

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council
www.swancc.org.uk
Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 13th June 2022

Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm

In Attendance: Sue Mullan (SM) David Mullan (DM) Peter Porter (PP) Jacky Godden (JG) Paul Bohill (PB)

Also, in attendance - Sarah Evans (SE) Rob Woods (RW) Alan Mckibbin and Helen McConnell from FM Conway. Peter New Neighbourhood Watch and 3 Members of the Public

115/22 Record attendance and list apologies for absence

Apologies from Andy Hodges, Andy Rogers, Steve Campkin Eric Parker, Nirosha Thilagarajan were received and agreed unanimously.

116/22 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest

None

117/22 Agree Minutes of the additional Council meeting of 18th May 2022 and sign (attached)

The Minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed.

Proposed DM Seconded PB and agreed unanimously

118/22 Meeting adjourned for members of the public to raise questions on items on the agenda or comment on the Platinum Jubilee celebration (This item will last no more than 15 minutes in total)

The meeting closed at 7:08pm Sheila Eastlake gave feedback from the WI that the Jubilee had been a splendid day and very much enjoyed by all, that their stall had been a success and the Council should be congratulated on such a successful event. Malcolm Webb advised the day had been excellent and a real success and hadn't heard a negative word about it. Shelia Eastlake advised parking ticket was given to a volunteer when unloading her vehicle to help with the Jubilee and that it was very expensive and only caused by needing to un-load. PB agreed to follow up with individual fined and see if any allowance could be made or help with an appeal.

The meeting reopened at 7:15pm

119/22 To receive a report from FM Conway's project team on the Finberry/Orbital Park Roundabout scheme.

Alan McKibbin gave a verbal report explaining how 1) the works had been delayed 2) the large challenges the project 3) how were taking place on the A2070 and 4) how the next set of works would impact the SWAN area.

- 1) Large challenges the project faced were the situation of a high-risk high pressure 37 bar gas main which runs parallel to the A2070. That a Sheet Pile had had to be created to protect the Gas Main, furtherly a medium gas main had to be diverted under the road and on into the Boulevard. That the central reservation has been move and the lanes moved 7-8m either side.
- 2) The delays were caused by an extended wait for National Highways Consent and then were impacted by the application of Operation Brock causing FM Conway to have to remove and reinstall their traffic management. Also, previous delays up to Christmas 2021 caused by very wet and hard winter of 2021 had impacted the construction of the Embankment in Waterbook which was made as ecologically as possible by using materials removed for the creation for the Finberry development.

- 3) The current stage of works is creating one lane of traffic each way on the dual carriageway but this is on schedule to allow for 2 lanes to be opened in 6 weeks time reducing the current congestion. up works an additional work force is in place working from 5pm – 3am to complete the current stage of work.

The actual roundabout substance is being removed immediately and would then become part of the cross roads and traffic light area. That the central reservation is also being removed to widen the lanes available a left hand on slip and ease right turn onto the Finberry Development was being installed and an additional right-hand turn was in progress for access to Orbital Park near Macdonald's. That the Boulevard up to Crowbridge Link was also part of the planned future works to create more lanes for managing traffic. Cllrs expressed concern regarding the impact of HGV vehicles on the SWAN area and advised Alan Mckibbin that from the Boulevard onwards KCC had put in a prohibition for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes but the signage was insufficient Alan agreed to look into this and see if further support could be given for signage and to ensure FM Conway was aware. Cllrs also expressed concern for Pedestrians with the project as this has not yet been communicated. Alan Mckibbin advised that there would be multi staged pedestrian crossing and that cameras and sequenced traffic light was all in place for safety and safe flow of pedestrians and traffic. Cllrs also queried how much FM Conway liaise with KCC and how this happened. Alan Mckibbin advised that National Highways ensure road space is booked out to put in the temporary traffic regulation order. Kent Corridor Group have KCC National Highways and Contractors meeting weekly but where the priority is between the groups was to him unknown. Helen McConnell confirmed Cllrs were receiving the updates to date and that she would provide more pictures of the planned works, Cllrs confirmed they had been received, SE reported back that the media release were not Social Media sized or friendly and asked if this could be looked at.

120/22 To receive reports from

- a. Ashford Borough Council Ward representative
- b. Kent County Council Ward representative
- c. Police and Neighbourhood Watch representatives (report attached)
- d. KALC representatives
- e. Swan Centre member representative

Resolved: - Apologies sent so item a and b not actioned. c) Peter New gave his report verbatim as in the appendix, d) SM advised there was no further updates from KALC e) PB advised he had joined the board there was a need for more volunteers and asked all members to consider if they could support the SWAN centre with its rotas. A date was waited for the AGM.

