

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council

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Ordinary Council Meeting – 9th January 2022

MINUTES

The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm

1/23 Record attendance and list apologies for absence

In attendance, Sue Mullan (SM) (Chair) Andy Rogers (AR) (Vice Chair) David Mullan (DM)) Steve Campkin (SC) Peter Porter (PP) Andy Hodges (AH) Nirosha Thilagarajan (NT) Paul Bohill (PB) and Jacky Godden (JG) Sarah Evans (CCM) Community Council Manager

Also, in attendance – Cllr Gerry Clarkson Leader of Ashford Borough Council, Gareth Davies Youth Strategy Volunteer, Peter New (PN) Neighbourhood Watch and 14 members of the Public,

Apologies from Eric Parkinson and approved

2/23 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest

Steve Campkin Tenant Gas House Fields Allotments

3/23 Agree Minutes of the Council meeting of 5th December 2022 and sign (attached)

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Resolved:- Proposed DM Seconded PB and agreed unanimously

4/23 To receive a presentation from Cllr Gerry Clarkson, Leader of Ashford Borough Council on his plans for a memorial to railway workers

Cllr G Clarkson gave members an introduction to his own work history role as a Councillor and also his experience in working on high end Memorials including London near St Pauls Cathedral. It was an exciting well thought out and thorough presentation of the plans for the combined monument to the workers of Newtown Railway Works and the memorial to those who lost their lives through the war at the site. The presentation was in depth to explain the broad scope of the project, the rich quality, high end consideration and attention to detail on this project. Cllr Clarkson explained the timescale for this project would be over several years and he was continuing this project through his retirement. That he hoped to have a visit from the King to unveil this project and celebrate the major growth in key projects across Ashford.

Cllr Clarkson listened to questions from members and heard suggestions for planting soft landscaping and the inclusion of key families who formed the area of South Willesborough through their earnings in the Newtown Works. Also, Members put to Cllr Clarkson the input of local Historian tales from the tracks and her recent project as part of the AIMREC event in November.

Cllr Clarkson confirmed that the development company Ashford International Development and Ashford Borough Council would bear the full costs of the creation of this project, it's maintenance and its insurance. Should in the future the business arm of Newtown Railway Works be sold off it would be with the responsibility to preserve and insure this project. That he noted previous discussion with the ACCM and CCM that SWANCC do not have the powers to erect a War Memorial or the budget to maintain or insure a project of this scale.

Resolved:- Members thanked Cllr Clarkson for his engaging presentation, Members noted SWANCC do not have the powers to erect a War Memorial or the budget to maintain or insure a project of this scale.

Actions: - A3 draft Colour diagrams were given to Members to consider and a copy is to be laminated and kept in SWAN Office.

CCM Sarah Evans agreed to meet with Cllr Clarkson to keep updated on the plan and report to Council on this. To follow up with heritage and history input Cllr Clarkson may require.

5/23 To receive reports from

- a. Kent County Council Ward representative,**
- b. Ashford Borough Council Ward representative,**
- c. Police and Neighbourhood Watch representatives,**
- PN presented a previously circulated report which is in the appendix of these minutes.
- d. To note a written update from Simon Johnson, Detective Inspector Ashford CSU,**
An email was circulated and read to members.
- e. KALC representatives,**
AR gave a brief update on KALC.
- f. Swan Centre representative.**

KCC CLLR SC **under item a** presented his report which is in the appendix of these minutes.

AR gave a combined report covering b and d and e.

AR advised he had attended the Newtown Railway Works as an Observer, that they were advising a timeline of 5 years for the project for full completion. The 1st phase application for grants for Ground Source Heat Pumps and these would provide heat and cooling for wider projects in SWAN and Ashford and investigations were ongoing to see if this is a viable project. KALC update advised the email of Simon Johnson, in the appendix of this report, the staffing and resourcing issues for PCSOs and Officers were highlighted, the trends regarding keyless entry vehicles being stolen had reduced due to significant arrest, that the town centre footfall went up but the anti-social behaviour and theft was down due to more policing over the Christmas period, the same was true of the World Cup series. The tragic incident in Duck Alley was considered and the CCTV and Street Lighting issues were ongoing and highlighted by AR in his report. AR advised as Ward Cllr he had received the printed version of the Strategic Land Mapping and it was a useful and meaningful document the Council would need to consider within its Planning and Highways Committee.

f PB advised has recently returned from working in the North and will be attending SWAN Centre meeting in next quarter.

