

Minutes of the Council Meeting of EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL held in Rickards Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 9 October 2017

Present: Cllrs J Barnett, T Bryant, Mrs J Davison, R Davison, A Layland (Vice Chairman), B Orridge, S McGregor, C Pearman, M McArthur (Chairman), J Scholey, B Todd and J Woollorton.

In attendance: C Lane (Town Clerk), no members of the public, and no members of the press.

Prior to the start of the meeting members met with the new manager, Carl Dodd, of the Edenbridge medical facility project.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received, noted and accepted from Cllrs R Bell (unwell), V Maynard (unwell) and M Robson (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

No questions were asked.

The meeting was reconvened

Cllr Jill Davison briefly left the meeting.

4. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 September 2017

Resolved: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 11 September 2017 be duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Cllr Jill Davison rejoined the meeting.

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

5.1 Tandridge Garden Village Response

Members noted the contents of the response from Piers Mason, Head of Planning at Tandridge, to the Council's comments regarding the Tandridge Plan.

5.2 Meeting Dates 2018 – Amended

Members noted the amended list of dates.

6. TO CONSIDER THE CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Two storey extension to existing building to create a one two-bedroom flat. **Aniseed Wealden Villas 31A High Street Edenbridge KENT TN8 5AD Ref. No: 17/03061/FUL**

Members object to this application as the car parking provision relies on using the town centre car parks. The main car park is in the sole ownership of the Town Council, who are currently reviewing parking provision, and could institute limitations to parking if they so wished.

InstaVolt are proposing to install two rapid electric vehicle charging stations within the grounds of Mill Hill Garage, Kent. **Petrocell Holdings Ltd Petrol Filling Station Mill Hill Edenbridge KENT TN8 5NG Ref. No: 17/02997/FUL**

Members support this application but wished the Officer to check that the power supply is sufficient to charge vehicles within the existing opening hours.

Alteration, extension and change of use to rear to form 2 no Two bedroom flats C3. retention of existing commercial unit to front. Demolition of existing bank vault to rear. **45 - 47 High Street Edenbridge Kent TN8 5AE Ref. No: 17/02967/FUL**

Members object to this application, as the proposal overlooks and would be overbearing to the adjacent property. The car parking provision relies on using the Market Yard car park which has 72 spaces, not the 140 claimed in the application. The car park is in the sole ownership of the Town Council who are currently reviewing parking provision, and could institute limitations to parking if they so wished.

7. TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

7.1 Open Spaces, 18 September

Resolved: that the minutes presented by Cllr T Bryant be adopted

7.2 Planning and Transportation, 25 September

Resolved: that the minutes presented by Cllr A Layland be adopted

7.3 Finance Committee, 25 September

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

7.4 Annual Liaison Meeting, 22 June 2017

Members accepted the notes from the meeting.

7.5 County Councillor's Update

County Cllr Peter Lake reported on the funding from his allowance that had been allocated to Edenbridge, Holcot, West Kent Extra and the Voluntary Transport Services. He asked the Clerk to ensure that the Community Warden Steering Group was made aware that they need to revise and resubmit their application swiftly, if they hope to be considered for funding this year.

7.6 Working Group / Delegate Reports / Clerk's and Officers' Reports

7.6.1 Eden Valley Museum

Cllr B Orridge gave a verbal report on current activities and challenges facing the museum. The 17 year old environmental temperature and humidity control system needs replacing at a significant cost. The motorized valves also need replacing. This comes at a time when there are a number of changes in personnel, with the original curator and company secretary leaving. The museum is gearing up to accept a new exhibit that is expected to increase footfall.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Items referred from Committees for decision

8.1.1 Open Space - 8.6 To consider defense of open spaces from unauthorised vehicles and encampments

Members considered a range of options to add protection to Marsh Green, and other locations owned by the Council. They acknowledged that, although these measures will have some deterrent effect, they will not prevent anyone who is determined.

Resolved: to take up to £5,500 from the unallocated reserves to fund works to reinstate the roadside edge at Marsh Green and extend the wooden posts on Back Lane, and to install a low level vehicle access gate closer to the residential area, which may then be alerted early to any attempts to gain unlawful access.

Resolved: to install three drop bollards at the Leisure Centre access, and wooden posts and two drop down barriers by Norman Court. If funding is available, to look at installing field gates at the entrance to Mowshurst car park.

8.1.2 Open Spaces - 8.8 To consider costing of items from Annual Playground Inspection Report

Resolved: that the costings for the animal-heads see-saw at Spitals Cross £365 and butterfly see-saw at Stangrove Park approx £400 be accepted.

8.2 Remembrance Day, Service and Parade, 12 November 2017

Members noted the arrangements for the service and parade.

8.3 Asbestos Review and Electrical Testing Review

Electrical Testing

Members noted that Market Yard toilets were due to have their 5 year NICEIC electrical test later this month, all other buildings are up to date, with no pending issues. The PAT test register has been updated and new equipment added.

Asbestos Register

Following the building inspection, some small defects to the sealed finish on the soffits at Blossoms Park Toilets were rectified and any exposed asbestos is now encapsulated. The Asbestos Register has been updated. No changes were made to any other building which would have impacted the risk of asbestos exposure, hence the risk remains very low in all Council owned properties.

8.4 External Audit Report and Certificate

Members noted the clean Audit from the External Auditor (PKF Littlejohn LLP) for 2016/17. The information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices, and no matters have come to their attention to give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit and Right to Inspect the Annual Return' had been placed on the notice board and website for the specified time, along with copies of the Annual Return. A copy of the Certificate and Report was circulated.

8.5 Section 106 Annual Report

The Annual Report for Section 106 agreement provided by Sevenoaks District Council was noted.

8.6 Planning for the right homes in the right places: consultation

Members noted with concern a further consultation on changes to Planning Policy and Legislation. The proposals aim to enable delivery of a million new homes by 2020 and a further half a million by 2022. Government hopes to achieve this by creating a system that is clear and transparent and could prevent Local Authorities wasting time and money on complex, inconsistent and expensive processes. Responses have to be submitted by 9 November.

Resolved: that Cllrs C Pearman, B Todd, Mrs J Davison and the Clerk should prepare and submit the Council's response.

9. PRESS RELEASE

Resolved: to advise the Marsh Green residents of the proposed works and then to publicise the actions the council is taking.

In view of the confidential nature of the following items to be discussed, the chairman will move that the press and public be excluded from the Chamber. Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.

10. Confidential Items

10.1 Staffing Issues

Members noted that a new Head Groundsman has been appointed and a permanent contract given to one of the skilled groundsteam. The second temporary contract for two days a week has

been extended until 31 March 2017.

The Head Groundsman will require some additional training.

Resolved: to provide training for trailer towing training and test and First Aid at Work to enable him to effectively carry out his duties.

10.2 Internal Auditor

Resolved: to increase the fee for Internal Audit services from £300 per annum to £350 per annum. The last increase was in 2007.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.