

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LYDD TOWN COUNCIL

Held virtually by Zoom on Monday 18th January 2021 at 7pm

Present: Deputy Mayor, Cllr M. Sweeney (Chairman), and Councillors D. Chapman, I. Dimmock, Mrs Ann Duncan, Mrs K Gandy, C. Goddard, Mrs S. Hall, A. Hills, Mrs J. Jones, R.S. Jones, L. Laws, Mrs D. McKenna, Town Mayor G. Snell, Mrs J. Wainwright.

Town Clerk, Angela Alexander
Administrative Officer, Mrs D Cavey

13 members of the public

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman, Cllr Sweeney, thanked councillors for joining the meeting in these difficult times and asked all councillors to look at and respond to their emails regularly. He said he was planning to host questions from the public to the Deputy Mayor session via zoom which would not be a council meeting but he hoped to approach the right people for answers to the questions written in to him.

At this point Cllr Mrs Jones asked if the Mayor had relinquished his seat. Cllr Sweeney said that the Mayor had given authority to the Deputy Mayor including chairing Council meetings.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Snell said that for many months he had experienced problems with using IT and felt it right that the Deputy Mayor took responsibility as he was hoping to become Mayor in May and that he felt he was doing a good job.

Cllr Mrs Jones said that the Mayor should stand down officially.

The Town Mayor agreed that he would speak to the Town Clerk and send a letter of explanation to all Councillors.

The Chairman continued as follows:

Good evening and welcome to the meeting of Lydd Town Council. Please note that this meeting is open to members of the public to view via zoom. Please could all councillors ensure their microphone is set to mute unless they are speaking. It is important to remember that you may only speak when called by the Chairman. Also ensure any other devices nearby are switched off.

Councillors should use the 'raise hand button' when they wish to speak. When it is your turn to speak, I will call your name and invite you to speak. Once you have spoken I will 'flatten' your hand. All votes will be taken by roll call, where the name of each councillor is read out and they must respond with either For, Against or Abstain. I will only accept amendment to motions via the chat function so that it is clear to everyone what is being proposed.

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received at the time of the meeting.

9. MINUTES

a) **RESOLVED: The minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th December 2020 were approved and signed as a true record.**

Proposed by Cllr Goddard and seconded by Cllr Chapman

For: 11

Abstentions: 2 (Cllrs Mrs Hall and Mrs Wainwright)

The Town Mayor, Cllr Snell, had IT difficulties and did not vote

- b) **RESOLVED: To receive the approved minutes of the Planning Committee held on 2nd December 2020.**
Proposed by Cllr R.S. Jones and seconded by Cllr Snell
For: 5 (Cllrs Mrs Duncan, Mrs Gandy, R.S. Jones, G. Snell and M. Sweeney)
Abstentions: 9
To receive the approved minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14th December 2020
For: 4 (Cllrs Mrs Duncan, Mrs Gandy, R.S. Jones and G. Snell)
Abstentions: 10

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Goddard on any items concerning Folkestone and Hythe District Council and from Cllr Hills on any items concerning Kent County Council and Folkestone and Hythe District Council.

FINANCIAL MATTERS (Appendix A pages 11 to 12)

- a) **RESOLVED: To receive and ratify payments and receipts for the current financial period.**

Proposed by Cllr Snell and seconded by Cllr R.S. Jones.

Cllr Dimmock queried a mileage claim for Lydd in Lights and asked what it was for. The Chairman explained this was a reimbursement for a member of staff carrying out the administration for the competition. Cllr Dimmock went on to say that tier 3 had been entered and he did not class this as work.

For: 12

Against: 1 (Cllr Dimmock)

Abstention: 1 (Cllr Laws)

- b) **RESOLVED: To receive and note the bank reconciliation and bank statements.**
Unanimous

11. BUDGET (Appendix B page 13)

Following consideration of the draft budget and accepted proposals at the Council meeting held on 7th December 2020 the final amended budget had been delivered to councillors on 6th January 2021.

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the final budget for the financial year 2021-22.

12. PRECEPT SETTING

- a) **RESOLVED: To note the provisional tax base for 2021/22 for Lydd which is 2126.19. Formal FHD Council approval for the tax bases is scheduled for 24 February 2021**

- b) The Chairman asked for Councillors to put forward any questions they may have in relation to setting the precept following consideration of the briefing note circulated to them. Cllr Snell queried £20,000 for the Banks Sports and Social Club and the Chairman explained that this was for recreational projects in Lydd. Cllr Hills said that he was happy to keep the reserves solid and set the precept at £137,534. The Chairman said that there were also versions 1,2 and 3 set out which would take some money from reserves and help the residents at this time as the precept could be reduced by using reserves. He asked that Councillors look carefully at the alternatives in their paperwork. Cllr Chapman said that he had looked at the figures and felt that version 2 in the paperwork provided was the best option. It would mean going into reserves slightly but would reduce the cost this year for our households which is important because of everything that had gone on over the last 12 months. Cllr Snell said he supported Cllr Chapman in this and would also go for version 2. Cllr Hills said that he was also happy to back Cllr Chapman on his thoughts as this is a difficult time for residents.

