

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held at the Town Council offices, The Town Hall, 1 – 2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone on Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Paul Bingham, Peter Gane, Michelle Keutenius, Belinda Walker and Roger West (Chair).

Councillor Jonathan Graham was absent.

In attendance: Vicky Deakin – Communities & Events Officer

MYFOLKESTONE UPDATE PRESENTATION

MyFolkestone provided a presentation to the Committee in respect of this new platform, how it has developed since launching and their proposed projects for 2020.

1098. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Ann Berry.

1099. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1100. MINUTES

The Committee were asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 19th November 2019 and to authorise the Chairman of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting 19th November 2019 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Belinda Walker

Seconded: Cllr Michelle Keutenius

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

1102. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AND FESTIVITIES

Further to the Christmas Lights Switch On Safety Advisory Group Debrief Meeting on 19th December 2019 the Communities & Events Officer updated the committee in respect of the existing Christmas lighting schemes and the 'Big Switch On' event held on Friday 22nd November 2019.

Further to Members considerations and suggestions regarding the provision and delivery of Christmas events / festivities for 2020 including any extension to the existing Christmas lighting schemes it was

RESOLVED: That the Communities & Events Officer will follow up on suggestions, research costs and viability with a full report to be brought to the next meeting on 7th April 2020.

Proposed: Cllr Peter Gane

Seconded: Cllr Paul Bingham

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

1103. TOURISM

The Communities and Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of the overall performance of the Visit Folkestone & Hythe website, its continued development and scheduled enhancements in partnership with the Folkestone & Hythe Tourism Board and Visit Kent. Members asked that a full presentation of the website be given at a Committee meeting once the new navigation has been deployed by Visit Kent.

RESOLVED: That FTC apply for funding from the District Future High Street Fund to promote, market and focus on the High Street in Folkestone.

Proposed: Cllr Peter Gane
Seconded: Cllr Belinda Walker
Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

1104. CRICKET COACHING

Since 2010 the Community Services Committee has agreed to fund free Kwik Cricket Coaching for all the primary schools in the Town. The coaching has been hugely successful with most schools taking part with an average of 20 children per session. The Committee were asked if it wished to release the £2,100 earmarked in the Youth Facilities Budget for the cricket coaching to continue in 2020/21.

RESOLVED: That £2,100 be released from the 2019/20 Youth Facilities budget to support cricket coaching.

Proposed: Cllr Paul Bingham
Seconded: Cllr Michelle Keutenius
Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

1105. ARMED FORCES DAY

Folkestone Town Councils community fun day in support of the national Armed Forces Day has been scheduled for Sunday 28th June 2020. The 2020/21 budget for this significant event is £22,800 subject to there being an air display element. The Communities and Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of confirmed / potential sponsorship and funding applications that have been made to support this event.

RESOLVED: That the Communities and Events Officer continues to plan for and organise the event on the scale and using the template / format of 2019 with this to be reviewed at the next Community Services Committee meeting on 7th April 2020.

Proposed: Cllr Peter Gane
Seconded: Cllr Michelle Keutenius
Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

1106. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CS/20/263

The Committee was asked to receive and note Report CS/20/263.

RESOLVED: To receive and note report CS/20/263.

Proposed: Cllr Peter Gane

Seconded: Cllr Paul Bingham

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

1107. FOLKESTONE CCTV REPORT CS/20/264

After the committee's consideration it was

RESOLVED: To receive, note and accept the recommendations of the report.

Proposed: Cllr Abena Akuffo - Kelly

Seconded: Cllr Belinda Walker

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

1108. LITTER BINS

The Communities & Events Officer provided an update in respect of costs to replace and/or restore litter bins. Members were asked for details of any damaged blue and gold bins in their Wards.

RESOLVED: That £4,000 be released from the 2019/20 Litter/Salt Bins, Bollards & Railings budget to repaint / renovate / restore litter bins as required and apportioned equally across all Wards within the funds available.

Proposed: Cllr Paul Bingham

Seconded: Cllr Michelle Keutenius

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

1109. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM FULL COUNCIL

It was resolved as follows at Minute 1641 by Full Council on the 14th November 2019.

SMALL PARKS

There was discussion around the amount of money the District Council would transfer along with the parks, and whether this would be a dowry payment or if it would only be to cover the repairs that are needed immediately to the parks. It was felt that it was to complete any immediate repairs and not for ongoing maintenance. There was also discussion around how secure it would be once the Town Council had taken on the parks and spent money on them, if the District Council decided they wanted them back or to sell the land for housing. This detail would be in the leases which had yet to be agreed.

