

SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 20 March 2013

Present: Councillors Emily Arnold, Hugh Barker, Mrs Lynne Beaumont, Mrs Keren Belcourt, Mrs Ann Berry, Robert Bliss, George Bunting, Miss Susan Carey, Miss Pamela Carr (Vice-Chair), Alan Clifton-Holt, John Collier, Brian Copping, Ms Victoria Dawson, Malcolm Dearden, Anthony Dunning, Alan Ewart-James, Peter Gane, Clive Goddard, David Godfrey, Richard Grundy, Stan Hayward, Anthony Hills, Ms Janet Holben, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee (Chairman), Shane Lawrence, Rory Love, Michael Lyons, Paul Marsh, Philip Martin, David Monk, Peter Monk, Terence Mullard, Alan North, David Owen, Richard Pascoe, Paul Peacock, Stuart Peall, David Stephenson, Russell Tillson, Mrs Susan Wallace, Roger West and Roger Wilkins

Apologies for Absence: Councillors David Johnson, Mrs Shirley Newlands, Peter Simmons and William Wimble

100. **Declarations of interest**

Councillors David Monk and Stuart Peall advised that were members of Swingfield Parish Council and had received dispensations to speak and vote on minute 111 (report A/12/47) from the Audit and Standards Committee.

101. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2013 were submitted, considered by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

102. **Chairman's communications**

Firstly the Chairman acknowledged receipt of Cycle Shepway's petition in respect of the Cinque Ports Cycleway, which was supported by the member of parliament for Folkestone and Hythe, Damian Collins, MP.

The Chairman then reported on a few of the events she had attended since the last meeting of the Council on 14 February 2013.

The opening of the EDF Visitor Centre at Dungeness – along with Councillors Clifton-Holt, Goddard and Wimble. Councillor Wimble had been on a media exercise and the Chairman thought he had interviewed all those in sight! She suggested that members look at the 'You Tube video' for further details. This was certainly a step in the right direction for the Marsh and the chairman had been told that a large number of schools had already booked to use the facilities and go on a tour of the power station.

The Chairman supported Councillor David Godfrey at the Hawkinge Community Hall only to find that the entertainment was provided by one of her ex-students – they crop up everywhere.

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The Winterval at Lydd Primary School proved to be very popular and congratulations went to all concerned – in particular our Marsh district councillors. It was very cold but the Chairman's grandchildren enjoyed it.

Congratulations also to Strange Cargo for the Cheriton Light Festival. Despite the cold, lots of people turned out and there were even some French people displaying some Art. It was a really interesting and different event.

Yet again, the talent at Brockhill Park School continued to amaze the Chairman. The production of "We will rock you" was outstanding and the staff and students needed to be congratulated.

Perhaps the highlight of the period had been the opening of the Three Hills Sports Park – along with Councillors Bliss, Barker and the Ward Councillors was a splendid occasion. The facilities were absolutely amazing and the Minister who declared the facility open, congratulated all concerned especially the Roger de Haan trust for having such a vision which has made the Park a Centre of Excellence for Sport and Recreation. It was great to see so many youngsters enjoying themselves and involved in sport. The Chairman very much hoped that this involvement would continue.

Finally, the Chairman updated the Council on the tall ships project -

- 30 young people aged 14/15yrs with 6 support staff will set sail on a seven day voyage in three Challenger Yachts from Portsmouth to Boulogne in July 2013, arriving to take part in the Festival of the Sea celebrations in Boulogne.
- 24 young people had applied on the English side through Shepway's six secondary schools. 15 had been selected, with two young people being reserves for the voyage.
- The young people selected had been chosen based on how much they would get out of the experience and include; looked after children, deprived young people, young people in need of recognition, young people in need of future aspirations and young people with low confidence and self esteem.
- Students who were unsuccessful will go to Boulogne on 14 July to greet their peers. Shepway were working with the schools to take two coaches of students (104 young people) to the festival on the 14 July.
- Local artists have been engaged in delivering some of the workshops and will develop a gift that the young people can take and present to Boulogne to symbolise the joint working.

103. **Petitions**

There were no petitions presented.

104. **Questions from the public**

There were no questions from the public.

105. **Questions from councillors**

There were no questions from councillors.

106. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council referred to the continuing Shakespearean winter of discontent, despite which the Council had continued to operate as usual. Shepway had had snow and yet again service delivery had come up trumps. The Leader thanked staff and in particular those involved in the collection of recycling and waste, who once more had done a marvellous and uninterrupted job.

