

Minutes of the Council Meeting of EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL held in Rickards Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 13 March 2017

Present: Cllrs J Barnett, A Layland, S McGregor (Chairman), M McArthur, B Orridge, C Pearman, M Robson, J Scholey, B Todd, and J Woollorton.

In attendance: K Staff (Deputy Town Clerk), six young people from Rebuild Mexico project and Antony Shipwright from ECT.
Six members of the public, and no members of the press.

Prior to the start of the meeting there was a presentation by young people from Edenbridge ECTreme Youth Club on their forthcoming Rebuild Mexico 2017 expedition.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received, noted and accepted from Cllrs T Bryant (family illness), R Bell (family bereavement), Mrs J Davison and R Davison, (away), and V Maynard (unwell).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS OR PREDETERMINATION

The District Council members stated that although they would be considering planning applications at this meeting they would be reconsidering them at the district level, taking into account all relevant evidence and representations there.

The meeting was adjourned

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

A planning consultant explained on behalf of the owners of the Edenbridge Bookshop the reasons for the application.

The meeting was reconvened

4. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 February 2017

Resolved: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 13 February 2017 be duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR REPORT AND NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

None.

6. TO CONSIDER THE CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Erection of a two storey side extension and a single storey rear extension and loft conversion with dormer. Demolition of outbuilding. **116 Lingfield Road Edenbridge Kent TN8 5EB** Ref. No: 17/00562/HOUSE

Members support this application

Loft conversion with rear dormer, 2 cottage style front dormers and both hip ends being raised to gables, erection of a side ground floor extension to form a new en-suite and study, to replace the existing garage. **2 Grange Close Edenbridge Kent TN8 5LT** Ref. No: 17/00385/HOUSE

Members support this application

Erection of single storey gym/guest accommodation outbuilding in garden. **Wychwood Swan Lane Edenbridge KENT TN8 6AH** Ref. No: 17/00446/HOUSE

Members support this application

Proposed change of use of the former Edenbridge Bookshop floor space at ground floor to residential floor space. **Edenbridge Bookshop 79 High Street Edenbridge KENT TN8 5AU**
Ref. No: 17/00273/FUL

Members object to this application as it would result in loss of A1 shopping frontage and were not convinced that it had been proactively marketed, and the case for change of use to residential was not sufficiently proven.

Proposed change of use of the former Edenbridge Bookshop floor space at ground floor to residential floor space. **Edenbridge Bookshop 79 High Street Edenbridge KENT TN8 5AU**
Ref. No: 17/00274/LBCALT

Members object to this application as it would result in loss of A1 shopping frontage and were not convinced that it had been proactively marketed, and the case for change of use to residential was not sufficiently proven.

Prior notification for a change of use from office use to a dwellinghouse. This application is made under class O of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. **Southon House Station Approach Edenbridge KENT TN8 5LP** Ref. No: 17/00646/PAC

Noted

Variation of section 106 agreement relating to the change of use of existing redundant farm buildings approved under reference SE/93/0334 dated 13th July 1994. **Gaywood Farm Hole Lane Edenbridge KENT TN8 6SL** Ref. No: 17/00519/VAR106

Members wish to ask the officers whether the proposal would have any impact on enforcement action already taking place, and recommend leaving the section 106 agreement in place until the action was resolved.

Ash T5 - to carry out a crown reduction of 1.5m to maintain shape, size and spread appropriate for its location. **Oaklands Swan Lane Edenbridge KENT TN8 6AJ** Ref. No: 17/00555/WTPO

Noted.

Withdrawn

Removal of condition 4 (Code for Sustainable Homes) of 14/01462/FUL for the demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 (No.) detached dwellings and detached garage, with additional on site visitor parking and alterations to existing vehicular access. **Totties Mill Hill Edenbridge KENT TN8 5DB** Ref. No: 17/00327/CONVAR

Noted.

7. TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

7.1 Emergency Planning Committee, 6 February

Resolved: that the minutes presented by Cllr M McArthur be adopted

7.2 Planning and Transportation, 27 February

Resolved: that the minutes presented by Cllr S McGregor be adopted

7.3 Finance Committee, 27 February

Resolved: that the minutes presented by Cllr S McGregor be adopted

7.4 Personnel Committee, 28 February

Resolved: that the minutes presented by Cllr J Scholey be adopted

7.5 County Councillor's Update

County Councillor Clive Pearman advised that the pre-election period for County members was starting the following week.

7.6 MP's Update

None

7.7 Working Groups /Delegate Reports/Clerk's and Officers' Reports

7.7.1 SLCC Practitioners' Conference

Noted

7.7.2 Free School Edenbridge

Cllr Roger Bell reported on the meeting the school working group held with the Harris Federation, which was keen to assist with the concept of a free secondary school in Edenbridge. Given the Federation's successful track record, it was

Resolved: to accept the group's recommendation that Harris should make the application for a Free School and then operate the academy, and that Cllrs Bell and Layland should convey Council's decision and continue to liaise with Harris. A larger steering group would be needed further down the line.

7.7.3 Edenbridge Tourism Forum

Noted

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Items referred from Committees for decision, none

8.2 Review of Byelaws

Members reviewed the byelaws, un-amended since their adoption in 2003. After considering the possibility of adding the Market Yard car park to the schedule of open spaces covered by the byelaws, which include overnight parking, it was

Resolved: not to amend the byelaws at this time

8.3 Summer Play Scheme

Members considered the delivery costs for the popular Parishes Family Fun days scheme it had supported for the past six years, which are provided by PlayPlace. It was

Resolved: to apply to the Great Stone Bridge Trust for a grant for additional activities for the Fun Days this summer, and make up the budget shortfall for core activities through Contingencies.

