

AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at the Guildhall, Market Place, Faversham on Monday, 23 November 2009

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A Declaration of Interest in relation to a Planning Application was declared by Cllr M R Baldock and is recorded in the Planning Schedule dated 23 November 2009.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of Faversham Town Council held on 26 October 2009 were approved by Members and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that he had experienced a quiet month since the last meeting of the Town Council but had enjoyed a very full day visit to the Royal Engineers Brompton Barracks followed by a lunch and an informative trip around Rochester and had been pleased to present prizes for the Horticultural Society's Annual Show and the Swimming Club Presentation Evening. Continuing the military theme of the month, the Mayor had been fortunate enough to be invited to a day at the Hythe Ranges where both military and the police are trained in the use of weapons and how to cope with terrorist and other similar situations.

Cllr Wilcox had been pleased to attend the Faversham Women's Enterprise Network's first birthday and had also enjoyed opening the new Morrison's supermarket in Faversham on the day of the meeting.

The Mayor asked to record his thanks to the many Councillors who had also attended the Remembrance Day Service on 8 November to show the respect that the country's armed forces deserve.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was:

RESOLVED that recommendations be sent Swale Borough Council as set out in Planning Schedule 23.11.09.

5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1. Kent International Gateway

Cllr T Gates declared an interest in this item and after signing the Declaration of Interest book, stayed in the meeting but took no part in the discussion or voting on this item.

Members agreed, that whilst they were sympathetic to the cause of the Joint Parish Group, they feel that as the proposed Kent International Gateway will have no impact on the Faversham Town Council area, they are not in a position to offer any support to the Group.

2. Internal Audit

Members noted and confirmed that Mr K R Neame has carried out the internal audit of the Town Council accounts covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2009.

3. Abbey Street Replanting Scheme

Members noted the concerns of some residents of Abbey Street with regard to the proposals for the replanting of trees outside their properties. Cllr Gates confirmed that he had consulted the Residents' Association at their recent meeting but has had no feedback from its members and the residents have also been consulted in respect of the project by Kent Highways.

Cllr Mrs C Davis confirmed that she and other representatives will report this matter back to the next meeting of the Public Realm Working Party for further discussion on the number and variety of the trees that will be agreed for the replanting scheme and will inform the residents of the outcome in due course.

Cllr D G Wade confirmed that it should be borne in mind that the trees help to keep the environment cleaner and different types with different foliage colours would enhance the street scene.

4. Stone Street – Speed Limits

Members noted that, in addition to the concerns of a local resident with regard to speeding traffic along Stone Street, this area, and particularly the junction of Stone Street and Saxon Road, does occasionally experience problems not only with through traffic but also with large lorries and buses. Cllr T Gates confirmed that he has already spoken to residents in the area and has contacted Gist who would seem to be the lorry company concerned and he has the assurance that the Company will look into this matter. The Town Clerk confirmed that the issue with speeding traffic has been reported to Kent Highways and she is awaiting their reply.

5. Faversham Creek Consortium

Members received and acknowledged the notes of the Creek Consortium Meeting held on 17 September 2009 supported by the comments of Swale Borough Member, Cllr Mike Cosgrove, together with the notes presented by Cllr D G Wade with regard to the proposed works by the Faversham Creek Consortium.

Members confirmed that they look forward to receiving the full Urban Initiative Report on the Creek and agreed that a separate meeting be arranged to take place with representatives from Swale Borough Council to give them the opportunity to present this to the Members of the Town Council as a matter of some urgency as the outcome of the report may have budget implications for the Town Council.

6. Youth Working Party

Members received and agreed the notes of the Youth Working Party meeting held on 10 November 2009.

Cllr M S Gates declared an interest in the following item and after signing the Declaration of Interest Book stayed in the meeting while it was under discussion, but took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Members received a grant application from the Faversham Air Training Corps and it was proposed by Cllr M R Baldock, seconded by Cllr Mrs C Davis, and on being put to the Meeting:

RESOLVED to award the sum of £500 to the Faversham Air Training Corps to help towards the replacement of their Squadron flag, such sum to be met from the Youth Facilities budget.

7. Public Realm Working Group

Cllr J R Winlow presented the notes of the meeting of the Public Realm Working Group held on 4 November 2009. In receiving the notes, Cllr D H S Simmons requested that the working group give consideration to including electrical sockets into the lighting pillars in the Market Place for use by the market traders. Members thanked the Group and the members of the Authorities who also participate in its work for the progress that has been made in respect of the group's proposals.

8. Confederation of the Cinque Ports – Honorary Freemen

Members of the Council expressed their delight with the information received that as from 12 January 2010, all Confederation Member Town Council and Charter Trustees will be able to admit Honorary Freemen or Honorary Freewomen, subject to the conditions set out in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972. It was noted that this project had been commenced initially by the Town Clerk in 1995 and had also been pursued by Dr Arthur Percival and Mr Arthur Mitchelmore-Hawkins who had sadly died during the summer but had been aware that the Confederation had confirmed that the Honour would be restored.

9. Parish Council Allowances

Members received information from Swale Borough Council in respect of the annual review of the Members' Allowances scheme and had agreed that they had no comments to make thereon.

10. BTCV – Kent Heritage Trees Project

It was agreed that the Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox, be delegated to complete the questionnaire recently received from the BTCV in respect of the Kent Heritage Trees project.

11. Faversham United Municipal Charities

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr T Gates' term of office for the Charities should be extended to run from 1 January 2010 to 1 January 2014.

12. The Abbey School – Community Food Project

Members agreed that while they support the Abbey School's Community Food project in principle, they feel that more information is required for the Town Council to consider any participation in more detail.

13. Faversham to Canterbury Bus Route

Members noted the comments made by Stagecoach in respect of the Faversham to Canterbury bus route.

14. Kent Association of Local Councils – AGM

Members received and noted the report prepared by Cllr J N Coulter in respect of the KALC Annual General Meeting held on 14 November 2009.

6. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

It was:

RESOLVED that the Payments and Receipts, in Annex 23.11.09 circulated with the Agenda, be approved and confirmed.