6/23 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)

8:15pm - 8:17pm

One member of the Public raised the issue of parking tickets from the Jubilee, which is ongoing, and was answered by Cllr Campkin in his capacity as KCC Cllr and the matter referred to the agenda item below.

7/23 To consider an update on UKCPM parking management in Newtown

Members discussed a previously circulated report and the ongoing issues. The CCM advised members that the Council has no powers to pay individuals parking fines nor to request all

tickets can be quashed, the tickets which were requested to be quashed were made in relation to the Jubilee event.

Resolved: - To contact Tracey Kerley and Tracy Butler again for an update.

8/23 To receive a presentation from Gareth Davies on options for a SWANCC Council Youth Strategy - with the aim of managing graffiti and anti-social behaviour over the Summer period 2023.

Gareth Davies explained to members that he was aware of the anti-social behaviour and graffiti which blighted SWAN over the first and last week of the Summer Holiday 2022. He gave members a considered proposal to provide youth activity including graffiti in a managed way that young people would enjoy along with a variety of other opportunities for activities for the first and last week of Summer holidays 2023. Gareth advised members indicative costs were £3,000 and would be outdoors with the need for either the SWAN Centre or Waterside to be available for a Safety Station plus access to materials.

Vice Chair AR advised members that he had discussed funding options for grants and budget within the current year could be investigated for supporting this project.

Resolved: Proposed NT Seconded PP agreed unanimously to the proposal as a project subject to a thorough investigation of costs and risks by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the exploration of grants and possible funding by the CCM

Action CCM to meet with Gareth Davies to create an in-depth report based on the Councils procurement policy and draft risk assessments for members to consider. CCM to investigate funding grants.

9/23 To consider a donation to UK national charity Children in Need and agree.

Resolved: - Agreed unanimously to donate £100 to Children in Need 2022

Action RFO to submit donation to Children in Need

10/23 To discuss the outline planning application for Brompton Bikes and agree response. Cllr Rogers Chair of Planning and Highways, Cllr Campkin delegated representative design panel Brompton Bikes.

Cllrs Campkin and Rogers led members on a thorough discussion of the proposal, they reflected points from the report on the item and significantly highlighted the KCC Travel report covering a proposal for S106 funding for a parking consultation on Newtown which SWANCC have lobbied for through the Community Plan, also the possibility of funding for an alternative footbridge to negate the Asda flooding issues to be discussed under item 11/23 on this Agenda.

Resolved :- Agreed unanimously 1) To submit the previously circulated report to the Planning Application Portal, 2) Cllr Campkin and Rogers would work with Members at Ashford Borough Council to request this application is called in to the Planning Committee, 3) that they would lobby on behalf of SWAN for the S106 funding and to urge that the funding is allotted as early as possibility in the development programme to assist in alleviating the issues on Newtown.

Actions 1) CLLRs Campkin and Rogers to carry forward lobbying actions

2) CCM to submit report to the planning portal

11/23 To note an update on the access to the local ASDA impacted by flooding – Cllr Rogers

Cllr Rogers highlighted the previously circulated report, and led a meaningful discussion on the situation to date, confirmed the ongoing lobbying for S106 funding and the joined-up approach between Parishes Ward and County Cllrs to address this issue, including with the Brompton Bikes application discussed above.

Resolved: Members noted the update on the report and the efforts to persevere on the flooding issues in SWAN.

12/23 To consider the referral from Planning and Highways Committee regarding the Community Plan Objective to present a report to KCC and ABC on reducing impact of cars on the streets of SWAN from the perspective of pedestrians particularly those with wheelchairs, buggies or similar and agree – Cllr Rogers

Cllr Rogers read a previously circulated report, explaining that this objective had not yet been met for the Community Plan due to and asked members to consider moving the date to later in year to allow for better weather, more capacity and support from the KCC PROW.

Resolved:- Agreed unanimously to 1) move the start date for this objective to May 2023 and carry out over the Summer months. 2) To return the item to the Planning and Highways Committee to complete.

13/23 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Allotments Committee of 16th December 2022 and consider any recommendations.

NT gave an overview of the minutes, the CCM advised members 3 demand letters had been received and a charge levied for the water payment and suggested members set up a direct debit.

Resolved:- Proposed AH Seconded AR and agreed unanimously to receive and note the draft minutes of the Committee, 2) to not pay the bill until the advance charges had been revised in light of the most recent meter reading of week commencing 3rd January 2023, to authorise the CCM to investigate the possibility of other suppliers.

Actions CCM to 1) submit meter reading, both on website and with a photo to customer services 2) to follow up with customer services, 3) to investigate the possibility of changing suppliers.

