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

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 10th July 2023

Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm

In attendance, Cllr Sue Mullan Chair (SM) Cllr Andy Rogers Vice Chair (AR) Cllr David Mullan (DM) Cllr Andy Hodges (AH) Cllr Paul Bohill (PB) Cllr David Smith (DS)

Also, in attendance, Ward Cllr Sojan Joseph, Peter New Neighbourhood Watch and 7 members of the Public.

127/23 Record attendance and list apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Campkin and Cllr Thilagarajan and approved

128/23 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest None

The Chair moved to forward item 134 /23

The Chair made a presentation to the Community Council Manager of flowers and a gift and a card. SE was commended for all her hard work to bring about the Railway Vintage Festival and was most surprised and appreciative of this unexpected and generous item.

129/30 Agree Minutes of the Council meeting of 5th June 2023 and sign (attached)

Proposed DM and Seconded AR that the Minutes were a true record of the meeting and the Chair signs them.

130/23 To receive reports from

- a. KCC Cllr
- b. KALC representatives
- c. Observer to the Newtown Railway Works Development
- d. Police and Neighbourhood Watch representatives,
- e. Swan Centre representative
- f. Ward Cllrs
- A) No report received from KCC Cllr however apologies were received for attendance.
- B) AR advised that the meeting of the 5th July had been well attended, he had again been elected Vice Chair with a close vote for Chair. He had been elected as representative to the Joint Transport Board and would also be representing SWANCC at these meetings.

 AR reported that the final plans for the Police of the area had been published and communicated. That the warranted Police Officer for each area had now been determined

but the areas the PC would cover would be very large, PC Josh Wheatley would now be PC for 12 Parishes including Aylesford and East Stour.

AR and SM advised on the updated waste and refuse contract with Ashford Borough Council, who are in the process of purchasing the fleet of vehicles for the waste contract. That regular WIII waste was being stopped as the uptake was very limited but small electrical and similar items could be recycled at Singleton Environment Centre, the municipal waste facility and that roadshows were planned for small items recycling. Also, that textiles and fabrics could not be recycled at roadside collections. It was agreed to include this in the next SWAN Newsletter.

DS queried whether the unions were being recognised in the transfer of company and the employment of current staff. AR advised that it was the understanding at KALC that all employees who wished to transfer were given the opportunity and unions were fully involved.

AR advised that the Ashford Borough Council digital team had also been at the meeting and had helpful information for updating Parish Websites and their accessibility.

- C) AR had attended the most recent meeting, the 5 phased for the development were well planned and some would run in tandem to bring the project speed up. AR advised that the Newtown Road was being swept weekly due to impact of deliveries and aggregates. The impact on the Newtown Road was evident and recent repairs had been made by KCC. However, AIDC had photographed the road thoroughly and any damage caused was required to be repaired as part of the Contract when the project was finished.
- D) PB updated that he attended the most recent committee meeting, July 4th 2023, that it had been well attended. He commended the management of the Centre and its vigilant finances. It was noted a grant request would be received to replace the batteries for the Defibrillator at the SWAN Centre.
- F) The Chair moved forward this item.
 Ward Cllr Sojan Joseph addressed the meeting and advised the first Cabinet meeting had taken place but no full Council meeting as yet. That the Council was working on the previous administration plans at present, along with cost improvement plans including moving the Civic Centre to floors of the Ashford International House Building to save on costs.
- E) PN gave an overview of the Police Review now published and the extensive work he was doing to communicate this thoroughly to all Parish Councils. Report attached in Appendix. PN also advised he had received 2 awards for his work with Neighbourhood Watch, from KALC and Kent Police Volunteer award. He was congratulated by all present who recognised his determination and commitment to the Borough.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm

131/23 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)

It was queried if brown bin garden waste refuse would continue with the new litter contract and it was confirmed it would. It was advised a resident had a number of oak saplings for planting and it was agreed this would be considered with the hire of the new Community Gardener item 138/23

The Meeting reopened at 7:30pm

132/23 To consider advertising for Co-Option to SWANCC

Members discussed the 2 vacancies which were now open.