The Leader advised the Council that the Romney Marsh regeneration was really moving. He had attended a packed meeting at Lydd airport on Friday 15 March 2013 which started at 7 a.m. It was really good to see the sunrise over the marsh! The meeting was addressed by, amongst others, Damian Collins, MP, Paul Carter and Councillor Alan Clifton-Holt. Expansion East Kent was increasingly allocating funds to the Marsh, and the intention was to redouble efforts to promote inward investment and tourism. The Council apprenticeships programme had had a central role to play in employment creation and month after month record recruitment was being recorded above target levels.

The Leader reported that DEFRA was currently investigating the possibility of creating a marine conservation area along the Shepway coast, and that a public consultation was underway. The Leader suggested that it was important to protect the livelihood of the local commercial fishermen, as well as the vibrancy of the locale economy, and to this end the Council had made a submission insisting on exactly this. The welfare of local residents was of considerably more importance.

The Leader advised that bids had been submitted for funding under the Ministry of Defence's Community Covenant Grant scheme.

The Leader reported that council tax bills had been sent out the previous weekend, and that residents would be reassured that the council was very much on their side. For the third year running there was a zero increase in Shepway's council tax, as was also the case for Kent County Council. The Secretary of State, Eric Pickles, had publicly congratulated this council in keeping bills down whilst at the same time continuing to improve service delivery. Where this council led, others could usefully follow.

The Leader concluded by stating that he hoped that Spring was finally in the air. While the weather was uncertain it was clear that Shepway was going from strength to strength thanks to the dedicated efforts of members and officers.

Councillor Copping, Leader of the Opposition, responded by agreeing that the staff had done well although the county council had taken some time to clear the main roads of snow. He also wanted to place on record his thanks to staff who continued to pull out all the stops. In terms of the regeneration of the Marsh, he was really pleased to see some progress and continued to hope for good news in respect of the Lydd airport expansion proposals. In terms of fishing, Councillor Copping concurred with the Leader and the Council's position as these were difficult times for local fishermen. Local people needed the support of the local council. In terms of council tax, Councillor Copping raised concerns that it was vital to ensure there was cash to support non-statutory services such as youth provision. Councillor Copping welcomed the continued support from the Leader for the community covenant and confirmed that he had worked with officers to develop and approve three bids for funding, including one for a potential Falklands Memorial March by in excess of 100 local cadets. He had written to the relevant minister, with a copy to the Prime Minister, advising the intention of the Shepway Community Covenant to support this march from Folkestone, probably on Sunday 22 September 2013. Cadet commanding officers were supportive and he hoped that the Shepway District Council would support the initiative.

Proposed by Councillor Robert Bliss
Seconded by Councillor Rory Love, and

Resolved: That the report be received and noted.

(Voting: For 42; Against 0; Abstentions 0).

107. **Opposition business: proposed Marshall Street neighbourhood renewal area**

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Brian Copping, introduced this item by reminding the Council that the last neighbourhood renewal area had been Guildhall North. He then went on to raise the following issues:

- There should be a survey of the Marshall Street area undertaken by the community safety team
- The survey should examine the condition of the area to identify improvements which might include signage, opportunities to improve street cleaning, drains and flooding
- Low or zero cost improvements should be looked for.

Proposed by Councillor Robert Bliss
Seconded by Councillor Rory Love and

Resolved: That the matter be examined as part of a future scrutiny programme

(Voting: For 42; Against 0; Abstentions 0).

108. **Granting dispensations at short notice**

Report A/12/43 set out proposals to enable dispensations to be granted where it is not possible to convene a meeting of the audit and standards committee.

Proposed by Councillor Robert Bliss
Seconded by Councillor Rory Love and

Resolved:

1. **To receive and note report A/12/43.**
2. **To authorise the monitoring officer in consultation with the chairman (or in his/her absence the vice-chairman) of the Audit and Standards Committee to grant dispensations to speak and/or vote where it is not possible to convene a meeting of that committee where the application for dispensation is made on any of the following grounds:**
 - (i) **Without the dispensation, the representation of different political groups on the body transacting the business would be so upset as to alter the outcome of any vote on the matter;**
 - (ii) **That the authority considers that the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in its area; or**
 - (iii) **Where the authority considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.**

In making the decision the monitoring officer shall have regard to the following criteria:

- a) **The nature of the member's interest and allowing them to participate would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the authority's business.**

If public confidence would be damaged then such an application would be likely to be refused. It is unlikely that it would be appropriate therefore, for example, to grant a dispensation to a member who has an interest arising as a result of an effect on their personal financial position or on that of a relative.

