

MINUTES of the Extraordinary Meeting of EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL, held in Rickards Hall on Wednesday 10 November 2021, at 7.45 pm.

Present: Cllrs A Baker (Vice-Chair), S Compton, Damodaran, Jennings, A Layland, N Lloyd, M McArthur, S McGregor, P Smith, S Sumner, and B Todd (Chairman)

In attendance: Town Clerk; one members of the public and no members of the press.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received, noted and accepted from Cllrs Aldridge, Read, and Taylor.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS OR PREDETERMINATION

None.

19:46 Meeting was adjourned for agenda item 3.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Michael Gemmell Smith spoke a little about himself and why he would like to be a councillor: he has developed a great attachment to Edenbridge having lived in the town since 2000. As a teenager he was involved in Mencap events as a DJ and had also promoted music events. He said he is enthusiastic about offering support and ideas to help Edenbridge be the best it can be. He aims to encourage positivity around the great potential of the town, and engage with the community to work towards real improvements for fellow residents and businesses alike. Living and working locally allows him to make a commitment to dedicate a significant amount of time towards ensuring the local area is an attractive place to visit and to reside.

19:48 Meeting was reconvened.

4. TO RECEIVE, ADOPT AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON [18 October](#) (9612-9616)

Resolved: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 October be duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting; pages 9612-9616.

5. TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING REPORTS/MINUTES OF MEETINGS

5.1 Planning Committee – [11 October](#)

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting and numbered – 11 October (9605-9607) be adopted.

5.2 Forward Planning Steering Group – [4 October](#)

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting and numbered – 4 October (9602-9604e) be adopted.

5.3 CIL Board – [11 October](#)

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting and numbered – 11 September (9608-09) be adopted.

5.4 Personnel Committee – [15 October](#)

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting and numbered – 15 October (9610-11) be adopted.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WORKING GROUPS; DELEGATED REPORTS; CLERK'S AND OFFICERS' REPORTS:

6.1 Clerk's Report

Received. The Finance and Governance Meeting on 15 November, to discuss the draft budget and precept, was noted. Members also noted the Recreation Ground playground

refurbishment public tender had now closed and eight tenders had been received. These were opened by the working group (Cllrs Baker, Lloyd and Todd with the Community Warden, Deputy, Town Clerk and Cllr Layland) on 28 October. The Clerk would now prepare a spreadsheet with the detail and comparisons. The working group would review this and the tenders again, before making its shortlist. It may be necessary to go back to the shortlisted tenderers with questions. The working group would make a proposal to the Open Spaces Committee.

7. CO-OPTION FOR COUNCILLOR for the North West Ward

7.1 To receive co-option applications and vote to fill the vacancy

The person co-opted must receive an absolute majority vote of the councillors present and voting (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12, para 39). Members voted by paper ballot, in confidence, on the casual vacancy to be filled by co-option. Members unanimously voted and,

Resolved: the casual vacancy to be filled by an absolute majority of the Members, Michael Gemmell Smith.

7.2 To receive the Councillor Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Michael Gemmell Smith signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

8. RECEIVE TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING (15 October:

8.1 to support the staffing budget for 2022/23 of £380,000

Members unanimously,

Resolved: to support the staffing budget for 2022/23 of £380,000.

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

9.1 To appoint a new Member on to the Finance and Governance Committee; Personnel Committee; and Planning Committee (NW)

Members unanimously,

Resolved: to appoint Cllr Gemmell Smith on the Finance and Governance Committee; Personnel Committee; and Planning Committee (NW).

9.2 To receive SDC report/evaluation on the Summer Fun Days

Received. Members were please to note that that the play days had been popular with Edenbridge residents. Attendance had ranged from 92 to 170 per session. One Edenbridge resident had said, 'today has been amazing. My children have really enjoyed the bouncy castle and seeing animals'.

10. OTHER BUSINESS including items referred from Committees for decision

10.1 To consider maintenance the Sports Pavilion Windows

The Building Manager's report was received: Until last year, the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground had suffered occasional vandalism to doors and windows. Since then, the side doors had all been reinforced with steel covers, and their windows had been removed; this had so far discouraged further antisocial activity. The main windows and doors were due for replacement as part of the 30-year maintenance schedule, and it would be possible to add further security measures at the same time.

The options: 1) Replacement with aluminium framed windows and doors as originally proposed - £40k increasing to £70k with shutters; or, 2) replacement with UVPC windows and doors, with the addition of steel shutters for security - £60k. The costs quoted were 18 months old and likely to be higher. However, the view was that UVPC was not a suitable material on a building of this type in a vulnerable location, even with steel shutters protecting it.

Members discussed the best solution and if this could be deferred to 2024, but it was also noted that two of the window units would need replacement sooner. The Town Clerk confirmed that the project could be eligible to be considered for CIL funding under maintenance of infrastructure as the Pavilion is a public sports facility. It was noted that the 30-year maintenance plan allocation and budget could be affected by this project.

Members recognised the need for replacement of the Pavilion windows and security improvements, and unanimously,

Resolved: to proceed with replacement aluminum framed windows and doors with shutters for the Recreation Ground Pavilion; and for this project to be considered for 2022. A request to the CIL board for its February meeting was requested.

11. CONSULTATIONS

None.

12. TO CONSIDER ANY PRESS RELEASES

New co-opted councillor.

13. MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 6 December – to consider the draft budget for 2022/23

Meeting closed: 20:12