

AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held in the Guildhall, Market Place, Faversham on Monday, 8th June 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 G Wade, LGR Hobbard-Mitchell, N A Kay, M R Baldock and Mrs J E Hawkins

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Mulhern, D H S Simmons and J R Winlow.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 6th May 2009 and the Annual Meeting held on the 11th May 2009 were approved by Members and signed by the Mayor as correct records.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members that, since the last full meeting of the Town Council, he and the Mayoress had had a very busy month and had attended various Cinque Port events to include a Civic Night of amateur dramatics and a simple American Supper with the Mayor of Dover. A particularly enjoyable morning had also been spent at the Constable's Tower at Dover Castle for the launch of the new Cinque Ports DVD.

As well as enjoying his own Mayor Making ceremony, Cllr Wilcox commented that the civic couple had also attended Mayor Making ceremonies at Dover, Folkestone, Swale and Margate. The Mayor thanked the Councillors who had supported him at his Civic Service held on the 7th June.

Local events had included judging a scarecrow competition at Millfield Allotments, the Town Centre Clean Up day on the 16th May, the annual Classic Car Rally, the Blean Action Group preview of their new leaflet, drinks with the High Sheriff of Kent and the Mayor had been pleased to formally open the new pavilion at the Abbey Physic Community Garden.

The Mayor reported that he had also attended meetings to include a Faversham in Bloom Committee meeting, when it was reported that some funding was available to provide some floral displays in the town for the summer of 2009, an Alexander Centre Group meeting and he had been pleased to chair the Annual Town Meeting held on the 19th May.

The Mayor invited Members to represent him on the Mayor's Team for the Industrial Bowls Competition to be held on Sunday, 5th July and informed them that he would be asking Cllr B Mulhern to co-ordinate this on his behalf.

Cllr Mrs C Davis requested and it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Army Cadet Force for their enthusiastic participation in the Spring Clean Up Day held on the 16th May 2009.

Cllr M R Baldock arrived at 7.28 p.m.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was:

RESOLVED that recommendations be sent to Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council as set out in Planning Schedule 08.06.09.

5. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1. Cheque Signatories

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

RESOLVED that the cheque signatories for the current Municipal Year will be the Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs A J Walker, and Councillors T Gates, Mrs C Davis and J N Coulter.

2. Annual Appointments

a) Committees and/or Working Parties

It was agreed that the constitution of the Town Council's working parties for the year 2009/2010 will be as follows:-

i) Town Centre Marketing Group

Councillors Mrs C Davis, M S Gates, J N Coulter, J R Winlow, D G Wade and L G R Hobbard-Mitchell together with the Manager and one non Council Member of the Faversham Enterprise Partnership and one representative of the Faversham Area Tourism Association. The Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox, will be an ex-officio Member.

ii) Youth Working Party

The Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox and Councillors Mrs C Davis, M S Gates, J R Winlow, L G R Hobbard-Mitchell and Mrs J E Hawkins.

Also: PCSO A Burden, Miss H Croucher (Co-ordinator – Youth Division, S.B.C.), Ms K Gaunt, (Assistant Community Development Officer – S.B.C), Mrs L Logronio (KCC Safer Schools Coordinator - SBC), Ms S Sales, Ms H Austen and Ms C Davies (Amicus Group), Ms K Newbury (SHA), Mr T Old (Community Development Worker for Swale Youth Project), Mr G Tuff (Landscape Officer – SBC), Mr C Birnie (Faversham Youth Centre), Ms V Astall and Ms L Wake (Hyde Housing Association), Mrs P Moth (West Faversham Community Association), Mrs D M Higgins (FADS), Insp. K Swinney or PC C Port (Faversham Police), Mr C Powell, Mr John Morris (Faversham Community Church), Mrs C Hudson (Crime Prevention Officer – S.B.C.) Mr R Short and Mr C Ramshaw (Abbey School), Ms R Roach (St Mary's Children's Centre), Ms C Oddy (Faversham Community Café), Mr N Bowls (SPARKS), Mr C Longman, Mr G Chittenden, and Ms L Funnell (Christian Secondary Schools Worker).

iii) Quality Parish Council

The Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox and Councillors Mrs C Davis, T Gates, D H S Simmons, D G Wade and LGR Hobbard-Mitchell.

iv) Streetscape

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs A J Walker and Councillors Mrs C Davis and J R Winlow.

v) Alexander Centre

The Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox and Councillors M S Gates and J R Winlow.

b) Representation on Outside Bodies

It was agreed that the Town Council's representation on outside bodies and organisations should be as follows for the year 2009/2010:-

