

SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 17 January 2018

Present: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Malcolm Dearden, Peter Gane, David Godfrey, Miss Susie Govett, Ms Janet Holben, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Mrs Claire Jeffrey, Mrs Mary Lawes, Len Laws, Rory Love, Michael Lyons (Vice-Chair), Philip Martin, Frank McKenna, Ian Meyers, David Monk, David Owen (Chairman), Dick Pascoe, Paul Peacock, Carol Sacre, Russell Tillson, Mrs Susan Wallace, Mrs Rodica Wheeler and Roger Wilkins

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Alan Ewart-James, Clive Goddard, Stuart Peall and Damon Robinson

64. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

65. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2017 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

66. **Chairman's Communications**

The Chairman gave the following update:

“My report this evening will be very short!

Since we last met, we have enjoyed an extended break over Christmas and the New Year and consequently, civic duties have been very limited in number. Indeed, the only event that I have attended was Margate's annual ceremony of the Blessing of the Seas. This is an annual festival in the Greek Orthodox Church and takes place early in January each year. Margate has a substantial Greek and Greek Cypriot community, and this Ceremony has traditionally been attended by many Kent dignitaries and this year including the Anglican Bishop of Dover, who took part in the Service, as well as the High Sheriff of Kent, the local Members of Parliament, Deputy Lieutenants, District Council Chairmen, and Mayors from throughout Kent. The BBC also covered the event. The chief features of the day from my point of view are the extreme cold on the Margate Beach where the climax takes place which consists of a small boy jumping into the sea to retrieve a garland. Only a young boy would be prepared to do such a thing, but it is considered a great honour for the boy's family if he is chosen. Afterwards I am pleased to report we retired to warm up over lunch.

Now is an opportune moment to advise Members of my intention to present our Honorary Alderman with a suitable badge to mark their appointment to this office. At present, we have two appointments being ex Councillors Preston and Bliss. Both have contributed greatly to this Council in the past and having bestowed the title of Honorary Alderman, both my predecessor and myself felt

that such a presentation was appropriate. Perhaps I could ask you all to be discreet in this matter as neither of the recipients yet know of my plan, but it is my intention to present the badges at our AGM”.

67. **Petitions**

There were no petitions.

68. **Questions from the Public**

The questions asked, including supplementary questions (if any), and the answers given are set out in Schedule 1, appended to these minutes.

69. **Questions from Councillors**

The questions asked, including supplementary questions (if any) and the answers are set out in Schedule 2 appended to these minutes.

70. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council gave the following announcements:

“Good evening to you all, I have only two things to talk to you about and I will start with the Otterpool Park ‘Place Panel’ which had its inaugural meeting on Monday. The purpose of the Panel is to act as an advisor and a critical friend bringing to the table experts in a multitude of disciplines such as master planning, landscape design, town planning, transport, housing, social infrastructure and heritage.

The panel, along with representatives of the Ministry of Housing, were taken on a tour of the area which went well, apart from the coach temporarily getting stuck in the mud. They then adjourned for a roundtable discussion on the emerging master plan that looked at such matters as the character and identity of Otterpool Park, the spatial relationship of the town centre with its neighbourhoods and transport connections.

Overall the day was a success with our officers being able to demonstrate our determination to accommodate informed best practise so as to make Otterpool Park an exemplar of place making that will benefit future generations.

The use of a Place Panel is in itself best planning practice and should give confidence that we are doing the job properly. Going forward there will, periodically, be further meetings of the panel to help us in this magnificent venture.

You may recall that some time ago, I talked about an EU project funded by the European Structural Funds called a Community Led Local Development programme.

We were successful in our stage one application but then everything stalled while the uncertainty about the funding caused by Brexit was sorted out. We have now had our programme approved. The programme is called 'Folkestone Community Works' and will bring £2,500,000 of European funds to Folkestone over 5 years to 2022. Earlier today, there was the first official meeting of the Local Action Group which approved the programme documentation and timetable for projects to apply for money. The launch of the programme will be in February and with the match funding required, will bring £5,000,000 into Folkestone over the next 5 years.

Councillor Meyers, Leader of the Opposition, responded to the comments made by the Leader:

"Of course, we welcome the Place Panel and look forward to scrutinising closely what our critical friend brings to the table.

With regard to the European Structural funds, we are delighted that you are getting some of the money back we contributed to Europe to spend here. I only wish a little of it would trickle down to the Romney Marsh, the area which I represent.

I don't know where this is going. This is a five year plan, we all know in just over a year, if your government is successful, we won't be part of the EU, lets hope that some of the money that we saved, that we currently contribute, will be distributed back here to replace what might be lost".

The Leader then responded to the comments of Councillor Meyers and stated that this is why the project had stalled, while the funding, whatever the circumstances were, was confirmed.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

That the announcements of the Leader of the Council be noted.

71. Opposition Business

There was no opposition business.

72. Motions on Notice

There were no motions on notice.

73. Council Tax Base 2018/19

Council - 17 January 2018

The Council is required to decide its tax base which will be used in the calculation of Council Tax for 2018/2019. The report proposed the tax base recommendations for the Council's approval.

The report had been considered by Overview and Scrutiny at their meeting on 16 January, and Cabinet at their meeting on 17 January 2018.

Proposed by Councillor Dearden,
Seconded by Councillor Pascoe; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/17/16 be received and noted.
2. That the Council Tax bases set out in appendices 1-31, which have been calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended) be recommended as the amounts so calculated by the Council as its Council Tax bases for the year 2018/2019.

(Voting figures: 20 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstention).