

Minutes of the Council Meeting of EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL held in Rickards Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 10 December 2018

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

In attendance: Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Cllr P Lake, three members of the public, and no members of the press.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Tenancy Manager and the Head of Support at West Kent Housing gave a presentation on their vision for older persons housing, how it had been implemented in Swanley and how they now intend to focus on Edenbridge.

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, none

The meeting was reconvened.

4. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 November 2018

Resolved: two words were changed in the proposed minutes to change the word “four” to “some” and “preferred” to “acceptable” before the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 12 November 2018 were duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR REPORT AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA – none

6. TO CONSIDER THE CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Planning Applications for consideration

Proposed extension and change of use of existing garage to residential accommodation. **Cheras 12 Grange Close Edenbridge KENT TN8 5LT** Ref. No: 18/03507/HOUSE

Members supported this application subject to Officers checking that there is sufficient off street parking, as on street parking is extremely limited in Grange Close.

For information

Vehicular access. **27 Park View Close Edenbridge KENT TN8 5JF** Ref. No. 18/03648/LDCPR-noted

7. TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

7.1 Open Spaces Committee, 19 November

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

7.2 Planning and Transportation Committee, 26 November

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

7.3 Finance Committee, 26 November

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

7.4 County Councillor's verbal Update

Cllr P Lake was delayed and gave his update following Item 8.7. He advised members on his further efforts to resolve the issue of school transport to Sevenoaks, and the proposed loss of the 16.40 to Sevenoaks and 18.00 back on the Go Coach 404 bus. Details of his correspondence to MP Tom Tugendhat and this council's letter of support, will be on the Agenda for the Planning and Transportation Meeting on 17 December.

7.5 Emergency Planning Exercise – verbal update Cllr M McArthur

Cllr M McArthur gave a verbal update on the exercise to test Silver Control, the District Council response. It was a table top exercise, in real time, which included the setting up of a rest centre. Some members of the Edenbridge Emergency Planning group took part and used the opportunity to test its own radio system. It worked extremely well. RAYNET provided support for the Silver Team and were using a video system which was a useful addition, which the Chairman suggested should be considered by the Edenbridge group.

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

7.6.1 Update from West Kent on Commissioned Youth Work and Edenbridge HOUSE

Following the meeting on 22 November attended by Cllr Todd and the Clerk an update was received outlining the No Bother (crime prevention project) and plans for a trip to Kenya in 2020 by the young people.

Cllrs B Todd and C Pearman praised the work of the Youth Leaders and young people. The Council congratulated Cheryl Banks on the award of UK Youth Worker of the Year and the young people who have also achieved success. (information is currently embargoed).

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Items referred from Committees for decision, none

8.2 Environmental Assessment 2018

Members noted the Buildings Manager's report and were pleased to see improvements in all areas.

Resolved: to task the Buildings Manager to investigate the installation of solar panels on other Council properties, to see if further savings can be made.

The decommissioning of the toilets at Blossoms Park was noted.

Cllr J Davison briefly left the meeting.

8.3 Arrangements and suggestions for Annual Town Meeting

Resolved: The Annual Town Meeting should take place at 8pm in the W.I. Hall on Monday 4 March. The usual representatives from District and County Council and the Police be invited to make short presentations and to take questions, in addition to the Chairman presenting her report. The Youth Forum to be invited to make a presentation as they will have completed their WW1 Project and will be starting planning for their trip to Kenya. The meeting was considered a good opportunity to encourage residents to consider standing for election.

Cllr Clive Pearman requested further information on the powers granted to Town and Parish Councils in relation to the War Memorial tablets before consideration should be given to the inclusion of a consultation on locations for the War Memorial, if plans for the combined Medical Facility require it to be moved.

Cllr J Davison rejoined the meeting

8.4 Receipt of Residents' Petition on Wayfinders and Reopening of the Market Yard Car park from the High Street

The Chairman brought this item forward to Item 5. A social media petition, set up by a local resident, had been presented to the Council by email. It was on the Wayfinder Scheme and the re-opening of the Market Yard Car Park entrance from the High Street.

Members noted its content and the comments it contained, it had not been possible to confirm the addresses but the creator of the petition was confident that the vast majority were local. Cllr James Barnett explained that members were aware of concerns over the scheme and had taken them on board. However it was down to the elected members to make the decisions on the scheme.