AGE CONCERN COMMITTEE	The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs A J Walker
CINQUE PORTS STANDING COMMITTEE	The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU IN SWALE	Mr R N Duncan
CREEK CONSORTIUM	Cllr DG Wade (Cllr JR Winlow as Reserve)
FAVERSHAM AREA TOURISM ASSN.	The Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox and Cllr Mrs C Davis
FAVERSHAM ENTERPRISE PARTN.	Cllrs Mrs C Davis, M R Baldock and Mrs J E Hawkins
FAVERSHAM IN BLOOM	The Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox and Cllr J R Winlow
FAVERSHAM HOP FESTIVAL COMM.	The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs A J Walker and Cllr T Gates
FAVERSHAM SWIMMING POOL MANAGEMENT	Cllr DG Wade (Cllr Mrs J E Hawkins as Reserve)
GRAVENEY BOAT COMMITTEE	Mr D W Swain
K.A.L.C. SWALE AREA COMMITTEE	Cllrs T Gates and J N Coulter
OARE GUNPOWDER WORKS ADVISORY GROUP	Cllr T Gates
SWALE EMERGENCY CONTACTS	The Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox and Cllr M S Gates

SWALE RESERVES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	Cllr J N Coulter (Cllr M S Gates as Reserve)
ST.MARY OF CHARITY PARISH CHURCH RESTORATION APPEAL	The Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox and Cllr M S Gates
FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP	Cllr M R Baldock
WEST FAVERSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	Cllr N A Kay
FAVERSHAM REVIVAL GROUP	Cllr Mrs C Davis

c) Four Yearly Appointments

It was noted that there were no changes required to the Four Yearly Appointments on Outside Bodies.

3. Interactive Sign

Members welcomed the news that an interactive sign is to be placed on the A2 at Ospringe and it was agreed that the Watling Ward Members would meet with the residents to agree its location.

4. Internal Audit of Town Council Accounts

Members noted that an internal audit of the accounts of Faversham Town Council had been carried out covering the period from 1st October 2008 to 31st March 2009 with no adverse comments thereon.

5. Bysingwood Community Centre

Cllr N A Kay informed Members that the Bysingwood Community Centre will now be named the West Faversham Community Centre and that there is no news at the present time in respect of the proposed Community Fund as a result of the recent resignation of the Communities Secretary, Mrs Hazel Blears MP.

6. Flavours of Faversham

Members noted Mr Laurence Young's comprehensive report in respect of the Flavours of Faversham event and it was agreed that the Town Council support fully the concept of branding, tourism and the promotion of local produce which should be encouraged. It was reported that, at the Faversham Enterprise Partnership's Annual General Meeting, interest was expressed by local restaurateurs and food suppliers to band together to support the concept of such promotions to include the development of food themed walks and walking (gastro-routes) in the local area.

After discussion it was agreed that the Town Council generally welcomes the ideas contained in Mr Young's report and accepts the report but would express concerns that the festival should not be moved out of the town centre although supporting the concept of food themed walks and the support of the Leader Plus scheme to enhance and promote branding, tourism and local businesses.

7. Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) Under Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001

Members noted with concern the lack of time originally given for public consultation under the above proposals and it was reported that an extension of time has now been given for Members to offer their views to Swale Borough Council.

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

RESOLVED that Swale Borough Council be asked to achieve the Designated Public Place Order to cover the whole of the area within the Town boundaries in order to control the displacement of any nuisance, annoyance or disorder associated with the consumption of intoxicating liquor.

8. Southeastern Trains – New Railway Timetable

Members considered the following information and proposals given to them by Cllr J N Coulter in respect of the new South Eastern Trains timetable:

a) The Day Time Peak Service to Victoria (Monday – Friday)

PROPOSAL: Members of Faversham Town Council express concern that there is to be a loss of one weekday peak service from the east coast to Victoria thus possibly leading to overcrowding on the remaining trains, which cannot be lengthened as they are already 11 or 12 carriages long.

b) The Evening Peak Service from Victoria (Monday – Friday)

This service is to be even more reduced, with the loss of two trains. Effectively the 17.09 and 18.04 from Victoria disappear from the timetable without roughly equivalent replacements. This means that the trains timetabled immediately before and after each of these trains, as well as being busy themselves, will have to pick up the passengers displaced from the dropped 17.09 and 18.04 and will be expected to carry one-and-a-half trainloads each. ***PROPOSAL: That Southeastern Trains and Network Rail be asked to maintain the evening peak services from Victoria to Faversham to avoid severe overcrowding. It is considered that the new 16.57 from Victoria will have to take most of the passengers of the current 16.42, as well as some from the 17.09. The current 17.27 (a train that is full), will have to take most of the passengers of the 17.09 as well as its current load. The new 17.57 will have to take the passengers of the current 17.48 (a full train) plus some of those from the 18.04. This just will not work and there will be severe overcrowding. It is considered that this may be the major weakness of the new peak timetable and must be addressed before it comes into effect.***

c) Trains to and from Victoria Off-Peak- (Monday-Saturday)

