

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

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

**Before the meeting was opened – a 2-minute Silence in tribute will be observed.**

**The meeting opened at 7pm**

**160/22 Record attendance and list apologies for absence**

In Attendance: Sue Mullan (SM) David Mullan (DM) Andy Rogers (AR), Nirosha Thilagarajan Paul Bohill (PB) Jacky Godden (JG)

Also, in attendance – Sarah Evans (SE - Community Council Manager, Peter New (PN) Neighbourhood Watch and 4 members of the public

Eric Parkinson apologies approved and agreed unanimously an absence of 3 months  
Nirosha Thiagarajan apologies approved  
Steve Campkin apologies approved

**161/22 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest**

AR declared a disclosable pecuniary interest regarding item 173/22

**162/22 Agree Minutes of the Council meeting of 5th September 2022 and sign (attached)**

Proposed AR Seconded DM and agreed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned 19:18

**163/22 Meeting adjourned for members of the public to raise questions on items on the agenda (This item will last no more than 15 minutes in total)**

1 member of the public asked if the KCC REPORT would remark on the unusual drainage smells in the area and sink holes on the Kennington Road to the hospital the Chair confirmed this was in the prepared report. The member of the public asked for the KCC Cllr to be made aware of unpleasant smells and possible leaks at Maunsell Place with concern this could be the same situation. A member of the public raised the issue of electric scooters in Newtown and asked for the PCSO to made aware. The Chair advised that the Clerk would clarify which items had been reported by KCC and any outstanding items would be reported as an action. DM advised he would also clarify with the Klondyke site. The Chair confirmed a report would be made to the PCSO regarding scooters

The meeting reopened 19:27

**164/22 Resolution to appoint a candidate to Council vacancy**

**Resolved: The candidate unfortunately had to withdraw their candidacy.**

**165/22 To receive reports from**

**a. Ashford Borough Council Ward representative**

AR gave a verbal report, advising his joint Ward Representative David Smith was in hospital and he now would be dealing with all Ward Cllr enquiries. AR thanked SWANCC for their care and support of David Smith during this time. AR gave tribute to the Queen and condolences on her passing, he also thanked SWANCC for their swift and professional work in conducting Operation London Bridge and for the Proclamation Ceremony and for arranging the laying of the flowers at the Memorial Wheels and that he was honoured to have been able to take an active role in these historical and worthy proceedings.

AR advised he had been on a visit with David Smith to the Newtown Works and was now appointed an Observer to the Board, the site was cleared and roofs had been removed from the Engine sheds, except for one unit due to the management of nesting Bats. That residential infrastructure was being put in place. Road infrastructure was being well planned and a one-way system was being put in place to manage site traffic. Multi storey car park, film studios, Operator of the development is really interested in taking it on, the hotel is going ahead, long project it was very interesting to visit it would be 60% ABC owned and 40% outside interest. AR was advised that a possible space was being considered for the use of Arts and Crafts in the area and the community space and commercial area was looser in terms of the plans set down. AR received weekly updates and that Art work was being preserved and crane systems, platform reuse and turning wheels were being preserved in a sensitive way.

AR advised that issues with the planning portal had been raised with Cllr Bell planning and the local function would not come back but to look for local planning app.

AR advised the JTB met 2 weeks ago that 2 parking spaces outside the Royal Mail Sorting Office were being consulted on and a risk assessment in progress hopefully 2 bays would be made.

Operation Brock was now moving to Operation Zero to prioritise movement for vehicles with perishables, livestock and essential goods.

The sewer damage at Kennington Road was initially closing the road and was planned for 21 days but will more likely be 3-6 months. Sand eroded and a sinkhole has been created.

JG expressed concern for the managing of ambulance traffic and hospital access which was clarified.

AH expressed concern for potholes, vandalism and graffiti.

#### **b. Kent County Council Ward representative**

SC sent his apologies but a prepared statement was read out see appendix

#### **c. Police and Neighbourhood Watch representatives**

PN read a prepared statement see appendix

#### **d. KALC representatives**

AR advised that the September meeting was cancelled in respect of the Queen's death and the next meeting would be during October 2022.

#### **e. Swan Centre member representative**

PB advised he had been invited to join the Committee and the responsibilities this included.

**Resolved Members agreed unanimously to approve PB being on the SWAN Centre Committee.**

**166/22 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 26th September 2022 (attached) and consider the following recommendations**

**Resolved Proposed DM Seconded AR and agreed unanimously to receive and note the Finance and General Purpose minutes**

**a) To review Committee membership at this meeting**

**Resolved: Proposed JG Seconded PB Agreed unanimously that AR would attend FGP until a replacement could be found for PP**

**b) That following a review of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy (attached), no amendments are required**

**Resolved Proposed AR Seconded DM Agreed Unanimously to the recommendation that no amendments were required for the Mental Health and Wellbeing policy.**

**c) That the draft Equality and Diversity Policy (attached) is adopted without amendment**

**Resolved Proposed AH Seconded DM Agreed unanimously to adopt without amendment**

**d) That, subject to clarification on the cost of electricity supply, the offer of £3500 per annum plus VAT for larger and better-appointed accommodation at the Invicta Business Centre represents value for money and is accepted.**

**Resolved Proposed DM Seconded AR Agreed unanimously**

**That the clarified costs of max £100 per quarter for electricity and heating were acceptable, to take on the lease for the office for a year minimum, to budget £100 towards moving costs, plus the costs of new signs and a display stand.**

**167/22 To receive a verbal report of the RFO on the review of Council signatories and agree the reassignment of authorised signatories, access rights and card holders**

