or Holloway to report back to Council.

57.01.18 REPORT FROM MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO SANDWICH

Nothing to report.

58.01.18 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

(i) It is recommended 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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.

Proposed by Cllr Friend, Seconded by Cllr Franklin. Agreed.

(ii) To receive, consider and note HR report from Acting Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION: Noted with best wishes to Phil.

(iii) To receive and consider update report from Museum and Heritage Manager relating to Council meeting on 8th January 2018.

Discussion ensued and Councillors agreed to continue with Hayley Sharpe Design proposal and to amend the bid to £926,620.00 below the 1 million HLF threshold.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Friend proposed HLF bid as above and Cllr Carter seconded. Agreed.

(iv) To receive and consider letter from the Solicitors regarding the Drill Hall.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed by Councillors to postpone this consideration until a business plan, credit check and supporting documents had been received from The Stour Lounge.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Bragg proposed postponement awaiting business plan. Cllr Carter seconded. Agreed.

59.01.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 26th February 2018, at 7pm, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall (**Quarterly Meeting**).

TALK TO SANDWICH TOWN COUNCIL BY NICHOLAS GRAY AT THE COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2018

My name is Nicholas Gray and I live in Strand Street.

At the end of September this Council admitted that a lease of the Fishergate had been granted not to the Historic Boatyard Trust, who members of this Council had approved and which the Council's public records state as being the tenant, but to a private company owned and controlled by Mr Bob Hill. This was the same company to whom Dover District Council was then in the process of giving a lease of the Boatyard.

Since then the Sandwich Boatyard Action Group, on whose behalf I am speaking tonight, has been trying to get from this Council a copy of the Fishergate lease. In November Professor Ungerson asked the Mayor for a copy. He replied that this was in the public domain and it could be inspected at the Guildhall. This invitation was withdrawn 48 hours later by the Town Clerk who said it is not possible to view it.

Councillor Wood then tried to get a copy but he was only allowed to inspect it on his own without Professor Ungerson or anyone else present. Naturally he refused to accept such conditions.

Professor Ungerson then lodged a Freedom of Information request. This was

Also, minutes of the Council's meetings held in March and June 2015 refer to a lease between the Council and the Trust dated 5 March 2015. This lease to Hill's company is dated 18 January 2016. What happened to the earlier lease granted to the Trust?

In the light of all this, the Action Group demands :-

1. That this Council issues a public statement admitting it made a mistake in granting this lease to Mr Hill's company, combined with a public apology on similar terms to that made by Dover Council;
2. That this Council sets up an independent inquiry into the affair similar to that set up by Dover Council; and
3. That this Council takes immediate steps to recover possession of the Fishergate from Mr Hill's company.

All in all the residents of Sandwich deserve better than this from their Council. Thank you

NCG

29-01-18

Presentation to Sandwich Town Council, STC meeting, January 29, 2018

My name is Professor Clare Ungerson. I am Acting Chair of the Sandwich Boatyard Action Group.

I welcome the fact that later in this meeting the Mayor will address the council on the question of the Boatyard and Fishergate.

Before he does so I would like to make three points regarding the way in which this Town Council has so far handled the issue.

First, the question of my viewing the Fishergate lease has been badly mishandled. I was told, very late on Friday 25 November, by the Mayor that I could view the lease because it was in the public domain, but then told the following Monday morning that I could not see it after all. It was later suggested, after we were told that our Freedom of Information request to see the lease was refused, that we send in specific questions, which we did. We did not receive an acknowledgement, let alone answers.

Second, it is part of the published protocol drawn up by this Council on the public right to speak at STC meetings that the Town Clerk 'Will include in the minutes a record of the public participation session and the actions agreed therein.' The convention has been, until recently, that presentations are appended as attachments to the minutes and appear on the website.

The first person to make a public presentation to STC on the issue of the Boatyard was Mr Jeffrey Loffman, at the August 21st meeting of the Town Council. His presentation was attached to the draft minutes and appeared on the website. Indeed Nicholas Gray printed off a personal copy of Mr Loffman's presentation. At some point, however, not only did Mr Loffman's presentation disappear - *the entire minutes of the August 21st meeting disappeared*. It is as though that meeting never happened - except that it appears in the diary of meetings for the year 2017. Moreover, the minutes of subsequent meetings where members of the Sandwich Boatyard Action Group made presentations (September 27th and October 30th) do not include their presentations.

Third, the people of Sandwich are angry enough about this issue of the Boatyard and the way in which it has dragged on for two years with this Council appearing to do nothing about it and/or arguing that it is nothing to do with them. But, as is often the case, the process of what can only be called a cover up has simply made the whole situation worse. Disappearing minutes, inadequate explanations of responses to Freedom of Information requests, claims to have taken legal advice when it seems clear that that can't have happened - I am afraid all this contributes to a general belief that this Council, at the very least, lacks transparency and at worst is secretive and defensive and does not act in the interests of the people of Sandwich. The Nolan principles of public life, to which you, as elected representatives, are subject - particularly the principles of Accountability and Openness - are at very serious risk.

Professor Clare Ungerson
Sandwich

January 29, 2018