

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council
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Ordinary Council Meeting – 6th March 2023

MINUTES

The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm

In attendance Chair Cllr Susan Mullan (SM) Cllr Andy Hodges (AH) Cllr Paul Bohill (PB) Cllr Peter Porter(PP) Cllr Jacky Godden (JG) Cllr David Mullan(DM) Sarah Evans Community Council Manager (CCM) Peter New (PN) Neighbourhood Watch and 14 members of the Public.

42/23 Record attendance and list and for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Eric Parkinson, Cllr Nirosha Thilagarajan, Cllr Andy Rogers and Cllr Campkin. All approved

43/23 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest

i PP declared an interest in item 48/23

ii. To note the granting of any requests for dispensations and the decision

The Clerk granted a dispensation for PP to remain in the meeting however he would have to abstain from speaking on this item for which he agreed.

44/23 Agree Minutes of the Council meeting of 6th February 2023 and sign (attached)

Proposed DM Seconded AH and agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and the Chair Signs them.

45/23 To receive reports from

- a. Kent County Council Ward representative
- b. Ashford Borough Council Ward representative
No report was given
- c. KALC representatives
- d. Police and Neighbourhood Watch representatives
- e. Swan Centre representatives

A) No report was given

B) No report was given

C) SM advised items from the previous KALC meeting.

The new Chief Inspector Sarah Rivett had attended was succinct and organised in her presentation. The Chief Inspector had advised on the addition of Superintendent Rob Marsh.

The Chief Inspector spoke regarding increased Police activity in Kennington regarding Bus Shelters and Business targeted by crime, that a community sweep on weapons was being undertaken. The Community Voice Police Community tool and the ongoing activity of increasing Police Patrol. Chief inspector Sarah Rivett spoke on rural crime including bird and ferret theft, and scooters causing issues. She also raised concerns on fraud of the Elderly.

The Planning Portal challenges were discussed. As were the ongoing testing and seeking the view of Councillors was now taking place as this was lacking.

The new rubbish contract from SITA would now begin in July 2024 as the delivery of the machines was delayed.

- f. Police and Neighbourhood Watch representatives,
PN gave a verbal report which had been previously circulated. PN also thanked the Council for their ongoing support to him in his work and also personally.
- g. Swan Centre representative.
Nothing to report

46/23 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 7:18pm and immediately reopened.

47/23 To receive a short presentation of the Community Council Manager on Material Planning Considerations and Council responses to Planning Applications

The CCM gave a presentation to ensure all members and residents were aware of the Parish legal rights to comment on planning and the requirements of material planning considerations on making responses to planning applications.

48/23 To consider Planning Application PA/2023/0153 which is outside of the SWAN area

A considered discussion was held to discuss any possible impact of this Planning Application on the SWAN area.

Resolved: Agreed unanimously to respond to the planning application with an objection on concern for increased vehicle traffic into SWAN if adequate parking was not facilitated. That Emergency Access for vehicles is always a high concern for Housing of Multiple Occupation in the SWAN area and that this would be noted on the response. That the planning application did not give suitable communal and cooking facilities for residents and whilst outside of the SWAN area the safety of all must be a primary concern.

49/23 To receive an update from the Planting and Biodiversity working group

Cllr Godden gave an update on the flowering of the Spring Bulbs and the commencement of the Wildflower planting from 19th March. That the working group would meet Wednesday 8th March at 3pm and bring any recommendations to the next meeting

50/23 To review a report and presentation of the Community Council Manager on concerns regarding the impact of landscape management in the SWAN area on the planting and biodiversity goals of SWANCC and agree actions

Resolved: - 1) Proposed JG, Seconded AH and agreed unanimously, to complete a thorough investigation into the use of weed killers and pesticides in the SWAN area.

2) Proposed DM, Seconded JG and agreed unanimously to review the result of the investigation and plan any steps required to reduce the use of weed killer and pesticides in the area.