Trains to and from Victoria are significantly slower, by about six minutes to London and ten minutes from London. This is because the formerly fast trains are taking on stops at Newington, Teynham, Longfield and Meopham previously performed by the semi-fast trains no longer in the timetable. The replacement for these is two St Pancras trains that will be no faster than the current Victoria fast trains. Longfield and Meopham are actually getting a better service, visited also by a Gillingham-Victoria service but both Longfield and Meopham are little used off-peak, have small catchment areas and little parking space and are very close to Ebbsfleet and Gravesend. ***PROPOSAL: Faversham Town Council suggests that use of the***

longer-distance services at these stations be monitored and the stops removed if patronage does not increase substantially to counter the lengthening of journey times.

d) Victoria Off-Peak Service

The current off-peak Victoria service is four trains per hour with two fast trains and two stoppers. The total Victoria off-peak trains is to be halved, with the fast trains effectively becoming slow as they share the stoppers' work and with trains serving Teynham and Newington reduced from half-hourly to hourly. This will create a long wait for a five-minute journey from Teynham to either Faversham or Sittingbourne or from Newington into Sittingbourne. ***PROPOSAL: That Southeast Trains and Network Rail be informed that Faversham Town Council regrets this loss of local service as part of the reduction of the Faversham-Victoria off-peak service and that a letter be written to the bus operator Company, Stagecoach, informing it of this halving of the rail service at Teynham and Newington and asking the Company to consider whether it could adjust its bus services to fill the gap.***

e) Last Train Service to London

There is a clear indication that the last train to London is to be brought forward about half an hour from 23.42 to 23.14. It appears that local travel needs, such as for Teynham and Sittingbourne residents visiting Faversham for evening events will be met by a new 23.52 stopping service to Gillingham. However, the train calling at Faversham at 23.42 and going all the way to London is removed although this is a useful train for night workers and day-trippers wishing to return from the Kent coast as late as possible. There is therefore a need for the retention of a last Faversham-London train at more or less its existing departure time. ***PROPOSAL: Faversham Town Council asks to have the last Faversham-London train kept at its present approximate departure time by extending the proposed 23.52 Faversham-Gillingham service as far as London. It is noted that this extension would also be of great benefit to other places between Ramsgate and Faversham in preserving a late-option last train to London, pushing back the latest possible London-bound departure time by an hour in towns such as Ramsgate and Herne Bay.***

f) Cannon Street Services

i) The 05.22 and the 05.58 from Faversham to Cannon Street are to disappear without any similar-time Cannon Street replacement in the new timetable and are effectively replaced by the St Pancras service. ***PROPOSAL: That Southeast Trains and Network Rail be informed that Faversham Town Council regrets this decline in the Cannon Street service.***

ii) There is to be the loss of the 19.32 from Cannon Street, which leaves the last train out of Cannon Street as the 18.46 three-quarters of an hour earlier. Cannon Street regular commuters who would have used the 19.32 because of working late or having an after-work drink will have to get across to Victoria for the return and therefore face much longer journeys home via Victoria. The 19.32 Cannon Street-Faversham is supposed to be the only improvement to peak services since fares started going up at 5+% three years ago and is reputed to be well-used and needs to be re-instated. ***PROPOSAL: That Southeast Trains and Network Rail be asked to retain the 19.32 Cannon Street service for the reasons given.***

It was proposed by Cllr J N Coulter, seconded by Cllr N A Kay, and on being put to the meeting:

RESOLVED that this report and proposals be adopted by Faversham Town Council and that copies should be submitted to Southeast Trains, Network Rail, Ms Barbara Thompson, the Regeneration Officer of Swale Borough Council and Mr Hugh Robertson MP as it is considered that the proposals contained in the new railway timetable will greatly affect a considerable number of commuters and residents of Faversham and its environs.

9. Town Council Plan

Members agreed that discussion of the Town Council Plan submitted by Cllr LGR Hobbard-Mitchell should be deferred for further consideration by the Quality Parish Council Working Party at its meeting on the 11th June 2009.

10. Public Realm Working Group

Members received and agreed the notes of the meeting of the Public Realm Working Party held on 13th May 2009. Comment was made on the success of using the Community Pay Back scheme which raises self esteem amongst its members.