**Resolved Proposed AR Seconded AH Agreed unanimously for DM to be signatory for all accounts and the expenses and payment card accounts.**

**169/22 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Allotments Committee of 27th September 2022 (attached) and consider the following recommendations**

**Proposed AR Seconded AH agreed unanimously.**

**170/22 To receive a report from the Planting and Biodiversity Working Group and consider its recommendations (Cllr Godden)**

**Proposed AR Seconded DM and agreed unanimously to pay Stefan Heathfield in line with the recommendations.**

**170/22 To receive a report from the Planting and Biodiversity Working Group and consider its recommendations (Cllr Godden)**

**Resolved Proposed JG and Seconded DM and agreed unanimously the following recommendations**

**Event Working group to organise a Community Planting Day and purchase bulb planters**

**15<sup>th</sup> October or 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 subject to permissions**

**Newtown Green**

**Action Plan with Marked Maps for each site for volunteers to follow :-**

**Newtown Green 15<sup>th</sup> Oct or 5<sup>th</sup> November Community Date**

**Walkabout 13<sup>th</sup> October to mark the sites Jackie Godden Stefan Heathfield**

**Rotavating 17<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October for wild flower planting to pay Stefan Heathfield for 2 further days**

**Royds Road 8 areas Steve Kellam & David Smith**

**Wainwright Place 1 area Steve Campkin and Eric Parkinson**

**Alfred Road 2 areas David & Sue Paul Bohill to consult**

**Belmont Place Stefan to action paid**

**Newtown Road Train Stefan to action paid**

**School / railway line Children and Teachers with available SWANCC members for Community Engagement**

**Pocket Park opposite Mead Road - Wildflowers on the banks with bulbs on lower areas**

**All other areas seeds to be sown after rotavating by volunteers by end of November.**

**171/22 To receive a report from the Living Bus Stop Working Group and consider its recommendations (Cllrs Hodges/Bohill)**

**Resolved PB offered £500 donation advised he and AH are working together on quotes. AH has had heavy work commitments and a further update would be given at the next meeting**

**172/22 To receive a report from the Honours Working Group and consider its recommendations (Cllr D Mullan)**

**DM advised that the nominee was still confidential as agreed at the meeting in during the closed Public session. The working groups recommendation was that it would not be possible to apply for an MBE and other awards had been looked at but the most realistic was to apply for an invite to the Kings Garden Party via the Lord Lieutenant however it was believed it was not possible until after the Coronation or**

were passed in date – Further options were being considered for a National Award but those considered so far had closed the date

**173/22 Community Plan update 2022-23**

Members discussed a circulated report on the progress of the Community plan objectives  
Resolved Agreed unanimously that the plan was progressing well and noted the updates given.  
Members noted and agreed that feedback from the Town Centre meant the event objective for the SWAN Business Showcase in the Town Centre could not be achieved until 2024 at the earliest.

**174/22 To receive a verbal report of the Community Council Manager on the Eat Well, Spend Less Road Shows and agree**

Resolved Agreed unanimously £750 for an Eat Well Spend Less Road Show in January organised by Ashford Borough Council subject to date from the SWAN Centre and £350 towards a corresponding Cycle Maintenance event for provisionally East Stour Pupils taking their Cycling proficiency and then residents in the area.

To facilitate the hosting of Pneuma courses for their eat well spend less roadshows and investigate costs as well as facilitate the hosting of the Sew it and repair it workshop for the Salvation Army subject to a review of costs.

Power to well-being of the area S2 and 4 of the Local Government Act 2002 (as amended by Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and or S137 as needed

**175/22 To consider the Council's response to a pre-application consultation on a 5g mast installation on Newtown Road (details attached) and agree**

Proposed PB Seconded DM agreed unanimously to object to the siting of the mast due to the risk of road accidents following the 2 crashed in recent months caused by overgrowth and brambles which the Council had had to lobby to have removed.

**176/22 To consider the content of a letter to the managing agent, Samuel Peto Way development requesting the reinstatement of play equipment on land abutting Newtown Road and agree  
Resolved Agreed unanimously to send the letter to the Housing Association for the area without amendment signed by the Chair of SWANCC**

**177/22 To receive urgent correspondence received**

PCSO Oli welch wrote to the Council to ask if litter management could be applied to an area central Frogs island.

Resolved Agreed unanimously to request SWAN Litter Pickers to visit the area, also to ensure the soon to be hired SWANCC Litter Picker patrols the area regularly

**Tower Mint Invoice**

Resolved Agreed unanimously to pay the invoice from the earmarked reserve.

**Email from Allotment tenant on security issues**

Resolved Agreed unanimously to contact Ashford Police station regarding the offer of ring door bells from December 2021 meeting and see if a solar power option can be made available.

**Local Government Act and Rating Act 1997 s.31**

Email from East Stour Primary School was read by the Chair and noted their support for the Council plans over the next 12 months

**178/22 To agree date of next meeting as 7th November 2022 and any agenda items**

Date agreed as 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

JG requested that concerns regarding the low water levels for the Willesborough Dyke and the Moat be added. Public Health Act 1936 s.260

JG requested that the planning agreements for East Stour Way and the surrounding estate be revisited as it has been reported to her that Swifts nesting boxes and bat provision and a wildlife pond were

**meant to be included in this plan. It was agreed unanimously to refer this to the Planning and Highways Committee**

**179/22 Forum for exchange of information between Council Members**

No items were added.

There being no further items to be discussed the Chair closed the meeting at 9.10 pm

Signed Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_