RESOLVED: That the precept be set at £125,000

Unanimous

13. ALLOTMENTS (Appendix C page 14)

Cllr Sweeney declared an interest in this item as he is a plot holder at the Lydd Allotments.

A request from the Allotments Association Management Team for funding of £2,000 for thatch tiles for the wildlife garden was considered. There were 2 options presented, one being natural reed which would last for 6-10 years for the sum of £1,481.40 + delivery or a combination product which would last for 12-16 years at the cost of £1,741.40 + delivery. Cllr Mrs Duncan said that the second option was financially better value as it was not much more money for a longer life product.

RESOLVED: To award the Allotment Association Management Team the sum of £2,000 to replace the thatch tiles at the Wildlife Garden.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Duncan and seconded by Cllr Mrs McKenna

For: 10

Abstentions: 4 (Cllrs Dimmock, Hills, Laws and Sweeney)

The Town Clerk requested that a thank you be noted to the AAMT for their assistance in collecting the plot rent payments during the closure of the Guild Hall for the pandemic and said this had been very effective as they had collected rents at the Allotments at the weekends and it was the speediest the allotment payments had come in and was an efficient method of collecting payments.

14. REQUEST TO USE THE RYPE

A request from Marsh Vintage Amusements to use the Rype over the Easter period and October half term (Covid restrictions permitting) was put to Councillors for consideration. They plan to offer a one day and evening for NHS and key workers free of charge use of the fair during the Easter visit.

Easter dates

28th March - 21st April

trading 2nd April - 18th April

October half term dates

19th October - 3rd November

trading 23rd October - 31st October

Cllr Dimmock said he was concerned about which part of the Rype would be used.

Cllr Sweeney said that the last time they visited they were adjoining the school and not near the football pitches and a suitable spot would be identified for them to set up.

Cllr Dimmock said that he had heard of complaints last time from parents as they were outside the school. Cllr Mrs Gandy stressed it should only be key workers who benefit from free of charge use.

Cllr Mrs Jones said that she has supported Marsh Vintage Amusements before and hoped they were able to go ahead as it would provide some much-needed fun.

Cllr Snell said he has looked after these people over the last 2 years when they have visited and that they are very good.

RESOLVED: To grant approval for Marsh Vintage Amusements to use the Rype over the Easter and half term dates as requested, Covid restrictions permitting and in accordance with Government guidelines at the time.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Jean Jones and seconded by Cllr Snell

Unanimous

15. LYDD MARATHON

Nice Work has submitted a request to hold the Lydd Half Marathon and 20-mile race Covid restrictions permitting. The event was planned for March 7th but following the latest lockdown the event will potentially be unable to go ahead if the lockdown is extended or if Kent remains in Tier 4 after the review and should this happen Nice Work will postpone the event to a date in August and run alongside their 10k race.

The Chairman referred to the pack of risk assessments which had been supplied and that Nice Work were looking at holding the event in August. Cllr Bob Jones said he would like to propose that this be accepted. Cllr Chapman said that he would have reservations of an event like this being held in March as it would mean mixing a large number of people and it would be foolhardy to hold this when we may only just be coming out of the pandemic. Cllr Chapman proposed that August would be much better for the event to go ahead. Cllr Mrs Gandy said that she agreed with Cllr Chapman. Cllr Hills said he felt that Cllr Chapman had a valid point and it is important that we support the event but things must be right and August would be better assuming all is safe by August. Cllr Dimmock said he supported Cllr Chapman. Cllr Chapman proposed that Lydd Town Council supports the Marathon on the understanding that it is held in August not March as long as Covid restrictions allow it to go ahead.

Cllr Dimmock seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: To support Nice Work in holding the Lydd Half Marathon and 20 Mile race in Lydd in August on the understanding that Covid restrictions and Government guidance at the time allows.

**Proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Dimmock
Unanimous.**

16. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Folkestone and Hythe District Council would like to invite representatives of Lydd Parish Council to a workshop to help develop the district's new green infrastructure strategy. It will run from 2pm to 4pm on Monday 15 February.

Councillors wishing their names be put forward to attend were as follows: Cllr Mrs Duncan, Mrs Gandy, Mrs Hall, Mrs Jones and Mrs McKenna

Cllr Hills said that he was intending to go as a District Councillor.

RESOLVED: That the following Councillors names be put forward to attend the workshop:

Cllrs Mrs Duncan, Mrs Gandy, Mrs Hall, Mrs Jones and Mrs McKenna.

17. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HILLS (Appendix D pages 15 to 16)

A written report from Kent County Councillor Hills had been circulated to Councillors.

The Chairman invited questions from Councillors for Cllr Hills.

Cllr Dimmock asked for an update on the Airport being used for vaccinations.