Resolved:- Proposed AR and Seconded DM and agreed unanimously to advertise on the website, Facebook and noticeboards for Co-Option Vacancies over the Summer months. That the vacancy would reflect the Councils' desire for local people with a commitment to the local community and its interests. That the Council is not a political organisation and open to all ages. It was confirmed that Members can vote for or against a Co-Opted Candidacy.

133/23 To consider the Internal Audit Report 2022 2023

Resolved:- The Internal Audit Report was read in full and considered. No actions were required to be taken.

134 /23 To review a report of the Community Council Manager on the SWANCC Railway Vintage Festival Saturday 1st July 2023

Members discussed the event and the success it had been and the positive feedback received. Members also had a long discussion on the previously circulated report.

Resolved:- Agreed Unanimously the event had been a success for the whole community. 2) The £40 charity donation from the ice cream van be given to Scarlett's Guide Dogs. 3) Proposed PB and Seconded DM and agreed unanimously 1) That the invoice for AH for the items for Rising Costs support be paid in full. 2) That a fee of £750 be to Roger Crouch for organising the event and the fee of £250 be paid to his assistant for organising the human image and event staffing on the day, 3) That that the full invoice from Speedy Services for the Generator for the event be paid in full to reimburse the CCM at a cost of £270.97. 4) That £1000 be paid to Roger Crouch for the additional cost to the stage. 5) That the cost to hire the video camera of £106.80 be paid in full to reimburse the CCM, to accept the cost from the supplier of £65.99 for the memory cards and this would be deducted from the deposit paid by SWANCC in full. 6) To note that £250 had been paid by the fairground supplier for the event and this had been credited to the SWANCC Bank account. 7) To pay the additional invoice of £120 to Ashford Inflatables for the generator. 8) To reimburse Stefan Heathfield for £91.31 cleaning products, stationary, batons and tree care products and laminates. Plus £46 in diesel. 9) To reimburse the CCM for £56.79 for cable ties spray paint and stationary and cake boxes. 10) To pay 11 hours overtime to the SWANCC litter picker and to send a letter of appreciation from the Chair for his excellent work on the day. 11) To include the Press Release in the next edition of the SWAN newsletter 12) That it was disappointing the event had not been published in the Kentish Express and to submit the press release with the drone images to Kentish Express again for hope of publication. 13) To accept the final review of costs to date and allocation to budgets. Report in appendix.

135/23 To consider quotation for maintenance of commemorative QGC trees to be planted at Railway Vintage Festival on Newtown Green and agree

Members discussed a previously circulated report.

Resolved:- Agreed unanimously to accept the Quotation for the maintenance of the QGC trees.

136/23 To endorse the May payments listing agreed by email and new beneficiaries Members discussed the previously circulated payments listing.

Resolved:- Agreed unanimously that the payments listing was actually for the month of June and to endorse all the payments agreed by email and the new beneficiaries. There were 3 queries on the payments which were resolved and will be updated and attached to the appendix of these minutes.

137/23 To review any planning applications received up to the date of this meeting Cllr Rogers

Members discussed the previously circulated list of planning applications and parking update.

Resolved:- Proposed AR and Seconded AH and agreed unanimously 1) That there were no objections to the planning applications. 2) That the update to the windscreen notices for the parking update be agreed subject to the legality.

Action SE to investigate parking notice legality.

138/23 To review a report of the Community Council Manager to consider the hire and requirements for the SWANCC Public Spaces Enhancement Officer and a Community Gardener

Members discussed the previously circulated report and the updated job descriptions and costings.

Resolved Agreed 1) To hire a self-employed individual, for the Public Spaces Enhancement Officer and the Community Gardener role. 2) That this could be 1 or 2 individuals depending on the applications received. 3) To accept the redrafted job description for Public Spaces Enhancements Officer, and the Community Gardener role, 4) To accept the hire of a Community Gardener to increase the scope of the SWANCC staffing function and the Council Environment objectives. 5) To accept the proposed costings for the roles.

139/23 To agree the hire of a temporary assistant to the Community Council Manager and dates for interview.

Resolved Proposed AH and Seconded DS and agreed unanimously to the hire of a temporary assistant to the Community Council Manager. That the interview would be conducted by AR and DS on 13th July 2023 at 3:30pm and subject to satisfactory conclusion a temporary job offer made.

