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

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the above Council held virtually
on Monday 7th December 2020**

181/20 Record attendance and approve apologies for absence

Present - Sue Mullan (SM) (Chair) Nick Cane (NC) Peter Porter (PP) John Hunt (JH) Nirosha Thilagarajan (NT) David Mullan (DM) Eric Parkinson (EP) Paul Bohill (PB) Steve Campkin (SC)

Also in attendance: Clerk/RFO Rob Woods (RW)

Absence apologies: Cllr Andy Rogers(AR) – absence approved George Koowaree (KCC) Isabel Smith (PCSO), Sarah Evans (Clerk/RFO) and a member of public who could not attend and requested the Chair to read out his question relating to item 192/20

182/20 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest

No interests were declared

183/20 Agree Minutes of the last Council meeting and sign

The Minutes of the meeting of 2nd November 2020 were agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed. Proposed JH Seconded NC

184/20 Meeting adjourned for members of the public to raise questions on items on the agenda

The meeting was adjourned at 7.05pm

The Chair read out the comments of a member of the public relating to child play areas

Agreed to pass the matter to the Community Assets and Management Working Group for further consideration (Action RW/NC)

The meeting reconvened at 7.10pm

185/20 Receive reports from Borough and County Councillors

There were no Borough or County Councillors in attendance

186/20 To discuss a report from the Clerk regarding proactive crime reduction Watch schemes and agree

Members discussed a report circulated in advance.

SM thanked the Police Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Team organizer for his work and for bringing members' attention to proactive crime prevention.

PB (Crime and Disorder Champion) endorsed the report's recommendations and urged the Council to consider improving radio/CCTV communications in the SWAN area

PP commented on the need to engage with youth organisations

Resolved: By unanimous agreement to support the recommendations

1. That once armed with data from the forthcoming residents' survey, the Council considers the development of a longer-term crime prevention strategy for SWAN as an element of the Community Council Plan

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2. That NW's key principle of proactive prevention should form the central theme of any future strategy
 3. That the Council recognises the holistic value of working with organisations other than NW within the local crime reduction "family"
 4. That the Council communicates the value and operation of Neighbourhood Watch to SWAN residents in a controlled way through its various channels in conjunction with the NW managers with a view to increasing awareness and member sign-ups
 5. That the Council continues to develop its relationship with the local Police Community Safety Unit
 6. That the Council a) continues to report litter and other environmental crimes through Ashford Borough Council's website reporting facility, b) measures the collection lead-time and c) draws Council officers' and members' attention to the findings.
 7. That the Council seeks an explanation from Ashford Borough Council for its reasons for not extending the Ashford Urban PSPO to Newtown
 8. That the Council makes its residents and businesses aware of enforcement initiatives such as the Urban Area PSPO and the Ashford Partnership Against Crime including the benefits and possible implications identified in this report.
 9. That the Council in conjunction with the Police and Neighbourhood Watch communicates with residents to advise them on spotting the signs of modern slavery and people trafficking (Action RW/SE)

187/20 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 16th November 2020

The draft Minutes were circulated in advance and noted without comment
Proposed NC Seconded JH

188//20 To receive a report of the Responsible Financial Officers on the impact of the 2021-22 Council tax base calculation on the draft budget and precept for 2021-22 and agree

Members discussed a report circulated in advance

Proposed by DM and seconded SC, it was resolved by unanimous decision to accept the recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and agree

- a) The Revised budget for 2020-21
- b) The Budget for 2021-22
- c) An average (Band D) household tax of no more than £36.19p pa

To achieve c) above, and in the light of a 19% reduction in the Council tax base, to agree

- d) To declare a precept for 2021-22 of £42945
- e) The use of £15000 of Council reserve/contingency to support the Council's plan in 2021-22 (Action RW/SE)

189/20 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee of 18th November 2020

The draft Minutes were circulated in advance and noted without comment
Proposed JH Seconded NT

**190/20 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Allotments Committee
2nd December 2020**

The draft Minutes were circulated in advance and noted. Proposed NC Seconded EP
PP noted the action to acquire 3 quotations for new fencing and reminded members of the
role the Finance and General Purposes Committee in any future decision.

**191/20 To receive and note an update from the Communications Working
Group**

PP explained the meeting notes which had been circulated in advance

**Resolved: by unanimous agreement to endorse the actions and future proposals of the
Working Group, note the alterations to the Council Plan survey response deadline and the
cost of print £802 +VAT and delivery £247.20 + VAT**

PB proposed a vote of thanks to PP

**192/20 To receive an update from the Community Assets and Management
Working Group**

NC presented a verbal report. Noted that the group is still exploring longer term options for
a new community hub but in the light of comments made in Items 184/20 and 186/20
would explore the transfer of community facilities including children's play areas

193/20 Review of Grants Policy

Members discussed a previously circulated report of the Clerk

**Resolved: by unanimous agreement to revise the Grants policy to include reference to,
and a procedure for, the allocation of small donations capped at £100**

**That the small donations budget would be 10% of the total grants budget
(Action RW/SE to bring revised policy to next meeting)**

**194/20 Update from KALC AGM and nomination to elect a replacement
representative to KALC.**

SM presented the outcomes of the KALC AGM including actions to mitigate the increasing
levels of discarded litter

Resolved: By unanimous agreement to nominate PB as KALC representative

**195/20 To discuss the condition of the underpass between Newtown Road
Hunter Road**

PP commented on the graffiti in the underpass.

**Resolved: by unanimous agreement that action needs to be taken to improve this
important thoroughfare and a letter sent to Ashford Borough Council in the first instance
followed by other actions if required**

196/20 Correspondence/E-Mail correspondence received

None received

**197/20 To agree date of next Council meeting as 4th January 2021 and items
to be included on the agenda**

Date agreed: Revised grants Policy and Spring Clean to be included on the agenda

198/20 Forum for exchange of information between Councillors

SC informed members about the pothole on Newtown Road (near Klondyke site) which is currently embargoed by KCC due to the development works in that location

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm

Signed _____
(Chair)

Dated ____/____/____