Cllr Hills said the CCG were starting this on Wednesday and invites from 4 practices would be going out. The Community Warden would be there on Wednesday to assist.

Cllr Sweeney said that the Community Hub may need volunteers to help and asked those with appropriate skills to contact them directly.

RESOLVED: Report received and noted.

18. REPORT FROM CLLR MARTIN SWEENEY (Appendix E page 17)

Cllr Martin Sweeney said that he hoped that all Councillors appreciated that the Internal Auditors report means that the Council should reform the Personnel Committee. He said that he had met with the Internal Auditor via zoom and he had advised that the Committee should be made up of 3 to 6 Councillors with experience in employment. Further to the Skills sets forms completed by councillors and based on the information received from Councillors Cllr Sweeney said that he had put this into categories. He urged those that had not completed their forms to do so and stressed it is not a test. He said it is hoped to start the personnel committee now in accordance with the Internal Audit report and in May we will form the General Purposes Committee and for now the existing Planning Committee would continue as it is until May but could be reviewed then if necessary.

Cllr Dimmock said that he had problems with this as no one was asked who wanted to be on Committees.

Cllr Sweeney responded that Councillors were asked to put their preferences and skills on the skills form and that is where the information was taken from. Cllr Dimmock said he had come off Planning due to the meeting being held in the day but now it was changed to the evening. Cllr Sweeney said that Cllr Dimmock could request to be put forward for the Planning Committee in May and that the timing of the Planning Committee had only been changed for one meeting so far as a trial.

Cllr Mrs Jones said that previously the Personnel Committee had always been made up of the most senior councillors and that it should always be so.

Cllr Snell said he agreed with Cllr Mrs Jones as it has always been senior councillors on that Committee and needed to know who had put their names forward.

Cllr Sweeney advised that all Councillors had the paperwork with the names of those Councillors who had put themselves forward to be considered for the Committees.

Cllr Mrs McKenna said that in replying to Cllr Mrs Jones did that mean if you are not a senior councillor that you would not get on any Committees? Cllr McKenna said she felt this was the right way to do things as it means that people with interests and skills can be involved where they wish to be.

Cllr Hills said he applauded Cllr Sweeney and felt he was doing the right thing but didn't put in his form as he is already over committed.

It was discussed that the Personnel Committee should be formed immediately and the other Committees could wait until May 2021.

Cllr Snell said that he needed to know which councillors put their names forward.

Cllr Sweeney explained it was written down for Councillors in their paperwork but if they didn't fill their form in, they had been allocated a place somewhere.

Cllr Mrs Jones said she was only talking about the Personnel Committee as this is about the staff and important to get right. Cllr Dimmock asked who selected the names of Councillors. Cllr Sweeney said that Councillors put themselves forward for what they wanted to be involved with when they completed their forms.

Cllr Dimmock proposed that the proposal for choosing the Committees in this way is not accepted. Cllr Mrs Jones seconded the proposal.

Cllr Chapman said he admired Cllr Sweeney for the hard work he had done and that all Councillors had the opportunity to put down where they wanted to be on their form and proposed that the Personnel Committee be set up right away to stick to the law and that in May, we should be able to sit round the table to revisit the which Committees Councillors wish to be on. Cllr Snell said that Cllr Chapman was right in what he was saying and believed that Cllr Sweeney has done a lot of work on this.

The Chairman put the proposal made by Cllr Dimmock and seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones to not accept choosing the Committee membership in this way to the vote.

Voting on the proposals as follows:

For: 3 (Cllrs Dimmock, Mrs Jones, Laws)

Against :9 (Cllrs Chapman, Mrs Duncan, Mrs Gandy, Goddard, Hall, Mrs McKenna, Snell, Sweeney, Wainwright)

Abstention: Cllrs Hills, R.S. Jones.

The vote was lost.

The Chairman put the substantive motion to the vote.

RESOLVED: Appointment to Committees as follows:

Personnel – Cllrs Chapman, Mrs Duncan, Goddard, Rye, Sweeney (with immediate effect)

General Purposes- Cllr Mrs Duncan, Dimmock, Mrs Gandy, Mrs Hall, R.S. Jones, Mrs Jones, Laws, Mrs McKenna, Rye, Wainwright. (from May 2021)

Planning – Cllrs Allen, Chapman, Mrs Duncan, Mrs Gandy, R.S. Jones, Mrs Jones, Rye, Snell (remains as is until review in May 2021)

For: 9 (Cllrs Chapman, Mrs Duncan, Mrs Gandy, Goddard, Mrs Hall, Mrs McKenna, Snell, Sweeney, Mrs Wainwright)

Against: 3 (Cllrs Dimmock, Mrs Jones, Laws)

Abstention: 2 (Cllrs Hills, R.S. Jones)

Cllr Snell said he wished to thank Angela Alexander and Diane Cavey for all the hard work that they do and said that he wished this to be recorded in the minutes.

The meeting closed at 8.19 pm

Chairman _____

Date _____