- b) **The interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public.**
- c) **The participation of the member in the business that the interest relates to is justified by the member's particular role or expertise.**
- d) **The business that the interest relates is about a voluntary**

organisation or a public body which is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee and the member's interest is not a financial one.

In circumstances such as these, the committee might believe that it is in the interests of the authority's inhabitants to remove the incapacity from speaking or voting.

- 3. That any dispensations granted be reported back to the next meeting of the committee for information.**

(Voting: For 42; Against 0; Abstentions 0).

109. Pay policy statement 2013/14

Report A/12/44 presented the pay policy statement for 2013/14 for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robert Bliss
Seconded by Councillor David Monk and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report A/12/44**
- 2. To approve under S38(1) Localism Act 2011 the Pay Policy Statement appended to this report for 2013/14**

(Voting: For 42; Against 0; Abstentions 0).

110. Adoption of updated model byelaws for the regulation of acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis

Report A/12/46 set out the reasons for adopting the updated byelaws.

Proposed by Councillor Hugh Barker
Seconded by Councillor Phillip Martin and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report A/12/46.**
- 2. To adopt the updated model byelaws, attached at appendix 1 to report A/12/46.**

(Voting: For 42; Against 0; Abstentions 0).

111. Hawkinge community governance review

Report A/12/47, including the addendum, set out the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee on the community governance review of Hawkinge Town Council and the surrounding area.

Proposed by Councillor David Monk
Seconded by Councillor David Godfrey and

Resolved

That the parish boundaries of Acrise be not amended to include those properties in Coach Road, School Road, Pine Cote on Hoad Road and Ridge Road shown edged red on the plan annexed to report A/12/47.

(Voting: For 35; Against 0; Abstentions 7).

Proposed by Councillor David Monk
Seconded by Councillor David Godfrey

That Swingfield Parish Council be incorporated into Hawkinge Town Council which would then comprise 15 councillors and warded as described in the report as follows:

- 1) Fernfield ward with 4 councillors;
- 2) Uphill ward with 3 councillors;
- 3) Churchill ward with 6 councillors;
- 4) Swingfield ward with 2 councillors.

(Voting: For 10; Against 28; Abstentions 4).

The motion was LOST.

Proposed by Councillor Richard Pascoe
Seconded by Councillor Peter Gane and

Resolved:

1. **That report A/12/47 be received and noted;**
2. **That the parish of Acrise continue to be a parish meeting;**
3. **That the proposed merger between Hawkinge and Swingfield should not proceed;**
4. **That Hawkinge Town Council comprise 13 councillors and is warded as described in the report as follows:**
 - a) **Fernfield ward with 4 councillors;**
 - b) **Uphill ward with 3 councillors;**
 - c) **Churchill ward with 6 councillors.**
5. **That the new arrangements take effect at the next ordinary elections scheduled for May 2015.**
6. **That the Head of Administration be authorised to make the appropriate reorganisation of community governance order under Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to being into effect the Council's decisions.**

(Voting: For 33; Against 3; Abstentions 6).

112. Appointment of deputy electoral registration officer

Report A/12/48 sought the appointment of a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.

Proposed by Councillor Robert Bliss
Seconded by Councillor Rory Love and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report A/12/48**
- 2. To appoint, pursuant to S52 (2) Representation of the People Act 1983, Wayne Fitter (electoral services and street naming and numbering manager), as the council's deputy electoral registration officer.**

(Voting: For 42; Against 0; Abstentions 0).

113. Motions on notice

Motion 1

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Lynne Beaumont
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Barker

In 2011, the Shepway Cycling Plan for better and safer cycling was born. This 5 year plan was agreed by Kent County Council, and its Joint Transportation Board with Shepway District Council. However, none of this plan has so far been implemented.

Cycling is the second most popular sport across Shepway, but facilities are sadly lacking for safe family cycling. We live in an area that is ideal for cycling, especially Romney Marsh, which is crying out for employment and a boost to its local economy. Families will and do travel many miles to cycle as a family, and Shepway is losing these cycling "tourists" to other regions who have recognised the importance and the financial gain to their local economies by supplying cycle-ways. For the area of Shepway to benefit from this scheme, both financially and medically, this council resolves to:

- (1) Support the urgent implementation of the five-year Shepway Cycling Plan for better and safer cycling as agreed in 2011
- (2) Back the plan for a high-grade cycle and pedestrian coastal route from Folkestone to Dungeness to be called the Cinque Ports Cycleway, as proposed by Cycle Shepway in a petition delivered to SDC, KCC, the Ministry of Defence and the Environment Agency by Damian Collins, MP for Folkestone and Hythe.

- (3) To realise the project, which will bring great economic and health benefits to the district, and that a working committee be set up comprising members and officers of SDC, KCC and Cycle Shepway
- (4) Appoint a cycling tsar for Shepway.

Proposed by Councillor Alan Clifton-Holt
Seconded by Councillor Anthony Hills and

Resolved: That the motion be amended by the amendment of paragraph numbered (1) above to read as follows:

“(1) Support the principle of the five-year Shepway Cycling Plan for better and safer cycling as agreed in 2011”; and

The deletion of point (4) in the original motion.

(Voting: For 35; Against 4; Abstentions 3).

Proposed by Councillor Malcolm Dearden
Seconded by Councillor Miss Susan Carey and

Resolved: That the question be put.

(Voting: For 42; Against; 0 Abstentions 0).

The substantive motion was then put.

Resolved: In 2011, the Shepway Cycling Plan for better and safer cycling was born. This 5 year plan was agreed by Kent County Council, and its Joint Transportation Board with Shepway District Council. However, none of this plan has so far been implemented.

Cycling is the second most popular sport across Shepway, but facilities are sadly lacking for safe family cycling. We live in an area that is ideal for cycling, especially Romney Marsh, which is crying out for employment and a boost to its local economy. Families will and do travel many miles to cycle as a family, and Shepway is losing these cycling “tourists” to other regions who have recognised the importance and the financial gain to their local economies by supplying cycle-ways. For the area of Shepway to benefit from this scheme, both financially and medically, this council resolves to:

- (1) Support the principle of the five-year Shepway Cycling Plan for better and safer cycling as agreed in 2011;**

- (2) Back the plan for a high-grade cycle and pedestrian coastal route from Folkestone to Dungeness to be called the Cinque Ports Cycleway, as proposed by Cycle Shepway in a petition delivered to SDC, KCC, the Ministry of Defence and the Environment Agency by Damian Collins, MP for Folkestone and Hythe;**
- (3) To realise the project, which will bring great economic and health benefits to the district, and that a working committee be set up comprising members and officers of SDC, KCC and Cycle Shepway.**

(Voting: For 42; Against 0; Abstentions 0).

Motion 2

In moving the motion listed on the agenda, Councillor Copping accepted amendments put forward by Councillor Malcolm Dearden to the original wording so that the motion reads as set out below.

Proposed by Councillor Brian Copping
Seconded by Councillor Paul Marsh and

Resolved: Shepway District Council is mindful of the Government's intention to enhance the role of our reserve armed forces by embarking on a large scale recruitment to reserve forces, especially the army.

Folkestone, Hythe and Lydd, together with some local rural areas provide extensive training locations for the armed forces, homeland security and our neighbouring countries' NATO forces and the Anglo-French rapid reaction brigade.

With this in mind it is proposed that Shepway write to the Secretary of State for Defence to suggest that he might consider locating a reserve forces army unit at Shorncliffe barracks with a strong suggested wording along the following lines:

Given that Folkestone, Hythe, Lydd and our rural area have provided training locations for armed forces and homeland security for many years, Shorncliffe barracks, with close proximity to the English Channel and an operational airport, would provide an excellent base/location for a special forces detachment.

For well over 100 years Folkestone, Hythe and Lydd, have supported the armed forces, especially the army. Between the Great War and the second world war Hawkinge provided an operational Royal Air Force station.

The Royal Gurkha Rifles have been based at Shorncliffe Barracks for several years and they and their families are valued as important members of the community. This link is now well established and is an important part of the Shepway Community Covenant. For these reasons and many more this Council would wish to continue to encourage the Gurkha regiment to remain in Shepway.

Shepway would like, again, to be at the forefront of armed forces provision with the installation of reserve forces based at Shorncliffe barracks.

(Voting: For 42; Against 0; Abstentions 0).