Councillor Dylan Jeffrey felt that the Town Council should be asking for a minimum payment from the District Council to take on these parks of around quarter of a million pounds over the 30-year lease period. It was also felt that it would be useful for Councillors to see a copy of the lease agreement before agreeing to take the parks on.

RESOLVED: To defer this item and request that it be taken back to the Community Services Committee to look at the proposal in more detail.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

It was felt that representatives from the Community Services Committee should carry out an inspection of the parks.

Further to Members considerations and a review of Report C/19/258 it was

RESOLVED: To defer this item and request that it be taken back to Full Council on the basis of establishing a Small Parks Working Group (Councillors Belinda Walker, Paul Bingham, Michelle Keutenius, Peter Gane and Abena Akuffo Kelly) who will undertake site visits of each small park further to which an update report of findings will be presented to Members.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

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

1110. FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL - TREE CHARTER BRANCH UPDATE

The Communities and Events Officer informed the committee that Folkestone Town Council is now an official Tree Charter Branch and provided an update in respect of the implications and responsibilities of being a Charter Champion, National Tree Week and Tree Charter Day. Members were asked to consider potential projects to help build the movement and create a legacy for the Tree Charter in our Community which will be led by the Environment Working Group and specifically, Councillor Richard Wallace (Tree Champion) further to feedback and suggestions.

1111. FAIRTRADE TOWN STATUS

Four of the five goals have been achieved and we are currently working towards Goal 4: *'Attract media coverage and popular support for the campaign'* and as such, have started the application process to be formally awarded Fairtrade Town Status by the Fairtrade Foundation.

Members views were sought in respect of how Folkestone Town Council can participate in and support Fairtrade Fortnight (24th February – 8th March) whilst attracting media attention and so facilitating achievement of 'Goal 4' and it was subsequently agreed that the Communities & Events Officer would investigate local events to participate in where possible.

It was suggested that a Steering Group meeting be arranged for as soon as is practical with details to be sent to all Councillors inviting their participation.

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting pending further research by the Communities & Events Officer, meeting of the Steering Group and identification of potential viable associated projects.

Proposed: Cllr Peter Gane
Seconded: Cllr Belinda Walker
Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

1112. FOLKESTONE PRIDE

i) Folkestone Town Council received a request from a volunteer Events Coordinator for Folkestone Pride to fly the Pride Flag from the Town Hall ahead of the Pride Event scheduled for 18th July 2020.

Further to the Committees resolution after consideration of Report CS/14/167 (attached) at its meeting on 14.10.2014:

'That Folkestone Town Council continues to display all flags as listed in the report and at all other times only the Union flag and/or the Folkestone Flag will be flown.'

ii) It has also been requested that we consider a coloured lighting scheme to illuminate the Town Hall facade. There is currently no budget for this and given the Town Hall is a listed building, Folkestone Town Council would not receive planning permission for this installation.

Members views were sought and after much debate it was

RESOLVED:

- i) That only flags as listed in Report CS/14/167 are displayed.**
- ii) That an Item be brought to the next meeting to identify and consider potential ways Folkestone Town Council can support Folkestone Pride pending further research by the Communities & Events Officer and Members .**

Proposed: Cllr Peter Gane
Seconded: Cllr Belinda Walker
Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

1113. COUNCIL WEBSITE

Folkestone Town Council is one of a number of parishes in Kent that has a free parish website developed by Kent County Council. Since 2005, Cantium have been providing the Web Hosting and Support Service at a rate of £150 per annum to all Parish Councils as a wholly owned subsidiary of KCC.

As of August 31st 2020, Parish Council websites will no longer be provided in their current form by Cantium as they are replacing their service as all websites need to be upgraded to meet the new regulations of The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018, which states that by 23rd September 2020, websites for all public sector bodies must be inclusive and accessible for all. These legal changes build on existing obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and the duty to make reasonable adjustments for the disabled.

Cantium have provided an offer to all existing parish website users based on a 3 year agreement which includes upgrading the sites to meet the regulations and hosting from September subject to acceptance by 31st January. The Town Clerk is currently getting comparison quotes from other providers of parish websites that are able to meet the new regulations provided by KALC and SLCC and will ensure the Council's website meets the new requirements within the statutory timeframe.

Noted

1114. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7th April 2020

.....Chairman

7 April 2020