Action SE to confirm date of SWAN Centre agenda

121/22 To endorse the Finance and General Purposes Committee 's decision taken by e-mail on urgent invoice payments and new payment beneficiaries (Appendix 1)

Resolved Proposed DM Seconded PP and agreed unanimously to endorse all the decisions taken.

122/22 To agree Council Insurance provision for the period to 28th May 2023

SE advised that 1) the Insurance Agent had held cover for the Council for 14 days after renewal as a cooling off period as required. However, it then allowed Council to remain covered until the meeting to agree how it would progress with insurance needs. 2) The search for further quotes had been unsuccessful due to the open claim the Council had, that therefore the Council would need to remain with the present insurer until such times as the claim is closed or renewal whichever came first. 3) The Insurance agent was trying to state they were not made aware of the claim and were trying to withdraw or renegotiate the legal cover and requote 14 days after renewal was accepted in writing. That this had been rebutted by the Clerks and that it had been insisted the agent bear the full weight of the error. That members would be kept up to date with the outcome.

Resolved: - Proposed PP and Seconded JG and agreed unanimously to continue with the present insurance provided.

Action SE to keep Members updated with outcome on insurance negotiations.

123/22 To agree final payments for the Platinum Jubilee celebration and receive feedback from Councillors on the event

Members discussed the success of the Platinum Jubilee Celebration and considered previously circulated report for discussion and recommendations for decision, see appendix.

Resolved: Proposed DM and Seconded PB Members agreed unanimously outstanding payments (Section A)

Proposed DM and Seconded JG agreed unanimously Members noted the cost and funding summary (Section B)

Proposed PB Seconded PP agreed unanimously Members endorsed the legal authority to spend (Section C)

Proposed PB Seconded PP agreed unanimously a salary enhancement to the Community Council Manager in recognition of 31.5 additional hours spent on Jubilee event management on and around the Bank Holiday period £416.12 (Section D)

Agreed Unanimously Members noted the key project outcomes (Section E), Members noted the detailed breakdown of costs (Appendix 1), Members noted the key outputs and the value of Facebook sponsored advertising (Appendix 2)

124/22 To receive internal audit report and consider its findings (Appendix 2)

Resolved Proposed JG Seconded PB and agreed unanimously that the internal audit report was received and considered.

125/22 To consider the creation of a Working Group for the living bus stop project

Resolved Agreed unanimously to create working group with PB, AH and JG and attendance of Clerk if invited.

126/22 Agree timetable for area enhancement budget (Report attached)

Resolved: - Agreed timetable unanimously. Agreed unanimously a ward walk of the Orbital Park Thursday 23rd June at 10:30am meeting at the SWAN Office.

127/22 To agree meetings room rental costs for the next 12 months

- a) Salvation Army Hall - £562.50 Monthly Council meetings of 2.5-hour length plus Annual Meeting of Electors and use of power and facilities including PA/hearing loop
- b) Baxendale Court - £350 – All Council Committee meetings inc use of power

Resolved Proposed DM Seconded PB and agreed unanimously

128/22 To receive urgent correspondence/e-mails

- a) East Stour School newsletter action noted and circulated
- b) Dads Unlimited noted and signposting agreed.
- c) Ashford's Local Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- d) Borough Council – Approval to fill casual vacancy
- e) Any other urgent matter received

129/22 To consider possible interventions for residents struggling with rising costs (Lead: Cllr Parkinson)

Cllr Parkinson sent apologies so the item was Members voted on the item being moved forward to the following months agenda.

Resolved Agreed Unanimously to postpone item to next agenda

130/22 To agree date of next meeting as 4th July 2022 and any agenda items

Next meeting agreed as 4th July, Consider and agree a Fun day next year and a date for it. Update on Newtown Works what happening at present and plan ahead.

131/22 Forum for exchange of information between Council members

Klondyke site 3 flats have been finished and all 91 units have been sold to individuals rather than block purchases by investors. Item 129/22 from this meeting.

There being no further items to be discussed the Chair closed the meeting at 8:54pm

Signed Chair _____ Date _____

Appendix of reports

1. Peter New Neighbourhood Watch
2. Platinum Jubilee Celebration
3. Timetable for area enhancement budget