11. Power of Well-Being

The Town Clerk reported to Members that the basis of the Power of Well Being is that it removes the constraints imposed by S137 of the Local Government Act thus enabling Councils to finance anything they consider falls to be for the social, economic and environmental benefits to the community and for which a separate power is not available. The constraints of S137 are that the expenditure is limited each year and must be commensurate with the benefit to the community and cannot be spent on individuals. It is largely considered that the Power will not make a huge difference to a proactive Council but the Power to spend on 'well being' is related to:

- a) The whole or any part of a local Council's area
- b) Any persons present in the area including those who live, work or visit the area
- c) An individual person's activity (provided that it promotes the area's well being)
- d) Any person or any area outside the parish if the Council thinks it will promote its own area's well being

The criteria for eligibility are that:

- a) At least two thirds of Members on the Council, when exercising the Power, must have stood for election.
- b) At least 80% (11 in the case of Faversham Town Council) of Members must have attended a training module.
- c) The Council must have a community engagement statement of intent in place.
- d) The Clerk must be qualified and completed an additional Section of training.

The Clerk and all Councillors, when trained, hold the training for life but new Councillors need to be trained and if, after an election the Council does not meet the 80% criteria, such new Councillors will need to be trained and a new application for Well Being status will need to be made.

It was proposed by Cllr MS Gates, seconded by Cllr D G Wade and on being put to the meeting:

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk, Mrs Susan Brockman, and Cllr D G Wade be authorised to attend the Power of Well Being course being run by the Kent Association of Local Councils in Wingham on the 30th June 2009 at a cost of £20.00 per delegate.

In the light of the foregoing it was agreed that no further action be taken in this matter at the present time but that a watching brief be kept.

12. Davington Primary School – Safer Routes To School Scheme

Members noted that Cllr J R Winlow, a Ward Councillor for Davington Priory, has consulted with local residents in respect of the above proposals and it was agreed that the Town Council have no comments to make thereon. The Mayor invited individual Councillors to respond directly to Kent County Council if they so wished.

13. Highway Matters

a) Salters Lane/Canterbury Road – Proposed double yellow lines

Members agreed that they support the proposals in respect of the double yellow lines to be applied to this junction and would further ask that the lines should be extended by one property in a westerly direction. It was further suggested that Swale Borough Council should be asked to look into the provision of overnight residential parking at the Football Club car park in Salters Lane with the provision of CCTV coverage to award security.

b) Sumpter Way – Proposed single yellow lines

Members agreed that they had no comments to make on these proposals but hoped that the residents who may be affected have been consulted.

14. Youth Working Party Meeting

Members received and agreed the notes of the Youth Working Party Meeting held on the 19th May 2009.

With regard to the Tennis for All scheme, Members received and discussed the letter received from the Head Teacher of the Abbey School and agreed that any financial support for the creation of facilities at the School should be made by Kent County Council although it was reported that an application had been made to Sport for England for grant funding.

The Mayor informed Members that Mr Deny Wilson, the Sports Development Manager at the Abbey Sports Centre would be addressing the August meeting of the Town Council when this subject could be further discussed with him. Members therefore agreed to take no further action in this matter at the present time.

15. Proposed Upgrade of the Existing Vodafone Base Station Installation at Boughton, Brenley Corner, Faversham

Members discussed drawings showing the proposals to add three antennas on the mast

and two cabinets within the site of the above address and agreed they had no comments to make thereon.

6. TOWN MARKETING GROUP

Cllr M S Gates presented the notes and supporting paperwork following the meeting of the Town Marketing Group held on the 18th May 2009 and drew particular attention to the investigations being carried out in respect of the future management of the Town's allotment sites. He confirmed that negotiations and further investigations into the administration implications in this matter are continuing and it was agreed that the St Nicholas Road site should also be included in such discussions and further research.

In the light of the foregoing Members agreed to adopt the notes of the meeting held on the 18th May 2009.

7. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

It was:

RESOLVED that the Payments and Receipts in Annex 08.06.09 circulated with the Agenda be approved and confirmed.

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(s) on the grounds that it (they) are exempt information as defined in the Act.

LAND AT FAVERSHAM CREEK

Following information received from Mrs Anne Adams, the Head of Swale Ashford Property Partnership, in respect of a value to be placed on this Town Council owned land, it was proposed by Cllr D G Wade, seconded by Cllr T Gates, and on being put to the meeting:

RESOLVED that no sale of the land at Faversham Creek be made at the present time as it is considered that this could hinder the proposals of the Faversham Creek Consortium.