

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

**Ordinary Council Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

**MINUTES**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:06pm

In attendance Cllr Sue Mullan Chair (SM) Cllr Andy Rogers Vice Chair (AR) Cllr David Mullan (DM) Cllr Eric Parkinson (EP) Cllr Paul Bohill (PB) Cllr Peter Porter (PP) Cllr Nirosha Thilagarajan (NT)  
Also, in attendance Sarah Evans Community Council Manager (SE) The Board Directors of the Ashford International Development Company Mr. Hugh Evans Mr. Paul Mckenna and Cllr Peter Feacey Ashford Borough Council and 9 members of the Public.

**58/23 Record attendance and list apologies for absence**

Cllr Steve Campkin, Cllr J Godden, Cllr A Hodges, apologies were received and approved.

**59/23 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest**

AR is an Observer on behalf of SWANCC to the Board of Directors of Ashford International Development Company.

**60/23 Agree Minutes of the Council meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and sign (attached).**

It was proposed DM and Seconded PB that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and the Chair signs them.

**61/23 To receive a short presentation of the Community Council Manager on the Celebration of Ashford Railway Works - Vintage Festival 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023.**

SE gave a presentation outlining the Event for the Celebration of Ashford Railway Works - Vintage Festival 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

**62/23 To receive a presentation from the Board of Directors from the Ashford International Development Company responsible for the development of the Newtown Railway Works.**

The Directors gave an informative presentation. It was explained how the Newtown Works were purchased and the reasons for the creation of the Ashford International Development Company. 65% owned by Ashford Borough Council and 35% owned by Quinn's Estates. It was detailed how the levelling up funding and funding for the redevelopment was achieved. It was then explained there would be 4 stages to the redevelopment. With great attention to recycling existing materials and careful attention to the preservation of Archaeological finds. The costings were explained and the in-depth engineering value assessment being undertaken at present to achieve best value for money, to date only Government money has been used to redevelop the site. The four phases for developing the site were then explained and the purchases and involvements of commercial bidders highlighted.

It was confirmed that £1.8million had been agreed for S106 funding. In a question and answer session DM asked for confirmation of the freehold of the land which was confirmed be held by AIDC. DM also raised the issue of flooding with the Asda underpass and asked if S106 was being put towards a solution for this. It was as advised that this would need to be agreed by Ashford Borough

Council with support from Ward Cllrs. PP queried the parking for each of the flats on the site which was advised and clarified as sufficient. EP queried the Noise impact on residents and that this had been responded to within the Planning and Highways Committee. A member of the public asked what noise assessment was factored in for the High-Speed Train. It was advised that full noise sound and vibration analysis was involved in the planning stages. SM advised that it was exciting to see the development come alive having followed its progress as Chair of SWANCC for the last 4 years and thanked the Members for attending.

**63/23 To receive reports from**

- a. KALC representatives,
- b. Police and Neighbourhood Watch representatives,
- c. Swan Centre representative.

**Resolved:- No reports from KALC as a meeting had not taken place, Peter New sent his apologies for Neighbourhood Watch and no Police representative attended. There was no update from the SWAN Centre representative.**

**64/23 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)**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm and immediately reopened at 8:05pm

**65/23 To consider the Insurance and outstanding requirements for the Railway Festival and agree.** Members consider and discussed a previously circulated report on the insurance requirements and outstanding items for decisions on the Railway Festival.

**Resolved: Proposed DM and Seconded AR and agreed unanimously to accept the quote for Public Liability Insurance and Event Cancellation from Protectivity Insurance for the Vintage Festival.**

**2) Proposed AR and Seconded NT and agreed unanimously 1) To set up an Event Page on the SWANCC website detailing the event and create booking contact forms for the Vintage Market, Classic Cars and Bikes and any other bookings required. 2) To delegate this to the Community Council Manager to arrange with the website designer.**

**3) To delegate the Community Council Manager to find a second food vendor at the agreed fee.**

**3) Proposed EP and Seconded NT and agreed unanimously to include Cancer Research Stall Lauryn Parker and Ashford Guide Dogs for the Blind in the Community Event at no charge.**

**4) Proposed AR and Seconded EP to give £100 donation to guide Dogs for the Blind and £100 Donation to Cancer Research.**

**Actions 1) SE to arrange payment for insurance 2) SE to arrange second food vendor 3) SE to arrange update to website and booking forms. 3) SE to arrange donations and inclusion of charity stalls.**

**66/23 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**Resolved Proposed DM and Seconded PB and agreed unanimously to receive and note these minutes.**

**67/23 To receive and note the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**Resolved Proposed PB and Seconded SM and agreed unanimously to receive and note these minutes.**

**68/23 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Communications Workings Committee of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**Resolved Proposed PB and Seconded AR and agreed unanimously to receive and note these minutes.**

**69/23 To consider the change of supplier of water for Gas House Fields Allotments and agree.**

Members discussed a previously circulated report on water suppliers and comparative costings.

**Resolved Proposed AR and Seconded DM and agreed unanimously to switch to Water Plus. It was noted the quoted cost would change due to the raise in water rates by Southern Water.**

**Action SE to arrange switch to Water Plus.**

**70/23 To note the invite from Kent Police Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Community Event on Wednesday 26 April 2023, from 6pm to 8pm and agree attendance.**

**Resolved Agreed unanimously SM would attend.**

**71/23 To receive urgent correspondence.**

A letter from Mr. Smith was received and delegated to the Planning and Highways Committee.

SE advised that the litter picker shed had been installed but the fittings were insufficient for security. It was agreed to accept the quote from S Heathfield Gardening Services to replace the fittings for better security at a cost of £40 plus fittings.

**72/23 To agree the dates of the Annual Council meeting as Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023, and the Annual Meeting of Electors as 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 (6.30pm) and items for each agenda**

**The dates were agreed and no items added.**

**73/23 Forum for exchange of information between Council Members.**

SE advised the Litter Picker was now fully trained and operative. :

There being no further business to discuss the Chair closed the meeting at 8:25pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_