

AT A STATUTORY MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at the Guildhall, Market Place, Faversham on Monday, 6th July 2009

Present: The Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs A J Walker and Councillors T Gates, Mrs C Davis, M S Gates, J N Coulter, D H S Simmons, J R Winlow, D G Wade, L G R Hobbard-Mitchell, N A Kay, M R Baldock and Mrs J E Hawkins.

At the commencement of the meeting the Mayor’s Chaplain, the Reverend Canon A C Oehring, opened the meeting with prayers.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk informed Members that Councillors B Mulhern and N A Kay would be late in attending the meeting.

Cllr N A Kay arrived at 7.30pm.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Faversham Town Council Meetings held on 8th June and 29th June 2009 were approved by Members and signed by the Mayor as correct records. The Town Clerk drew Members’ attention to a typing error in the Planning Schedule of 8th June 2009 pointing out that Application SW/09/0258 Nortide House, Stone Street, Faversham, under the Reasons for refusal No.3, the last line should read “unacceptably clumsy appearance” and not “acceptably”. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had notified Swale Borough Council of this error.

3. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported to the Meeting that he had experienced a quieter month during June than he had during the month of May and had been pleased to attend a first family wedding for many years. His Mayoral engagements had included attending the Swimming Club Championships at the Faversham Pools, the Queen Elizabeth School Art Exhibition held at the Guildhall and the Broadstairs Sea Sunday.

Meetings that the Mayor had attended had included the Faversham Local Engagement Forum, a Quality Parish Council Meeting, when it is hoped that an application will be ready to be submitted early in September, a meeting of the Alexander Centre Working Party and a Faversham Enterprise Partnership meeting.

The Mayor expressed his enjoyment of the celebration of the Royal British Legion (Faversham Branch) 85th Anniversary held in Faversham on 14th June, which had been supported by the Green Hackle Pipe Band, who had not only led the parade but had also given an impressive musical display in the Alexander Centre during the reception.

In recognition of the Statutory Meeting, the Mayor invited Members to join him for a drink in the Mayor’s Parlour at the conclusion of the Meeting.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was:

RESOLVED that recommendations be sent to Swale Borough Council as set out in Planning Schedule 06.07.09.

5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1. Kent County Council Environment, Highways and Waste Directorate: Statement of Community Involvement Scoping Consultation

Members considered the questionnaire that had been sent in respect of this consultation and agreed that they fully supported all the comments made therein and would wish to be further consulted during other periods of consultation on the contents thereof in respect of Community Involvement, Minerals and Waste Development Framework and planning applications.

2. Speed Limit Review – Area One

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox, and on being put to the Meeting:

RESOLVED that the following observations be sent to Kent Highways in respect of the Speed Limit Review – Area One:-

a) Site 1 - A251

Members support the proposals made in respect of this site and in particular, the reduction to an urban 30mph maximum speed limit.

b) Site 9

Members support the proposed reduction of the current speed limit from 60mph to 50mph at this location.

c) Sites 10 & 11

Members fully support the proposals in respect of these two sites.

d) Site 12

The Members of Faversham Town Council fully oppose the recommendations to increase the speed limit from 50mph to 60mph. Members would ask that it be noted that a 12 year negotiation achieved the reduction to 50mph and would not support the increase to 60mph.

3. Southeastern Draft Timetable

Cllr J N Coulter expressed concern that the response received from Mr Gibson, the Public Affairs Manager of Southeastern, looks only at the policy level implications of the new draft timetable. He further commented that Faversham Town Council is aware of the background to the new services and from an early stage has been trying to seek the retention of the classic commuter services and does not wish to see these jeopardised by new and untested services. Cllr Coulter warned that with the new proposals there will be some sharp inconveniences for the public and similarly for Southeastern giving, as an example, the removal of the last train from Charing Cross and also, in particular, a very nasty pinch point in the loss of the 18.09 and 19.04 trains which will result in the trains either side of those lost services having to carry at least one and a half train loads of passengers in order to return commuters home after their day's work. He is concerned that this is not only a great inconvenience to travellers but possibly a Health and Safety issue as well as an operational problem for Southeastern who will have to deal with this and many similar problems resulting from their proposals.

Cllr N A Kay commented that the services from Kings Cross to the City and Kings Cross to Victoria is a appalling journey for commuters and shares Cllr Coulter's concerns that the new timetable will impact on the lives of many residents.

Members unanimously agreed that the comments noted above should be sent in reply to Mr Gibson of Southeastern with a copy also being sent to Mr Hugh Robertson MP for his further support.

4. Quality Parish Council Working Party

The Town Clerk reported to members that she had now completed the additional parts required for the Quality Parish Council application covering training and employment terms and conditions and both she and the Mayor signed these ready for the Town Council's submission.

Cllr D G Wade presented to the Meeting the notes of the Quality Parish Council meeting held on 11th June 2009 and confirmed that the Annual Report is now in the process of being drafted to include a Statement of the Annual Accounts and reports to be submitted by all the Town Council's Working Party Chairmen. Members agreed with Cllr Wade's proposals for the format of the Report and noted that the production of the application was in hand for submission early in September 2009.

5. Faversham Longbridge

Cllr Mrs C Davis expressed to Members her concern at the poor quality and condition of the Faversham Longbridge and after discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs C Davis, seconded by Cllr E J Wilcox and on being to the Meeting:

RESOLVED that an approach be made to Network Rail and Swale Borough Council to remove the solid panels on the Longbridge in view of the condition thereof, which it is considered is worse than it has ever been. In addition it was agreed that a copy of the approach to Network Rail should also be sent to Mr Hugh Robertson, MP seeking his support in this matter.

6. Faversham Revival

It was unanimously agreed that the Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox, should be appointed to be the Town Council's representative on the Faversham Revival group in place of Cllr Mrs C Davis who is the group's Chairman in her capacity as a Faversham Enterprise Partnership director and as such cannot therefore be simultaneously the Town Council's representative as this may cause a conflict of interest for her.

6. PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS

The Town Clerk confirmed to Members that she holds regular budget meetings with Mr Laurence Young in respect of the Town Marketing Group budget as it had been agreed, when the Town Council's budget was set for the current financial year, that payments would only be made to the group after approval by the Town Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that the payment recently made to the Town Marketing Group in the sum of £9,000 had been in support of the tourism budget, the items of which had already been agreed by Members of the Town Council.

IN PRIVATE SESSION

It was moved by the Mayor that in pursuance of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item on the grounds that it is exempt information as defined in the Act.

1. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF TOWN SERGEANT

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox, and on being put to the Meeting:

RESOLVED unanimously to formally confirm Mr Robert M Cole as the Town Council's Town Sergeant as he has now completed his six months trial period with Faversham Town Council.

2. THE ALEXANDER CENTRE

The Mayor reported to Members that the Alexander Centre Working Party are now progressing with the Centre's future and it is hoped that it will not be long before a Trust is established.