

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 31 October 2018

Present: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Malcolm Dearden, Alan Ewart-James, Clive Goddard, David Godfrey, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, 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, Stuart Peall, Damon Robinson, Russell Tillson, Mrs Rodica Wheeler and Roger Wilkins

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Peter Gane, Miss Susie Govett, Ms Janet Holben, Carol Sacre and Mrs Susan Wallace

37. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Carey made a voluntary declaration of interest in relation to questions from Councillors, as the question she was asking related to Oportunitas, whose gardening service she had made use of.

38. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2018 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

39. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman gave the following update:

"This past month has continued with a military theme, and of course it will continue as we move into Remembrance Season, which will have special resonance this year, as we recall the centenary of the ending of the Great War.

Some time ago, at the end of September, I attended the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's annual awards ceremony on behalf of people of our area. As Her Majesty's representative in Kent, these awards rank second only to the Queen's Honours List. They are given to publicly recognise those members of the reserve and cadet forces, whose efforts are not recognised in the Honours List. Of the total of 19 meritorious service certificates awarded, I was particularly pleased to note that awards were made to Flight Lieutenant Emma Dando, RAF AC and to Warrant Officer Peter Wilcoxon, RAF AC, both of 2513 (Romney Marsh) Squadron, Kent Wing Air Training Corps. It is good to note our local volunteers have been recognised in this way. I do intend to write to both recipients and I'm sure I'll have your support in congratulating them on this award, and thanking them for their voluntary efforts.

Staying on a similar theme, I was pleased to travel with a party organised by the Mayor of Sandwich for a day visit to the Ypres Salient, and ending with the nightly Last Post ceremony of the Menin Gate. We also had the opportunity to visit Tyne Cot Military Cemetery as well as the Caterpillar Crater and Essex Farm Cemetery. Any of you who have visited any of the British War Cemeteries

will know what poignant places they can be, and these were no different. One cannot but be deeply affected by the seemingly endless list of names inscribed on the cemetery walls of those who have no known graves, as well as the number whose inscription reads 'unknown British Solider'. Despite this, these cemeteries are places of beauty and reflection, wonderfully maintained by the British and Commonwealth war graves commission. In the interests of balance, we also visited a German War Cemetery at Langemark. The contrast could not have been more different. While clearly being maintained and the dead recognised, the atmosphere was different and somewhat brooding in nature. The Ceremony however at the Menin Gate was a very special occasion.

Last Monday, along with most Kent District Chairmen and Borough and Town Mayors, I attended the Kent launch of the Royal British Legion 2018 Poppy Appeal at County Hall. Meanwhile, I also supported our local Mayors charitable fundraising events, as I have been able to.

Thank you".

40. Petitions

There were no petitions presented at the meeting.

41. 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.

42. Questions from Councillors

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

43. Announcements of the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council gave the following announcement:

"Good evening to you all.

Eight years ago, a group of Folkestone people got together to consider how the centenary of the 1914-18 war should be commemorated and so the Step Short Committee was formed with Damian Collins as its Chairman. After much discussion, it was decided that a memorial arch should be built and having agreed a site with us, the committee went into fund raising mode. Step forward Councillor Mrs Ann Berry who led the charge. Her, and her team raised around a half a million pounds towards the project and with the support of Land Securities, who Damian got on side, who project managed the build, the Arch was built. I have not time tonight to list the number of crises that had to be resolved during the project. Suffice to say, that Ann was at the forefront in

Council - 31 October 2018

enabling solutions to those that were on the administrative side. She can be particularly persistent and persuasive!

But, you know, it does not stop there. The general maintenance of the arch site is around a thousand pounds a year which has meant that fund raising has had to continue. So every Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday, from Easter to the end of October, for the last three years, Ann and her team have manned the Mole Café on the harbour arm. For the café to operate, supplies had to be bought; gallons of milk, pounds of sugar, tea, etc. So who went shopping for all of this on a Friday? Ann of course.

Why am I telling you all of this?

Because last Sunday, the Mole Café finally closed its doors, it being the last Sunday in October 2018, and opening the Cafe was part of the 1914-1918 commemoration.

David Cameron gave Ann a Point of Light award, recognising her contribution to the installation of the Step Short Arch. As Damian at the time said: "Ann Berry is an inspiration. It has been a pleasure to work alongside her on the Step Short project over the last six years. She has worked tirelessly to support the project giving thousands of hours of her time to help raise funds, organise events and promote awareness of the significance of the First World War centenary in Folkestone. This award is a well-deserved recognition of everything she has done over many years to support Folkestone and her community". Having received the award, she does not rest on her laurels but continues to devote hundreds of hours for the benefit of Folkestone. And I for one find her to be an inspiration.

Well done Ann".

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Myers, responded and stated that the group endorsed the accolade given to Councillor Mrs Berry, and thanked her for her efforts.

He then added that he was disappointed that the Turn the Tide Festival held the previous weekend was not mentioned, particularly the enforcement action taken against the organisers for illegal fly-posting, of which he thought the penalty was disproportionate, and he hoped this did not stifle the success of the event.

Councillor Monk responded to the points raised, and stated that the council does not tolerate illegal fly posting, which was a problem in the district, particularly when advice had been given to the organisers and a period of 5 days had been given to remove the illegal posters which had been displayed. Sadly rather than remove the posters, more had been displayed and officers had undertaken their duties effectively and proportionately.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,

Council - 31 October 2018

Seconded by Councillor Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

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

(Voting figures: 24 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

44. Opposition Business

There was no opposition business.

45. Motions on Notice

There were no motions on notice.

46. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2022/23

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is the Council's key financial planning document. It puts the financial perspective on the council's Corporate Plan priorities, expressing the aims and objectives of various plans and strategies in financial terms over the four year period ending 31 March 2023. It covers both revenue and capital for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. Also included were the Council's reserves policies. The MTFS is a key element of sound corporate governance and financial management.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Dearden; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/18/14 be received and noted.
2. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as appended to the report, be adopted.

(Voting figures: 24 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).