

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2024

2nd September 2024 Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:02pm

In attendance Cllr Sue Mullan Chair (SM) Cllr Paul Bohill Vice Chair (PB) Cllr David Mullan (DM) Cllr Eric Parkinson (EP) Cllr Malcolm Webb (MW)

Also, in attendance, Mr Gerry Clarkson CBE, Cllr Peter Feacey Ashford Borough Council, Mr Andy Miles AIDC and Quinn Estates, Peter New Neighbourhood Watch (PN) Sarah Evans Community Council Manager (CCM SE) and 7 members of the public.

223/24 Record attendance and list apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Andy Hodges and approved.

224/24 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest

No Declarations were made.

225/24 To Agree Minutes of the Additional Council meeting of 23rd July 2024 and sign (attached).

It was Proposed and Seconded that the Minutes were a true record of the meeting.

226/24 To receive Mr Gerry Clarkson CBE and Cllr Peter Feacey Ashford Borough Council to discuss the siting of the Monument and Memorial for Newtown Works

Mr Clarkson gave a detailed overview of his first involvement with the key history of this area with the installation of the Wheels and the Plaques and Street names to remember the key participants in the development of South Willesborough and Newtown. He then discussed the growth of the Ashford Borough particularly located or linked to the SWAN area with the New Signalling at a cost of £10 million, the development of the Designer Outlet at a cost of £19 MILLION The New Beacons for Parishes, the Queen Maria Of Romania Statue the Development of Curious Brew and the Discovery brewery, the Commercial Quarter and the planning of Newtown Railway Works. The impact of Brexit and Covid on the national and local economy then the War in Ukraine and Gaza and the Economic turmoil and civil unrest of recent months all of which has run concurrent to the establishment and development of SWANCC, which has a key location and development for the impact of the Town. Mr Clarkson advised that Quinn of Quinn Estates had agreed to forward fund the Monument and Memorial that this finance was present now but he was concerned with all the changes within the Levelling Up Funding and the its implementation he was concerned the Monument goes ahead. Delays to the Monument is Stodmarsh impact on Planning which is affecting many developments including Newtown Railway Works and the installation now of the Monument was deemed as impractical to present its damage and the inaccessibility of the Monument for residents until the site is completed which may be as long as 3 to five years before its able to be built. He posed the question of relocating the Monument to Newtown Green.

Members discussed this at length and gave the positive feedback from the Annual Electors Meeting the Residents in the area and the delivery of the newsletter on the design and the plan which had been so well received.

Members discussed the importance of the Memorial to those who worked at the site its prestige and significance and fear that this may be lost if it was relocated. Also, the very detailed proposal would need to be modified and this would be reducing the significance of the Monument and the Memorial which must be upheld and appreciated.

Members were very concerned that the Project goes ahead and discussed the options to secure the funding and possibly develop part of the Monument. Mr Clarkson considered the development being completed within stages with the main statue being built and protected then the wider benches walls and paving being added at a later stage. This was received very positively and all Members voiced their support and the support of this Council to the completion of this Project to its fullest extent and the immense value it.

Resolved:-Agreed unanimously 1) That the Monument and Memorial for Newtown Works Is significant and should be progressed within Newtown Works, 2) That this has the full support of the Council for its progression, even if it is developed in stages to work within the implications of the site development 3) To create a reserve within the 2025 2026 budget for the maintenance of the budget at 1p per £ of the Precept within the Parish Councils Power to Support and Maintain War Memorials.

7:51 Mr Clarkson CBE and Cllr Feacey left the Meeting.

227/24 To receive reports from

- a. KALC representatives,
- b. Police and Neighbourhood Watch representatives,
- c. Ward Councillors
- d. KCC Councillor

- A) SM advised from the KALC Minutes the introductory of New PC to the area who joined Ashford Police on 3rd July 24. An update on the SUEZ waste contract that the service was now as expected and improving and whilst there were still some missed collections this was within expected limits and measures for improvement were still continuing. The Planning Portal updates were in progress but work was still needed. The Local Plan investigations had been well received but it was highlighted more detailed consultation on the results from the Call for Sites across the area would have been welcomed.
- B) PN gave a detailed report on the actions to handle scams and bogus tradespersons, the concern for the risk of fire from charging lithium batteries in Scooters, and his concerns for the implementation of the Ashford Police Model which whilst a new officer is in post other officers have left and this has not been reported at KALC
- C) Ward Cllr Sojan Joseph was not present at the meeting
Ward Cllr Al Arnold sent apologies to the meeting and advised Council he was investigating an Award for a resident at Baxendale Court for her work in running Friends of Baxendale and Charity Fundraising and asked the Council to consider supporting this.
- D) KCC Cllr was not present at the meeting

228/24 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 8:12pm

1 resident questioned item 231/24 to confirm which area of SWAN the KCC response was related to. It was explained this was in context of the BSIP scheme which would affect Newtown Green, Alfred Road Wainwright Place and Belmont Place.

The meeting reopened at 8:14pm

229/24 To consider the co-option of candidates to SWANCC

Resolved:- Agreed Unanimously the Co Option of Lauren Corbett to the Council and to her membership of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Communications Working Committee.

231/24 To receive the response from KCC on the SWAN Highways Improvement Plan

Resolved:- Agreed Unanimously to receive and note the response from KCC.

232/24 To review the SWANCC in National Allotments Week Open Day for Gas House Fields Allotments with the Living Workshop Guide and agree actions

Resolved:- It was agreed the Open Day had been a successful event, 5 new tenants had been inducted and 6 added to the waiting list. To send the report and a copy of the living workshop guide to the National Allotment Society, The Kings Plot, Ashford Borough Council. To give a copy of the guide to each new tenant inducted following the Open Day.

233/24 To receive the Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee 21st August 2024 and consider recommendations and agree

Members discussed the Minutes and the items which were agreed and to be investigated. Mr Miles was present to discuss the concerns of residents raised over lorries using Samuel Peto Way. He advised Members this was most likely the delivery of 2 large cranes by Network Rail which was not linked to the Newtown Railway Development. The access for HGV vehicles is being prepared at present and no HGV vehicles should be using any other entrances. If Residents do see vehicles using any other access to photograph them and submit them to SWANCC and he would review them. Mr Miles advised that the Structural Survey was conducted with addition drone surveys and bore holes and soil investigations the results of these tests were being discussed with KCC. It was unlikely the works would be undertaken before March 2025.

The Levelling Up funding received to date needed to be used by March 2025 and significant repairs had been undertaken on the Clock Tower and the locomotive sheds, which were being repaired on the High Gable end and were progressing well.

Resolved:- Proposed PB and Seconded EP and Agreed Unanimously to receive the Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee 21st August 2024. To accept the Costs of £800.00 for the painting of double yellow lines from Ashford Borough Council. To advise residents concerned with access to Samuel Peto Way that the new HGV access was being implemented and the area should not be affected by lorries, if they do site this to photograph it and send to SWANCC for investigation. To note the progress on the Crowbridge Bridge protection.

234/24 To consider the draft joint consultation on double yellow lines for Canterbury Road and agree

Resolved:- Proposed DM and Seconded PB to accept the joint consultation for double yellow lines on Canterbury Road. To support the consultation with a roadshow if required by Ashford Borough Council.

235/24 To consider a report of the Community Council Manager regarding the National Lighting of Beacons for the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day 8th May 2025 and agree actions

Resolved:- Proposed DM and Seconded MW to light the beacon for the 80th anniversary of VE DAY with the same arrangements and risk assessment for the D Day Beacon. To budget £800 for this in the 2025 2026 budget. To the purchase of the Lamp of Peace for lighting in addition to the Beacon and on every Remembrance Sunday at 11am in memory of those who gave there lives in the Defence of this nation.

236/24 To consider a report of the Community Council Manager for a Community Celebration for the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and Victory in Japan Day 2025

Resolved:- Proposed MW and Seconded PB and Agreed Unanimously to host a Community Celebration for the 80th Anniversary of VE DAY an VJ DAY on Newtown Green on 6th July 2025. To name it SWAN Salute to the 1940s.

To procure entertainments acts with the contacts from Roger Crouch to receive a preferential rate on these services for the event.

Circus Workshop Kinetic Circus

Punch and Judy

Vintage Funfair

Face Painting Karen as previous years

The Silhouettes

The Swing Jazz Band

Lindy Hoppers

Vera Lynn Tribute Act

Winston Churchill Lookalike

The Land train to continue the link with the Railway History of the supporting the war effort.

To bring all costs for review and agreement to the next meeting.

To investigate Keeping SWAN Special with cupcakes in the shape of the shape of a union jack and subsidy for the food vendors. To investigate rising costs, support for food and hygiene items

To investigate the history of Newtown on VE day to investigate collecting residents' memories and family history.

To seeking of permission for the planting of a tree for the Kings Coronation within the event.

To investigate working with Ashford Allotment Society Ashford Museum Ashford Twinning Association Ashford Sewing Bee to see if they would like to participate within the event. to support educational themes of make do and mend dig for victory and the Homefront response.

To investigate military and 40s vehicles to display at the event.

To investigate a community image for the event.

To support the cost of the event to attract food vendors and market stall holders for the event.

To seek sponsorship for the Land train

237/24 To agree the payments listing (attached), new beneficiaries, endorse any payments agreed by email and any deposit key refunds required.

Resolved :- Proposed EP and Seconded PB to agree the payments listing, the additional payment to ASL made in August for £12.00 and the invoice from Envisage Ground Care for the amount of £498.00. and Parkers Design £198.00.

It was also noted that 2 payments were outstanding from the June Pay Run Cllr Webb expenses payment reference and Ashford Web Services payment reference and these would be added to the September pay run.

Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
Office Print Costs	ASL	S	10.00	2.00	12.00
ICO Certification	ICO (details are sent by en	Z	40.00		40.00
Microshade Cloud Services an	Microshade	S	1,938.78	387.76	2,326.54
Agilico Telecoms and Broadbar	Agilico	S	30.27	6.05	36.32
Office Print Costs	ASL	S	35.00	7.00	42.00
Emergency Tap Repair reimburse	Toolstation	S	20.95	4.19	25.14
Scribe Accounts and Aills	Starboard Systems	S	1,080.00	216.00	1,296.00
Total			3,155.00	623.00	3,778.00

238/24 To agree the purchase of A boards for Car Parks on Newtown

Resolved Agreed unanimously to the purchase of and printing of 2 A Boards from Medash Signs Ashford for the Carparks on Newtown at a cost £150.00 plus VAT. Signs to request to park considerately to allow refuse collection. Final text to be approved by DM and MW by Friday 6th September 24.

239/24 Urgent Correspondence

- 1) Email from Neighbourhood Property Services to clarify addresses for E Permit signs to be removed from Newtown.

DM & MW to advise correct addresses.

- 2) Letter from residents regarding a number of items for improvement

To add to Agenda for next Council meeting

240/24 Forum for exchange of information between Council Members

Members discussed the success of the Summer Holiday Programme which received Grant Funding from SWANCC.

The progress of the map for Newtown Green

241 /24 To agree the date of the next meeting as Monday 7th October 2024 and items for the Agenda

MW Proposed The progress of the map for Newtown Green

The Date of the next meeting of the Full Council was agreed as 7th October 2024

There being no further business to discuss the Chair closed the meeting at 8:51pm

Signed Chair _____ Date _____

Appendix of Reports

Minutes of P&H Ctte

VE VJ day celebration

VE Day Beacon