140/23 Urgent Correspondence

- a) Email regarding parking on Kings Prospect was received and delegated to the P&H Committee.
- b) A follow email was received regarding the Motorcycle Inhibitor removal and delegated to the Planning and Highways Committee.
- c) A complaint regarding the security tannoy at the outlet was received and it was agreed to email the outlet and enquire on the sound levels of the security alarms.
- d) An email regarding the loss of litter bins on the Spinney was received and agreed to ask the litter picker to patrol this area and report any lost bins on the ABC App.
- e) The D Day advisory briefing was received and agreed a report should be written for Council in September.

141/23 Forum for Exchange

D Day Anniversary Advisory notice was discussed the importance of lighting a beacon for this anniversary.

The recent announcement regarding cuts to the bus service and the impact on the G line.

142/23 To agree the date of the next meeting Monday 4th September 2023 and items for the Agenda

The previously discussed actions for the management of the car parks on Newtown which is outstanding due to the impact of the Railway Vintage Festival on staff time.

The next edition of the Swan Newsletter.

The photographs from the Railway Vintage Festival.

The photographs from the Kanway vintage restival.	
There being no further business to discuss the Chair	closed the meeting at 8:28pm.
Signed Chair	Date

Appendix of Reports

PAYMENTS TO FINANCE & GP COMMITTEE

Jun-23

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NEST Pension	see above	£0.00	£0.00	Staffing costs	Staff Salaries	
Agilico			£181.52	Phone/Broadband	Phone/Broadband	

£11,339.05

June Payments Listing

Railway Report

The Railway Vintage Festival was a roaring success.

SWANCC have delivered a fantastic and successful community event that will be remembered for years to come. Feedback has been very positive and each of the elements of the event ran well and smoothly.

Every member played a significant part in bringing this event together it was a team success.

The reason the event went so well was the team spirit towards this event from every Cllr and the immense planning and attention to the management plan which took place weekly for almost an academic year. Roger Crouch has met with the Community Council Manager for many hours to guide the work which needed to be undertaken and this has been carried out in conjunction with the Clerk role.

Imogen Horwood from Ashford Borough Council rang and emailed the SWAN Office to say what a success the event was a success the feedback has been very positive. Particularly regarding Ceremonial Function of the Day.

Chair Cllr Sue Mullan led this item flawlessly. Along with the Vice Chair Cllr Rogers and Cllr D Mullan this item was professional, meaningful and received a very warm response from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as well as the Koowaree family. Email below.

"Hi Sarah

Just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and all at SwanCC for the tree planting yesterday.

Myself and my family are so grateful for the honour you have shown Dad. It means so much to us

The festival was great and lovely to see a community come together like that

Thank you again

With kindest regards

Eva "

Feedback

Feedback from Sponsors has been that the event was an absolute success and a fantastic day.

Hi Sarah

Congratulations for Saturday – everyone at ABC said it was a great event! How did the Guinness World Record go?

Many thanks

Imogen

Imogen Horwood Senior Marketing Officer Ashford Borough Council 07846 352046 www.ashford.gov.uk www.ashfordfor.com Performers, Vendors, Exhibitors and Stallholders have all contacted the SWAN office to praise the event and requested to be invited to participate in any future SWANCC event.

Hi Sarah & Roger

Just wanted to say Thank you for having our food van at your event.

If we can help out at any other future event please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes

Keith & Anne

Hi

Just a quick mail to thank you for allowing us to show our PT Cruisers yesterday, all of us had a really lovely day.

Kay & Wayne

Hi Sarah,

I want to thank you for having me along at A Vintage Festival yesterday to perform on the community stage. I had a really great time and it seemed like the event went really well and was successful so well done to you and everyone else involved.

Thank you again. Hopefully I can join in with more events put on by SWAN Community Council in the future.

Many thanks,

Mollie

Mollie-Mabel Music

Hi Sarah,

Thanks again for having me today and for putting on such a wonderful event!

It have a great atmosphere and seemed to go really well!

I hope to come back next year!

Charlotte (Redress KENT Stallholder)

Fundraising feedback from Scarlett's Guide Dogs

Hello its Scarlett

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped me so much including the £100 cheque and all the advertising you guys done it's truly amazing what we can achieve when we work together and help each other out.

I raised £705 in total on the day which takes me over £21,000. My next target is £25,000. We all had such a great time,

Thank you so much from

Scarlett Elliott

Rising Costs Support

It was very much appreciated that the entertainment was nearly all free of charge. The only costs being the funfair and the hospitality area.

Cllr Hodges and the rising costs working group delivered a fabulous service to the community.

The invoice for this is £1407.39 and payment needs to be agreed. The additional cost of a gazebo is £104.00 This will be financed almost entirely by the successful Parish Cost of Living Grant application of £1500

It was gratefully received and the need in our area from feedback from this event and analysis of the data should direct the response of this Council over the winter months. It is the recommendation of this report that the rising costs support need highlighted by this event influence the plans for the second part of this Councils' financial year.

Memories Tent

Was hugely successful, with many residents enjoying the exhibition provided by tales on the Tracks and enjoying meeting Ani and John local historians in the afternoon.

It is the recommendation of this report that all the donations which were scanned are archived and added to the SWANCC website along with a link to the Tales on the Tracks exhibition at the Ashford Musuem.

Feedback from Ani at Tales on the Tracks

Dear Sarah and SWAN members,

Just a quick message to congratulate you on Saturday's fantastic event. It was lovely to see the green so full of people enjoying themselves. The level of commitment and sheer hard work involved in bringing such a large community event to fruition can easily be overlooked in the joy of the day, but can never be overestimated.

Congratulations and Well Done,

Ann

Ann Austin BA(Hons), PG Dip, MA

Railway researcher & Tour guide

Ashford People's Library Lead

Tales from the Tracks

Guided Railway History Walking Tours <u>www.talesfromthetracks.com</u>

Review of the management of the Event and supplier services

Roger did not charge a fee to assist in this event, but because his passion is events and building community, however it is the recommendation of this report that he is paid a fee to thank him for his commitment to this event of £750.00.

AKON Security provided an excellent service the road closure was extremely busy and it was well managed and constant through the afternoon. There were 3 security issues on the Green, which were immediately responded to and dealt with quickly and quietly with no impact on the event.

BMAS had no report for first aid, there were 3 enquiries which were just asking questions rather than responding to first aid incidents.

The FOUR JAYS toilets were satisfactory and only 1 incident when one became blocked and the CCM cleaned this. They were picked up on time Monday morning.

DALLAS provided excellent service again this year and very reasonable costs.

Warehouse Light and Sound provided a fantastic service from the moment they arrived on the Green the signature for the event with SPONSOR branding was excellent and it ran smoothly and professionally. There was an issue with the generator intended for use for the Stage that it was not powerful enough so an emergency decision was taken to hire a 10KVA generator from Speedy Services and the cost to reimburse the CCM is £187.06 Super Silenced Generator plus £19.21 Drip tray. Roger was mindful of the Councils budget but felt the event needed a significant stage so paid £1000 towards the cost of it and this came to light the week event. It is the recommendation of this report that this cost is repaid to Roger immediately. It has been a very successful event and Roger is to be refunded.

The World Record Human Image

It was extremely difficult dealing with Guinness for the World Record and the fiure required was only received the Monday of the event at 950. However, there is no world record for this attempt yet and Roger will submit all the evidence and it will take 16 weeks to have a review. Due the challenges we had the costs for the criteria have been refunded by Guinness.

There was an issue with the video camera to film the evacuee procession and the world record attempt. Therefore it was agreed by email to hire a camera and **the cost to reimburse the CCM is £106.80 inc VAT.**

The cost for Carlie's services both for the human image and serving on the day is £250.00

Kinetic Circus

Were excellent and busy all day.

Punch and Judy

Were full for both shows and thoroughly enjoyed the day. It was interesting to learn David had performed for His Majesty the King the week before.

Fairground

The fairground arrived at 5:45am and found that the trees were inhibiting access to the Green thankfully Stefan Heathfield was on site and we were able to remove two branches and enable access. It was raised with ABC Ward Cllr Sojan Joesph to make ABC aware and this will also be reported to Aspire. **The fairground contributed £250.00 towards the event**

Bouncy Castles

The children enjoyed the bouncy castles all day. However, behind the scenes was a challenging situation. Roger and the CCM advised the owner that it must be powered by Diesel generators and no petrol generators. The risk for fire was too high and this had been reported in the management plan to the SAG and would affect the insurance. However, the day before the event the owner

approached Roger saying petrol generators would be fine and what was the issue, he then advised that the CCM had said the Council would supply the generator at no point had this been agreed. Due to the high safety risk the CCM advised the owner if no diesel generator could be sourced the order was cancelled, that the Council was the customer and the safety and integrity of the event was paramount. The Owner did hire a diesel generator and ran the inflatables., however he was very aggressive and irate with the CCM on the day repeatedly over the generator costs. He has put in an additional invoice for £120 it is a member decision whether the Council agrees to pay that. It is the recommendation of this report that we do not use this company again.

Sundries to reimburse CCM and Stefan Heathfield

Stefan Heathfield supported the event for 2 days prior with the final errands and shopping. He has given receipts for the following items, however it is the recommendation of this report that the Council pay an additional £46 towards the costs of diesel for his vehicle for those 3 days.

CCM expenses

S Heathfield expenses

Cables ties, spray paint, and stationary cake boxes £56.79	£91.31 cleaning products, stationery batons, tree care products, laminates.
	Additional costs diesel £46.00

Staffing Costs

Wayne worked litter picking an additional 11 hours for the event and needs to be paid this as overtime from the AEB. He did a fantastic job and should be highly commended.

Press release

Press release on event was jointly written with ABC and quotes approved by Chair and Vice Chair. It is the recommendation of this report that this is included in the next newsletter. See Appendix

Marketing of the Event

The marketing of the EVENT was very successful social media has had 12200 views in addition to the social media support from Ashford Borough Council.

150 posters were distributed across the SWAN area. Plus, posters in the Town Centre, Civic Centre Gateway Services and the Library. At a cost of £18.55 as this was provided by Ashford Borough Councils Print room.

A door to door leaflet was also distributed to each household in SWAN at a cost of £300

An additional page was created on the website at a cost of £35 reduced by using the presentation produced for the visit to Council by the Ashford International Development Company which brought in £3000 in Sponsorship.

A total cost of £353.55 to the Communications Budget.

Financing the Event

SWANCC Budget for Event	£5215
Cost of event to date not including rising costs	£13416.43
support	
Income generated towards event	£8050
Cost to SWANCC	£5366.43
Less offset budget heads	£651.18
Total to SWANCC Event budget	£4715.25

Offset to other budget heads agreed Council May and June 2023

10 hours additional litter picking	£120.00 (approx. awaiting payroll)
Tree plaques	£110 (VAT awaited)
Cake	£285
Cake boxes	13.99
	£528.99

Rising Costs Supports Goods	£1407.39	
Rising Costs Support Gazebo	£105.00	
Total	£1512.39	
Income generated towards	£1500.00	Parish Costs Of Living Grant
rising costs		

Analysis of income generated

Income

1000 Andy
600 David S
1000 Event Reset Grant
3000 Sponsor
1000 KCC
600 Food
300 Stall holders
300 Alfred Arms
250 Funfair
8050

Appendix

Break down of costs Press Release

Railway Costs	Net	VAT	Gross
Insurance	476.76	0	476.76
Security	782.37	260.79	938.84
First Aid	970	194	1,164.00
Toilets	425	85	510.00
Stage	1500	300	1,800.00
Drone Services	225	0	225.00
Tables	81.6	0	81.60
Chairs	255	0	255.00
Gazebos	420	0	420.00
Festoon Poles	60	0	60.00
Punch and Judy	400	0	400.00
Transients	300	0	300.00
Gypsy John	420	0	420.00
My Charleston	600	0	600.00
The Silhouettes	750	0	750.00
Meyer Dancers	544	0	544.00
Land Train	750	0	750.00
Bouncy Castle	572.9	0	572.90
Circus Workshop	350	0	350.00
All Weather	239.82	0	239.82
Carlie	250	0	250.00
Andy Light	£100	0	100.00
Cake	285	0	285.00
Speedy Services	244.4	49.29	293.69

Camera Memory			
cards	65.99	0	0.00
Hire a Camera	89	17.8	106.80
Roger	1000	0	0.00
Sundries	159.59	23.52	183.11
Tree plaques	110	0	110.00
Litter picking	120	0	120.00
Diesel Generator			
AIB	120	0	0.00
Roger fee	750	0	750.00
Total	13416.43	930.4	14346.83

Breakdown of			
Sundries			
Sundries	Net	VAT	Gross
Diesel	38.33	7.67	46
Paper	3	0	3
pegs wipes soap	12.5	0	12.5
toilet cleaning	12.5	0	12.5
Platform Battens	27.35	5.47	32.82
stationary	16.25	3.25	19.5
SH	109.93	16.39	126.32
Spray Paint			
additional	15.76	3.14	18.9
cable ties and gloves	14.91	2.99	17.9
cake boxes	13.99		13.99
cable ties and gloves	5	1	6
SE	49.66	7.13	56.79
TOTAL	159.59	23.52	183.11

Income

1000 Andy
600 David S
1000 Event Reset Grant
3000 Sponsor
1000 KCC
600 Food
300 Stall holders
300 Alfred Arms
250 Funfair
8050

Offset to other budget heads

	Rising	
1 x gazebo	Costs	105.00
Tree planting	Projects	127.29
11 hours litter picking	AEM	119.90
cake	Projects	285.00
cake boxes	Projects	13.99
		651.18

Media Release

Date: 5 July 2023

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council's celebration of Ashford Railway Works is a huge success

On Saturday 1 July 2023, a vibrant Railway Vintage Festival was held at Newtown Green to commemorate the 180th Anniversary of the Ashford Railway Works and the 175th Anniversary of Newtown Railway Works.

Organised by South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council (SWANCC) and sponsored by Ashford Borough Council and Ashford International Development Company, who were present at the event, answering questions from residents and visitors.

The festival was enjoyed by community and visitors alike. There was wide range of entertainment and activities on offer, including classic cars, a vintage funfair and handcrafted market stalls; plus the land train which ran around the Green for the whole day. There were also amazing professional acts from London and Brighton who performed iconic music and dance pieces through the eras (1920s to 1960s), to signify when the last steam train left Ashford. Creative, local talent was also showcased on the community stage.

There was also an exciting world record attempt, for the largest human image of a train, with adjudicators from Ashford Borough Council and many Community Marshalls. The evidence has been submitted and the outcome will be eagerly anticipated.

SWANCC worked tirelessly to ensure the event was a fitting tribute to the important role Newtown Railway Works has had on the area. Reflecting the history of the area with a Community Memories tent hosted the Newtown Railway History Exhibition produced by local Historian Ani from Tales on the tracks, residents brought their own memorabilia diaries and photographs to give a rich tapestry of local history and memories of the life of Newtown Railway Works. Continuing the historical elements of the day exhibitions were also on display from AIMREC with model railway layouts produced for the Kings Coronation and displays from Ashford Museum.

The Mayor Cllr Larry Krause and Deputy Mayor Cllr Lyn Suddards attended the event and with Chair Cllr Sue Mullan and Vice Chair Cllr Andy Rogers planted trees in memory of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth and Cllr George Koowaree.

Chair of SWANCC Cllr Sue Mullan, remarked: "This Railway Vintage Festival has been a tremendous success due to a year of hard work and planning by SWANCC, but the key to its successful delivery has been the sponsorship from Ashford Borough Council with Ashford International Development Company and the indomitable SWAN Community Spirit volunteering to facilitate this fabulous festival it has really put South Willesborough and Newtown on the map! Thank you to everyone involved in making today a success."

Vice Chair of SWANCC Cllr Andy Rogers said: "Newtown has not seen an event of this scale for many years. Hopefully this is just the beginning of the vibrant future for South Willesborough and Newtown and Ashford as a whole community with the exciting development of Ashford International Studios."

-ENDS

Sent on behalf of South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council.

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