14/23 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 19th December 2022 and consider any recommendations.

AR gave an overview of the Chairing of FGP explained he initially joined to support the Quorum on the resignation of PP. However, upon joining agreed to Chair the committee based on his extensive experience in writing, meeting and managing budgets and capital budgets on a large scale, in the hope of adding value and leadership to this committee requiring to be Chaired. AR presented the minutes which members considered without comment.

Proposed PB Seconded AH Agreed unanimously to receive and note the draft minutes.

15/23 To agree the Budget update for 2023/2024.

AR led members on a discussion based on the previously circulated report clarifying the reasons for requesting a precept of £72240. He explained clearly the impact of rises from KCC 5% already announced, plus possible rises from Kent Police, Crime Commission and Ashford Borough Council could all lead to further rises on the residents of SWAN on their Council tax bill. He offered to members that the FGP committee presented a conservative, committed and compassionate budget for 2023/2024.

Resolved: Proposed DM Seconded AH and Agreed unanimously 1) to request a precept of £72,240 to accept the budget for 2023/2024, 2) to request Ashford Borough Council to

circulate a copy of AR's report with a budget update with the Circulation of the Council tax bill in May 2023. 3) to authorise the CCM to complete, sign and submit the precept request 10/01/2023

Actions CCM 1) to submit the precept request, 2) to contact Ashford Borough Council to clarify arrangements for circulating AR's report and the budget update.

16/23 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Communications Working Committee of 19th December and consider any recommendations.

Resolved:- Agreed unanimously to receive and note the draft minutes of the Communications Working Committee and to continue the plan for the Newsletter.

17/23 To agree the advertising and communications for the Eat Well Spend Less Roadshow 1st February 2022.

CCM advised members advertising was required of the event on Facebook with a campaign to engage residents, posters around the area similar to the Jubilee, signage for the car park and site on the day, and recommend a budget of £250 from the rising costs budget be put to this communication through the community groups, school and NHW. Also, that the meeting had noted the hygiene and sanitary give away would need to be funded as donations had been significantly reduced by the impact of rising costs and recommended a further £250 was given from the rising costs project to support residents who would benefit from this. That timing of the event was until 5pm, but the Salvation Army would be working with the CCM to ensure residents are able to access any goods over the days following the event.

Resolved:- Agreed unanimously to both the advertising and communications budget of £250 and the updated budget £250 for the event supplies from the rising costs budget.

Action CCM to complete poster purchases and Facebook advertising, and arrange purchases for the event

18/23 To agree to delegate the Community Council Manager and Event Organiser to engage the Dor 2 Dor Designer to draft the initial poster for advertising the July Railway event for sponsorship and early promotion.

Resolved:- Agreed unanimously to the delegation of the CCM and Event Organiser to draft initial poster with the Dor 2 Dor designer at his cost rate.

Action CCM and Roger Crouch to coordinate draft Poster design with Dor 2 Dor

19/23 To receive an update on the Planting and Biodiversity Working Group. Cllr Godden JG gave a thorough update of the substantial progress of the Planting and Biodiversity Working Group. She advised members that over 6000 of the spring bulbs have now been planted and also that the group was working alongside the SWAN Litter pickers to target and manage litter through the project and the immense success of this plan so far.

Resolved:- Agreed unanimously the progress was substantial. Members thanked JG and the group for their significant contribution.

20/23 To receive urgent correspondence.

Agree the tenant request received as confidential correspondence to allow for the building works on Gas House Fields.

SLM to P&H Committee as highlighted in AR Ward Report.

Teams Meeting for Climate Action Group to be circulated to JG & SC

QGC Planting has been completed, subject to the delivery of 90 canes and tree guards to complete the security of the planting

Page numbers to be inserted once Nov and Dec indexes are complete.

Confirmation that the request or a late submission following this meeting of the Precept request has been agreed and would be made tomorrow.

Confirmation that one motorcycle inhibitor could be removed with the CCM on site to supervise.

21/22 To agree date of next meeting as 6th February 2023 and any agenda items.

Resolved: - Agreed unanimously the next meeting date as 6th February 2023 and SM requested an update on the future of G Line be added to the Agenda.

22/22 Forum for exchange of information between Council Members.

Update on possible funding or sponsorship for the Railway Event 2023

Update from the North School on Student performers for the Event

Update on Duke of Edinburgh progress and volunteer services

DM advised the Next Door app had been taken up by residents of Alfred Road.

There being no further items to discuss the Chair closed the meeting at 9pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Appendix