

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2020

Councillors Present: M. Carter, J. Crawford, Mrs. J. Curteis (Vice-Chair), M. Hickmott, J. Nelson (Chair), R. Parkin and R. Quinton, Mrs. K. Walder (Substitute)

Officers Present: Mr. P. Burgess (Town Clerk), Mrs. C. Gilbert (Deputy Town Clerk) and Mrs. L. Owers (Administrative Assistant)

Others Present: Cllrs. Mrs. S. Ferguson, Dr. L. Lovelidge (Deputy Mayor), V. Cole, C. Knowles, Mrs. P. Smith and P. Clokie (ABC North Ward Member) and four members of the public.

598 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. K. Mulholland and Non-member Cllr. A. Sugden. Cllr. Miss. A. Gardner was absent.

599 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr. Mrs. Curteis declared an interest in Agenda Item 7(b) – Donations Sub-committee. Cllr. Hickmott declared an interest in Agenda item 10 – K&ESR Festive Food Stocks During Covid.

600 **MINUTES.**

The minutes and reports of the meeting held on 9th November 2020 were agreed and would be signed at the earliest opportunity.

601 **MATTERS ARISING.**

None.

602 **REPRESENTATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

Ashford Borough Councillor P. Clokie reported that it would be helpful to know when discussing the precept requests the comparisons with this year's request and last year's expenditure and to note the differences.

603 **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.**

Cllr. Carter enquired whether there was any progress in appointing a Project Manager for the Recreation Ground Project. The Town Clerk reported that there has been no progress as yet, as the submission of the planning application had been delayed.

604 **SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS.**

- (a) High Street Regeneration Sub-committee. The report from the meeting held on 12th November 2020 was **NOTED**.

Cllrs. Mrs. Walder, Crawford and Carter suggested that Kent County Council's views are sought on the proposed concept drawings for Tenterden High Street, requesting that they also provide the Town Council with a list of other consultees or interested parties.

The Committee received and reviewed the recommendations of the High Street Regeneration Sub-committee and the following decisions were made.

- (i) It was **RESOLVED** that the Sub-committee would seek Kent County Council's views on the proposed concept drawings for Tenterden High Street, requesting that they provide us with a list of other consultees or interested parties.
 - (ii) The proposal for the Town Council to write to St. Mildred's Church seeking permission to reinstate the footpath that runs through Coombe Lane Cemetery was **DEFERRED** until the freehold becomes available since permission had already been refused by the Church.
 - (iii) It was **RESOLVED** to take forward the one-way system entering via Highbury Lane and exiting via Bridewell Lane in conjunction with the installation of an ANPR car parking system in Bridewell Lane car park.
- (b) Donations Sub-committee. The minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held on 9th December 2020 were **NOTED**. It was **RESOLVED** to award the donation of £500.00 to St. Michaels Village Community Group towards the maintenance and installation of the Christmas Tree at The Point and Christmas decorations at Ox Green on condition that the current recognition signage is changed to include the Town Council's support.
- (c) Kiln Field & Wildlife Venues Sub-committee. The report from the inquorate meeting held on 26th November 2020 was **NOTED**.

The Committee received and reviewed the recommendations of the Kiln Field & Wildlife Venue Sub-committee and the following decisions were made.

- (i) It was **RESOLVED** to purchase 16 Alder trees - 8 to replace the trees which were removed by Frankie Woodgate whilst clearing the woodland at Kiln Field and 8 to plant at St. Michael's Recreation Ground at a cost of £35.95 on the proviso that we check with the Woodland Trust as to the type of environmentally friendly and biodegradable protection we should use for these trees.
- (ii) It was **RESOLVED** to purchase 2 trail cameras to enable the recording of any animal activity in the woodland/pond area at a cost of £81.32. Cllr. Mrs. Walder requested that any findings

should be shared on the Council website. Cllr. Knowles agreed that trail cameras would help to promote the wildlife in the area. The findings would act as an environmental health check to provide us with information as to whether the wildlife in the area is evolving or declining.

- (iii) It was **RESOLVED** to purchase 3 bat boxes at a cost of £110.98
 - (iv) Due to an issue with the instability of the bank, the pond dipping platform had to be rotated 90 degrees and an extension would be required which would make the platform bigger and better. Cllr. Knowles enquired as to whether these monies are reclaimable from the Section 106 monies. The Town Clerk reported that they were. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £1,492.83 for the recycled materials for the extension of the pond dipping platform.
 - (v) It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £1,260.00 from Holwood Ground Maintenance for the installation of the extension of the pond dipping platform.
- (d) Climate Change Sub-committee. The Reports from the meetings held on the 10th September 2020 and 12th November 2020 were **NOTED**.

Cllr. Mrs. Walder reported that the membership of the Sub-committee was made up of councillors and members of the public. The Sub-committee are working to achievable goals and are very keen to be an active committee.

Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson enquired whether Ashford Borough Council's climate control covered Tenterden. Cllr. Mrs. Walder reported that the Climate Control Committee meet less frequently, however, the plan is to work with them. Cllr. Clokie reported that ABC's climate control initiative is Borough wide.

Cllr. Carter commented on Item 10 – Electric Vehicle Charge suggesting that the sub-committee should write to UK Power Networks to enquire as to how many power points their network would be able take. Cllr. Carter was concerned that the system could be overloaded.

605 **PRECEPT BUDGET FOR THE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE.**

Cllr. Clokie queried the difference in the precept amount between this year and last year for the External Committee. The Town Clerk reported that this is a reduction on last year's amount. The overall intention was that if the individual precept budgets were accepted, the precept would be the same as last year and there would be no overall increase.

It was **AGREED** to request a precept of £90,659 for the External Committee.

606 **AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION.**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the request from Kent Police to install Automatic

Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) in Tenterden.

607 **K&ESR FESTIVE FOOD STOCKS DURING COVID.**

Cllr. Quinton extended the Council's thanks to the Deputy Town Clerk for organising the purchase of the surplus festive food stock from Kent & East Sussex Railway for donation to the Family Food Bank, The Old School House Larder and The Big Wrap. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the agreed expenditure of £1,100.00.

608 **CORRESPONDENCE.**

(a) A request from a resident for the Town Mayor to deliver a message of support to clubs, societies, associations, etc. in Tenterden congratulating them on the innovative ways many of them had found of keeping their organisations alive and active during the pandemic was **NOTED** by the Town Mayor.

(b) Poppy Appeal 2020. A letter of thanks received from the Royal British Legion was **NOTED**.

609 **MINOR MATTERS.**

None.

610 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIR.**

None.

The meeting opened at 7.02 pm and closed at 7.56 pm

The foregoing Minutes and Report were confirmed and signed at the External Committee Meeting held on Monday, 11 January 2021.

Chairman _____ (Monday, 11 January 2021)