8.5 Updated list of Council Meeting Dates- noted

8.6 Kent Fire & Rescue - Safety and Wellbeing Plan update 2018

Kent Fire & Rescue Service (KFRS) has issued a safety and wellbeing plan update 2018 to give local people an update on the work they do and the range of services they provide. It was expected to contain information on increase in Council Tax but the Government has not yet released the information.

Resolved; that Cllr J Barnett should respond on behalf of the Council.

The meeting was briefly suspended so that a pinging noise could be investigated.

8.7 Edenbridge Medical Centre - Consultation Update

The public meeting was well attended and the team expects to submit a planning application in the next few weeks. They have been invited to come and make a brief presentation before the Council meeting on Monday 14 January. A copy of the slides from the public meeting was attached for information.

At the meeting Tom Tugendhat MP requested letters from residents be sent to him regarding the current hospital site, so that he can lobby the Secretary of State for Health to add weight to the local view that proceeds from the sale of the war memorial site should be used for the benefit of people and community of Edenbridge. This would be in line with the intentions of those who originally donated the land and made other contributions.

Resolved: that a letter should be sent from this council.

Cllr P Lake and the three residents left the meeting.

8.8 Police/PCSO Changes Edenbridge

Members were disappointed to hear that Sgt Ballard had confirmed PCSO Adam Pennington is to join the Met Police from January and until then he will be based at Swanley. PCSO Joe Cain will continue to cover Edenbridge assisted, when necessary, by PCSO Amy Hardy and PCSO Sue Harwood who cover Westerham. They are currently based at Edenbridge Police Station and will move to the Fire Station when it is ready. Recruitment is running now for deployment of a further PCSO to make up the complement of four PCSO's based in Edenbridge, and this level is expected to be re-established in March 2019.

8.9 Review of Communication and Community Engagement Strategy

Cllr Alan Layland had requested members to look again at the policy, in light of the emerging use of social media. The policy was last readopted by Council in May 2018.

Resolved: to add the words 'a social media presence and' to item 2.9 before continuing with the words 'to maintain a web-site?'

8.10 CIL, Advice from NALC and Toilets reach stage 2 at SDC Board

Notification has been received that this council's application for funding from SDC CIL Board, towards the refurbishment of the public toilets, has passed stage two and will be considered at the board meeting on Tuesday 18 December at 7pm. Cllr J Scholey would represent the council at the Board meeting and answer questions, if required.

In response to a request for clarification from NALC legal section on the use of consultants and staff hours towards the development of infrastructure projects, the Clerk was advised that it is not possible for a legal interpretation to be given as the responses from KALC and SDC were both correct. The money should only be spent on infrastructure but expertise may be required to achieve the outcomes! The Law is silent on the issue, so the written response received from NALC is a pragmatic approach, and states:

'it is arguable that you would need to spend funds on staff to ensure that CIL is spent accordingly. From the brief instructions and our discussion, most expenditure under CIL is done on a 'project based' approach it would make sense that some monies be reserved for staff to ensure that the project is undertaken properly. However, as explained any funds used would need to be taken from the money given to the Council, i.e. the 15-20% as it is likely the monies/budget from this 'pot' would be spent on a CIL project as a whole.

Solicitor National Association of Local Councils

9. PRESS RELEASE

Members requested that a press release in support of the Youth Leaders and HOUSE achievements should be prepared, in addition to one on the solar panels.

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

10. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

10.1 Church House Preschool

Members raised concerns over the enforcement of the restrictions on the use of the new tables, and how it would be possible ensure the tables were not used by hirers. The Clerk to raise this as an issue with the pre-school manager to see how it might be resolved.

Resolved: that a payment of £30.30 should be made to the Pre-School as a without prejudice payment towards their table.

10.2 Councillors Information

Members reviewed what information they wished to be in the public domain in light of issues currently being experienced by some district council members. It was

Resolved: to bring forward the implementation of the provision of councillor emails from May 2019 to Jan 2019 and to request confirmation from individual councillors of their contact details.

10.3 Local Plan

Members views on a revised plan from developers were sought.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm