

Folkestone Town Council

MINUTES of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Folkestone Town Council held virtually on Thursday, 12th November 2020 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Ann Berry, Paul Bingham, Peter Gane, Michelle Keutenius, Jonathan Graham, David Horton, Ray Field, Dylan Jeffrey, Mary Lawes, Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Tim Prater, Belinda Walker, Richard Wallace and Roger West.

In attendance: Jennifer Childs (Town Clerk) and Georgina Wilson (Executive Assistant).

Prayers were led by Rev Bob Weldon.

Presentation - Ewan Green, FHDC Place Plan

1739. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were approved for Councillor Nicola Keen - ill health

1740. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Belinda Walker and David Horton declared a personal interest in Plastic Free Folkestone.

Councillors Peter Gane declared a personal interest in the Civic Vehicle as an employee of a car dealership.

Councillors Dylan Jeffrey declared a personal interest in Councillor Michelle Keutenius' motion on homelessness as he is involved in getting grants to feed the homeless via the Winter Shelter.

1741. MINUTES

Council was asked to receive the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 10th September 2020 and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 10th September 2020 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Ann Berry

Voting: F:16, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1742. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions were received.

1743. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor advised that during the first few months into her term as office a lot of events had been cancelled due to the pandemic, however she had managed to participate in:

- The opening of the Leas Lift Café

- Flt Lt B 'Tubby' Hyde's Funeral
- Black History Month Launch on Zoom
- A meeting with the new 1RGR Commanding Officer
- The Friends of St Eanswythe opening of Revd Railton Exhibition at the Museum
- A meeting with the Ambassador of Nepal on his farewell tour
- Laying wreaths at the various memorials around the Town for Remembrance Day.

The Town Mayor gave thanks to all the contractors, staff and Councillors who worked to ensure that all these significant events went ahead in these challenging times.

1744. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES

i. Planning Committee – 2020/21

Council noted that it was resolved that Councillor David Horton be appointed Chairman and Councillor Jonathan Graham be appointed Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

ii. Community Services Committee – 2020/21

Council noted that it was resolved that Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly be appointed Chairman and Councillor Paul Bingham be appointed Vice Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

iii. Finance and General Purposes Committee – 2020/21

Council noted that it was resolved that Councillor Nicola Keen be appointed Chairman and Councillor Jackie Meade be appointed Vice Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

Council discussed the resolution regarding the civic vehicle from the F&GP meeting on the 22nd October 2020 minute 1364.

RESOLVED: That the options be considered by Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater
 Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane
 Voting: F:10 Ag:0, Ab:6

iv. Grants Committee - 2020/21

Council noted that it was resolved that Councillor Roger West be appointed Chairman and Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly be appointed Vice Chairman of the Grants Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

v. Personnel Sub-Committee - 2020/21

Council noted that it was resolved that Councillor Nicola Keen be appointed Chairman and Councillor Mary Lawes be appointed Vice Chairman of the Personnel Sub-Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

1745. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillors noted that the Terms of Reference for all Committees remain unchanged.

1746. NOTICE OF MOTION

- a) Councillor David Horton moved his motion and advised that this was similar to what Folkestone & Hythe District Council do and that abolishing the Grants Committee would free up Officer time for an Environment Committee in the future.

RESOLVED: That Council abolish the Grants Committee following the expenditure of the 20/21 budget.

From 2021/22 all grants will be awarded via a Councillor Community Grant Scheme with a budget of £34,200 divided equally between the town councillors i.e. £1,900 each.

Applicants may make a maximum of two applications during the financial year but the total award to any applicant via any combination of grants or funding must not exceed £2,500 and the Councillor Community Grant budget must be spent within the financial year and not rolled over.

As, Folkestone Town Council is governed by s.101 of the Local Government Act 1972, which states that if the Council does not exercise a function itself it can only be delegated to a Committee, a Sub-Committee, or Officer as individual Councillors have no statutory authority to make a decision, all applications via the Councillor Community Grant Scheme will be processed and approved by the Town Clerk.

Councillor Mary Lawes requested a recorded vote.

Proposed: Councillor David Horton
Seconded: Councillor Connor McConville
Voting: F:9 Ag:8, Ab:0

Abena Akuffo-Kelly	For
Ann Berry	Against
Paul Bingham	For
Michelle Keutenius	For + Casting Vote
Ray Field	Against
Peter Gane	Against
Jonathan Graham	For

David Horton	For
Dylan Jeffrey	Against
Mary Lawes	Against
Connor McConville	For
Jackie Meade	For
Tim Prater	Against
Belinda Walker	For
Richard Wallace	Against
Roger West	Against

19.30pm Councillor Ray Field left the meeting at this juncture.

- b) Councillor David Horton moved his motion and the Town Clerk asked for clarification as to whether Plastic Free Folkestone was a Town Council led initiative or being led by the community. Councillors advised that it was being led by the community.

RESOLVED: That Council meets the Local Governance Objective, requirement No. 5 to achieve 'Plastic Free Folkestone' status by pledging to:

- **lead by example and remove single-use plastic items from its premises and operations.**
- **encourage plastic-free initiatives in the area, promoting the campaign and supporting events.**
- **Appoint Councillor Belinda Walker and the Town Clerk as representatives of the council to sit on the Plastic Free Community Steering Group.**

Councillor Mary Lawes requested a recorded vote.

Proposed: Councillor David Horton
 Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
 Voting: F:15 Ag:0, Ab:0

Abena Akuffo-Kelly	For
Ann Berry	For
Paul Bingham	For
Michelle Keutenius	For
Peter Gane	For
Jonathan Graham	For
David Horton	For
Dylan Jeffrey	For
Mary Lawes	For
Connor McConville	For
Jackie Meade	For
Tim Prater	For
Belinda Walker	For
Richard Wallace	For
Roger West	For

- c) Councillor David Horton moved his motion and following much debate around changing the wording from ‘duly appointed’ to ‘the Councillor can name a substitute;’ whether substitutes had to be a town councillor and if the substitute had to be a member of the nominees own party. The following amendment was moved.

Councillor Mary Lawes requested a recorded vote.

RESOLVED: That the wording of the motion be amended from ‘duly appointed’ to ‘the Councillor can name a substitute’

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater
Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane
Voting: F:15 Ag:0, Ab:0

Abena Akuffo-Kelly	For
Ann Berry	For
Paul Bingham	For
Michelle Keutenius	For
Peter Gane	For
Jonathan Graham	For
David Horton	For
Dylan Jeffrey	For
Mary Lawes	For
Connor McConville	For
Jackie Meade	For
Tim Prater	For
Belinda Walker	For
Richard Wallace	For
Roger West	For

RESOLVED: That the terms of office of substitute members to a committee whose role is to replace the ordinary members if they are unable to attend in line with Standing Order 4 are; that the Councillor can name a substitute and the substitute member shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at the meeting provided that:-

- no member shall act as a substitute for more than one member at any meeting;
- the Town Clerk is notified of the name of the original member and the name of the members nominated substitute 7 clear days before the meeting;
- the substitution shall be reported formally at the meeting and recorded in the Minutes;
- the attendance of the substitute member shall apply for the whole of the meeting in question.

Proposed: Councillor David Horton
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:15 Ag:0, Ab:0

- d) Councillor Michelle Keutenius moved her motion proposing an amendment around changing the wording of 'prioritise grant funding' to 'supports'.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- **works proactively with local agencies, charities and community groups supporting those facing homelessness,**
- **supports organisations working with those facing and living with homelessness,**
- **provides useful links for those wishing to access support in order to prevent homelessness by utilising channels on our website and social media communications.**

Councillor Mary Lawes requested a recorded vote.

Proposed: Councillor Michelle Keutenius

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Graham

Voting: F:14 Ag:0, Ab:1

Abena Akuffo-Kelly	For
Ann Berry	For
Paul Bingham	For
Michelle Keutenius	For
Peter Gane	For
Jonathan Graham	For
David Horton	For
Dylan Jeffrey	For
Mary Lawes	Abstain
Connor McConville	For
Jackie Meade	For
Tim Prater	For
Belinda Walker	For
Richard Wallace	For
Roger West	For

- e) Councillor Michelle Keutenius moved her motion.

RESOLVED: That Council notes that it has a non-statutory obligation of responsibility in line with its community cohesion to both welcome those seeking safety in our town and to engage our community as a whole in a humane and positive manner, in line with the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and commits to:

- **expressing our friendship to those seeking refuge as we have done over many generations,**
- **supporting community cohesion,**
- **working in partnership with other community organisations, agencies and authorities to ensure appropriate measures of support for our community as a whole,**
- **providing useful links and information to help understand the legal position and formal processes relating to Asylum by**

utilising channels on our website and social media communications.

Councillor Belinda Walker temporarily left the meeting at this juncture.

Councillor Michelle Keutenius requested a recorded vote.

Proposed: Councillor Michelle Keutenius

Seconded: Councillor Akuffo-Kelly

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

Abena Akuffo-Kelly	For
Ann Berry	For
Paul Bingham	For
Michelle Keutenius	For
Peter Gane	For
Jonathan Graham	For
David Horton	For
Dylan Jeffrey	For
Mary Lawes	Abstain
Connor McConville	For
Jackie Meade	For
Tim Prater	For
Belinda Walker	For
Richard Wallace	For
Roger West	For

f) Councillor Richard Wallace moved his motion.

RESOLVED: That the Community Services Committee set up a small working group to revisit the heritage boards that didn't get completed in the first phase of the Historical Town Trail and to create a new board consequent upon the current redevelopment of the former Royal Victoria Hospital.

Notable omissions in the first trail included the terrible Tontine Street air raid. Notable subjects for a new heritage board to cover would include stories of the hospital, and the life of Walter Tull, the mixed race footballer and war hero, who was born and lived just east of the hospital and is little commemorated in the town.

A sum of £6,000 is to be included in next year's budget to cover the erection of one board and to make sure that all heritage posters are made easily available online and as posters for schools, with some extra material to help Folkestone schools study local history.

Proposed: Councillor Richard Wallace

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

Voting: F:15 Ag:0, Ab:0

20.34pm Councillor Mary Lawes left the meeting at this juncture.

1747. FREE HALF TERM PACKED LUNCHES

At very short notice the Mayor supported by members ward grants offered free packed lunches for Folkestone children over the October half term holiday to ensure no child went hungry due to a change of circumstances caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

RESOLVED: That the Community Services Committee address ongoing concerns and consider use of the surplus funding for Christmas support.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane
Voting: F:14 Ag:0, Ab:0

1748. TOWN CLERKS UPDATE

The Town Clerk updated members in relation to the Covid National Lockdown, progress on the Small Parks leases and the White Cliffs Community Rail Partnership. It was agreed that Councillor Jackie Meade would join the partnership.

1749. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

14th January 2021 6.30pm (precept)

The meeting ended at 21.00 pm

.....Town Mayor

..... Date