

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council **www.swancc.org.uk**

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the above Council held at Headway, 42, Cudworth Road, Ashford on 2nd December 2019

Present

Sue Mullan (SM) (Chair) Nick Cane (NC) Peter Porter (PP) Eric Parkinson (EP) Matthew Harris (MH) John Hunt (JH) Paul Bohill (PB) Charli Wilson (CW) Nirosha Thilagarajan from 7.15pm (NT)

Also in attendance:

Three members of the public, Borough Councillors David Smith (DS) and Andy Rogers, (AR), prospective co-optee, David Mullan (DM), Clerk/RFO Rob Woods (RW) and Roland Mills (RM) Ashford Borough Council for item 109/19a

100/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The apologies of Cllr Liz Thorne were **noted and approved**
Apologies were also received from County Cllr George Koowaree

101/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

MH and NC declared an OSI in item 109/19a

102/19 AGREE MINUTES OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING AND SIGN

Having been circulated in advance, the Minutes were **agreed** and **signed** as a true record.

103/19 MEETING ADJOURNED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE QUESTIONS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The meeting was adjourned from 7.05pm to allow members of the public to speak. There being no questions and no other expressions of interest in the current casual vacancy, DM was invited by the Chair to make a short presentation on his reasons for applying for co-option to the Council.

The meeting reconvened at 7.13pm

104/19 TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION TO COUNCIL VACANCY AND AGREE

Resolved: it was agreed unanimously to appoint DM to fill the Community Council's casual vacancy

NT arrived at 7.15pm

105/19 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

AR informed the Council that he had recently received Planning training and would be unable to make personal comments in future. He thanked the Chair for the invite to the annual carol service and updated the Council on the progress of two projects 1) securing Newtown Green was complete and 2) KCC has delayed improvements to lighting in the railway underpass

DS 1) Has questioned the Joint Transportation Board on the ownership of the railway underpass
2) Informed Councillors about the extent of recent flooding and actions that could be taken by the local drainage Board to unblock the Aylesford Stream and mitigate the risks of flooding

3) Trees at the rear of Baxendale Court were to be chopped down and replaced by new ones. There would be some inconvenience whilst the work is in progress

4) In response to PP's question, explained that emergency flood protocols involved various organisations and confirmed that sand bag supplies at ABC were plentiful and could be deployed quickly.

Noted that out of hours calls to Council switchboard (331111) go through to an Emergency Centre and Aspire will clear debris caused by flooding from the children's play area near Bulleid Place.

The Chair thanked both Ward Councillors for their reports

106/19 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF 18/11/19

The draft Minutes were circulated in advance, received and **noted without comment**

107/19 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ITEMS REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION:-

107/19a TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE SPONSORSHIP POLICY

The draft policy was circulated in advance.

Resolution:- It was **unanimously agreed** that the policy should be adopted without amendment

107/19b TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE BUDGET STRATEGY FOR 2020/21

Resolution: It was **unanimously agreed** to accept the Committee's recommendations a) that Council reserves should not be used to offset revenue expenditure in 2020/21 b) that the levy on the properties in the parish should broadly be in line with that of 2019/20 and c) that discrete projects funded by Council reserve need to be identified and agreed (**Action Finance and General Purposes Cttee**)

107/19c TO CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION TO SWITCH BANKS AND AGREE

Resolution: It was **unanimously agreed** to accept the Committee's recommendation to switch from Metro Bank to Unity Trust Bank as soon as possible (**Action: RW**)

108/19 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE OF 13/11/19

The draft Minutes were circulated in advance, received and **noted without comment**

109/19 PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE ITEMS REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION:-

109/19a TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO PLANNING APPLICATION 19/1476/AS – FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR A MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT AT THE FORMER NEWTOWN WORKS RAILWAY

The Chair thanked RM for attending

Councillors discussed a previously circulated report containing suggestions for the response. It was proposed by CW and seconded by NC that the report should re-drafted in the light of the discussion

Resolved: it was **agreed unanimously** that a re-drafted report should be presented to the next Planning and Highways meeting (**Action RW**) and recommendations made for consideration at the full Council meeting on 6th January 2020

109/19b TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM CLLR. CANE ON SAFETY ISSUES ON THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN THE ALBION P.H. AND TURNER CLOSE AND AGREE ACTIONS

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to lobby KCC/Kent Police for improvements to safety

Resolved to invite KCC to a site meeting and draft a letter to the Police to highlight the issue (**Action RW**)

110/19 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM CLLR. CANE ON ASPIRATIONS FOR A NEW COMMUNITY HUB AND AGREE FUTURE ACTIONS

Cllr. Cane presented his embryonic ideas. Following a discussion, it was agreed to progress a project to create a new community hub with the Swan Centre site, being, prima facie, the best option

Resolved to create a Working Group consisting of NC, CW and JH with support from DS and AR to explore feasibility and funding options. (**Action RW to prepare a terms of reference for agreement by full Council**)

111/19 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM CLLR. WILSON ON E-MAIL AND WEB COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

Cllr Wilson presented a verbal report on technical support for, and encryption of, Council e-mail services. Some members are unable to access SWAN e-mails on their equipment and it was proposed that the Community Council may need to change its e-mail provider and possibly its web host. Cllr Wilson also questioned the security of data

Resolved – the current arrangement is not working for all Councillors and further examination of the options, including security and costs, should be undertaken with a view to changing the e-mail service provider. **(Action CW, LT and RW)**

112/19 TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE/E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from ABC Finance - **Noted:** deadline for presenting budget 2020/21 and precept calculation ties in with next Council meeting **(Action RW)**

113/19 AGREE DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING AS 6th JANUARY 2020 AND ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

Agreed - 6th January 2020 as date for the next Council meeting with items as follows

Further discussion on e-mail issues and protocols

Procurement of mobile devices (if not already agreed by FGP Committee)

KCC meeting update (flooding of Underpass)

114 /19 FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN MEMBERS

Councillor Bohill emphasised the need for S106 agreements to mitigate the impact of gentrification on Newtown if the Newtown Railway works application receives approval

RW confirmed that S106 requests would be requested/qualified in the response to ABC (Cross reference Minute 109/19a)

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.47pm

Signed _____
(Chairman)

Dated ____/____/____