8.4 Annual Report & Annual Town Meeting

Members noted arrangements for the meeting, that all of the invited guests had accepted and Cllr Peter Fleming would speak on behalf of the District Council. The organisations invited to host a stall at the start of the meeting have been contacted, and the Doctors' health services consultation, the Chamber of Commerce, the Neighbourhood Plan project, the Rotary Club and the Town Band had accepted.

8.5 Remembrance Parade

Council has been advised that Mr John Froud is moving, and therefore would no longer be available to act as parade marshal for the annual Remembrance Parade. As notified last year, at this point the Council now has responsibility to organise the parade, although the British Legion had said it would where possible provide a volunteer to act as parade marshal.

Cllrs Mc Gregor, Layland, Pearman, and Robson wished to be involved with arranging the event, and it was

Resolved: to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Royal British Legion to establish who will organise the various aspects of the Remembrance event.

8.6 Great British Spring Clean – 3rd March

Members were pleased to note the success of the event, which included litter-picking public areas through the town, and cleaning street furniture and signage. It had prompted many supportive comments from residents, and demonstrated the excellent community spirit which exists in Edenbridge.

8.7 Sale of *Weather without Technology*, publication

Members considered a local resident's enquiry whether the Town Council would be interested in selling a book on weather forecasting in the Information Centre. As any item in the limited sales space would normally be visitor-oriented, also it could possibly set a precedent for other residents wishing to sell products, and Council does not to compete with local businesses, it was

Resolved: to congratulate the author on the media recognition of his expertise, and suggest that he might like to approach the Eden Valley Museum as a possible outlet.

8.8 Health Services for Edenbridge - Council Response

Cllrs Alan Layland and John Scholey had considered the questions in the Health Services Survey as agreed, and presented the responses proposed on behalf of the Council. It was

Resolved: to make responses, as follows:

- that a combined surgery/hospital was the right solution for people living in and around Edenbridge, as current facilities were insufficient to meet demand;
- Option 1a) was preferred, for a new purpose-built hospital/surgery on a new site, without in-patient beds, provided that overnight stay beds for NHS patients could be provided in or very close to Edenbridge (eg redeveloped Stangrove Lodge);
- Members strongly agreed that healthcare was changing and in future more care would be delivered in people's homes or communities, that there were difficult choices to be made when planning care, there was a limited amount of money, and it was an opportunity to secure the future of the surgery and the hospital;
- the most important items to consider when planning healthcare delivery were – reducing travel so that people could get treatment and care as close to home as possible, having the most up to date and efficient equipment and facilities, and giving health care and other services enough space to work closely and efficiently together;
- top five priorities to improve healthcare for Edenbridge and surrounding villages
 1. As wide a range of services as possible in Edenbridge
 2. Potentially bringing services to Edenbridge traditionally offered in larger hospitals, such as intravenous medication
 3. Using new technology to share images and test results and contact specialists in hospital remotely
 4. Care that looks at the whole person, mental health as much as physical health
 5. A team (multi-disciplinary) approach to caring for people with long term complicated health and care needs
- supporting additional service options in the following order
 1. End of life care and respite care
 2. Preventative health checks
 3. MRI scanning
 4. Cardiology
 5. Increased hours for X-ray facilities
- there was insufficient factual information to respond to the question on expanding care without overnight stay.

8.9 Membership of HWCAAG

Members considered a request from HWCAAG for the Council to upgrade its membership of the group from associate to "full".

Resolved: the Council would not become a full member of HWCAAG

8.10 Economic Review of Edenbridge Town

Members noted the brief for the Economic Review of Edenbridge Town, and that Cllrs Stuart McGregor and Alan Layland, along with Colette Bristow and Laura Burton-Lawrence, had met with Regeneris and representatives from SDC Economic Development for an inception meeting on Tuesday 7 March. A stakeholders meeting was scheduled for Friday 24 March, at 1pm, and councillors were requested to attend if possible.

8.11 Neighbourhood Plan Update

In light of responses to consultations on very early drafts of possible policies last year, and further engagement with local residents, with the invaluable support and advice from a retired planning officer the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had produced amended draft policies for Council's consideration. It was

Resolved: to endorse the policies unanimously, and to record thanks to all of the project team volunteers, and advisers, for the amount of work undertaken to reach this stage.

8.12 Support for graffiti removal

Members noted the positive response from Tom Tugendhat to the Chairman's request for the MP's support of the Community Warden's ongoing efforts to have graffiti removed from railway property in Edenbridge. They considered other possible action, and

Resolved: to explore through Sharon Gray of SCRP the possibilities of installing murals on the railway bridges, similar to those already created by local young people at the stations.

8.13 KCC Consultation – Draft Kent Cultural Strategy

Members noted that due to the short notice of this consultation before its closing date 12th March, Cllr Woollorton was asked to respond, being this Council's representative to Sevenoaks District Arts Council.

8.14 Nominate unsung heroes

Members considered possible nominations for the District Council's *Making it Happen* Community Voluntary Awards, now in their third year, closing date is Friday 14 April. From the 10 possible categories, it was

Resolved: to nominate as follows:

- Charity of the Year - Great Stone Bridge Trust
- Best Community Club/Group of the Year - ECTreme Youth Club – Rebuild Mexico
- Young Volunteer of the Year (seek recommendation from Antony Shipwright)
- Best Business in the Community - Edenbridge Directory

9. PRESS RELEASE

Members did not wish any items to be the subject of a Press Release

The meeting closed at 9.17pm.