51/23 To agree to appoint the Community Council Manager as the Responsible Finance Officer for SWAN Community Council

Resolved: -Proposed DM Seconded JG and agreed unanimously to appoint Community Council Manager Sarah Evans as Responsible Finance Officer

52/23 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 27th February 2023 and consider any recommendations

Resolved: - Proposed AR and Seconded PB to receive and note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

53/23 To note the significant achievement of the media project based on SWANCC environment strategy and allotment management by resident K Corbett and agree a response

The CCM gave a review of the significant photographic and research project by K Corbett on SWAN Environment Strategy Green Policy and Litter Management and a view of the photos and feedback from her successful award of first place in the inter college competition. Also, her work would be put forward to the national competition and if successful exhibited at the Tate Modern.

Resolved: - Agreed 1) unanimously the Chair would write to K Corbett and congratulate her on her achievement, 2) to award K Corbett a young person's award at the Annual Electors meeting and that an engraved trophy would be supplied to mark this award. 3) to assist K Corbett in her to create a video documentary on this project in the next steps of her studies.

54/22 To review a report of the Community Council Manager on Active Travel for SWAN Year 6 Pupils Bike ability

Resolved Proposed SM Seconded AH an agreed unanimously to agree to the project in support of rising costs and the active travel aims of the Council, to accept the Dr Bike service quotation, to task the CCM to investigate grant options the school could apply for to provide bikes for the 7 pupils who do not yet have one.

55/23 To receive urgent correspondence.

- 1) Invite from the Mayor to attend the 80th Anniversary of the 1943 Bombing Raid on Ashford at Ashford War Memorial Friday 24th March at 10:am Members were asked to advise if they were attending to arrange parking.**
- 2) Email from PCSO Nicola Potter to request dates to attend forthcoming Parish Meetings**
- 3) Email to advises of the issues of the pathways on the corner of Albion Place leading to the Spinney Proposed DM and seconded JG and agreed unanimously to refer this item to the Planning and Highways committee to investigate ownership and repair**
- 4) Email from KCC and Ashford Borough Council confirming the right to repair the Bus Shelter in Newtown. The Working Group will meet Wednesday 15th March at 6pm to plan initial works and report to Council at the next meeting.**

56/23 To agree date of next meeting as 3rd April 2023 and any agenda items.

Date agreed as 3rd April 2023 PP an update on the planning application PA/2023/0153

57/23 Forum for exchange of information between Council Members

PP raised his declaration of interest on item of the agenda he was advised by the Chair he could not speak on this item, all Councillors agreed.

PP again raised the issue of item 48/23 that he was frustrated he could not speak on this item, and how could he represent the residents if he could not speak, he was advised again by the Chair that

the Forum of Exchange was not the item to discuss this issue, nor to raise complaints. It was advised by the Clerk that the Council has up to 10 other Councillors who can speak on the item.

PP then asked to raise a suggestion, the Chair agreed to this.

PP raised the issue of free speech and said there should be a debate on the rules, The Chair advised PP this was the Standing Orders and he was not permitted to be speaking on this item and it was not up for debate. The Chair also clarified that the Forum for Exchange was not for the debating of Standing Orders

PP was also advised by Cllr Campkin that the following of the Standing orders when declaring an interest had to be followed. That the rules and regulations for running a Council meeting were clear

Cllr Campkin also offered to speak to PP after the meeting to note his concerns and a KCC Cllr support him externally to this meeting

PP continued to try to raise his point in a manner contrary to the Code of Conduct

The Clerk raised that this a was a breach of the Code of Conduct and the Standing Orders and if PP continued to speak on this matter it would need to be referred to the Monitoring Officer as a complaint. The Clerk advised that the Council has a legal and statutory duty to follow and fulfil the Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct and the CCM had a duty to report any breaches.

PP continued to speak and argued that he would not stop speaking, therefore the Chair closed the meeting to ensure order.

The meeting was closed at 8:15pm

Signed Chair _____

Date _____