

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 20 November 2019

Present: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry (Chairman), Danny Brook, John Collier, Laura Davison, Michelle Dorrell, Gary Fuller, Peter Gane, David Godfrey, Anthony Hills, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Nicola Keen, Jim Martin, Philip Martin (Vice-Chair), Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Ian Meyers, David Monk, Terence Mullard, Stuart Peall, Tim Prater, Patricia Rolfe, Rebecca Shoob, Georgina Treloar, Douglas Wade, Lesley Whybrow, David Wimble and John Wing

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Miss Susan Carey, Ray Field and Clive Goddard

56. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Jenny Hollingsbee declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in respect of minute number 69 (Otterpool Park - additional capital funding) in that she has two properties adjacent to the site and she would therefore take no part in the discussions and voting on this item. She stated that she had previously declared this as a voluntary declaration but on advice would now declare reluctantly an OSI.

Councillor Lesley Whybrow declared a voluntary announcement in respect of minute 66 in that she is Joint Leader of the Opposition and would stand to benefit from the recommendation so therefore felt she could not take part in the vote and requested that each recommendation is taken individually.

Councillor Connor McConville declared a voluntary announcement in respect of minute 66 in that he is Leader of the Labour Party and would stand to benefit from the recommendations so therefore felt he could not take part in the vote.

57. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2019 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

58. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Another busy month of supporting Events.

Many of which have been Commemorative such as, the launch of the Poppy Appeal in Maidstone which featured largely on youth involvement.

Attending the Garden of Remembrance where crosses were laid at the foot of the many white crosses set out there, representing the vast number of different regiments.

A Commemorative service at the Dover Cruise Terminal, which concluded with a moving speech about the Unknown Warrior.

The Annual Youth Festival of Remembrance at the Leas Cliff hall was once again an amazing spectacular with a variety of groups taking part. Each year it goes from strength to strength.

Folkestone's Remembrance service was extremely well supported once again with many laying wreaths at the War Memorial on the Leas, ending with a march past at the Town Hall. This was followed the next day by a service at the Machine Gun Core Memorial on the Cheriton road.

This month too we saw the much awaited re-opening of Morrisons on Cheriton road.

An invitation by The Mayor of Lydd Town Council, to join them to listen to the wonderful Gurkha Band play in the local Church, which was packed to the rafters. It was good to see one of our own Councillors busy organising the raffle.

Yesterday by kind invitation of the Mayor of Ashford we visited two iconic buildings. A new Brewery called 'Curious' of ultra-modern design which opened earlier this year and a visit to the large, new addition to the Outlet.

In addition I would like to tell you about the recognition our staff have received about being really good at Customer Service Excellence.

We had our three yearly deep inspection and assessment last week and the inspector was so impressed that not only were we fully compliant in all 57 areas that are rated, we achieved plus rating in 12 of these, one up on last time.

He was particularly impressed with our professional working and the passion and drive of our staff, and the 12th compliance plus was for staff development and training.

I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff and wishing them well.

59. **Petitions**

There were no petitions.

60. **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.

61. **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.

NOTE: Councillor Davison asked that it be noted that she objected to the fact that the meeting was not being webcast live as important points and questions were being made by members of the public and councillors and felt people had a right to hear the answers to the questions put.

62. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council**

No announcements were made by the Leader.

63. **Opposition Business**

There was no opposition business.

64. **Motions on Notice**

1. **From Councillor McConville, Leader of the Labour Party**

Councillor McConville outlined his motion which was set out in the agenda.

Proposed by Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded by Councillor David Monk and

Resolved that this Council:

- Move towards phasing out the use of all pesticides and weed killers in council owned parks, gardens and play areas.
- Trial pesticide-free alternatives to control weeds in these areas. These might include; biodegradable foam or hot steam treatments on weeds.
- To report the outcomes of these trials to the Climate and Ecological Emergency working group for discussion and recommendation within 12 months.
- Grant an exception to the above 'phasing out' regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, or other invasive species, where there are currently no effective mechanical techniques available. For these plants glyphosate will be stem-injected, rather than sprayed, to reduce its spread in the environment.
- Grant an exception on sprays only in relation to Giant Hogweed where it's not safe to be dug out or safely removed by other

means or where invasive plants are too small to be stem injected.

- It is recognized that herbicides are required for the control of weeds in fine turf such as bowling greens and tennis courts. Any chemical use will be kept to an absolute minimum and alternative methods of control, trialed when and if they become available.
- Write to the secretary of state for the environment to inform the government of this Council's opposition to glyphosate-based pesticides and to call for a UK-wide programme to phase out use once trials have been concluded and viable alternatives have been introduced for weed control across the District.

(Voting: For 27; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

2. From Councillor Whybrow, Leader of the Green party

Councillor Whybrow outlined her motion which was set out in the agenda.

Proposed by Councillor Lesley Whybrow
Seconded by Councillor Rebecca Shoob and

Upon being put the motion was **LOST**.

(Voting: For 13; Against 14; Abstentions 0)

65. Amendment to the scheme of delegation of Executive functions made by the Leader of the Council

Under the Council's constitution (part 6, para 1.4.1) the Leader of the Council decides on the delegation of cabinet functions. The Leader may amend the delegations at any time by giving written notice to the Head of the Paid Service. Where such a notice is received the Head of the Paid Service must submit a report on the amendments to the next ordinary meeting of the Council. This report set out the amendments made by the Leader.

Proposed by Councillor David Monk
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Jenny Hollingsbee and

1. To receive and note report A/19/15.

(Voting: For 27; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

66. Report from the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances and Expenses

This report recommended the consideration of the proposals of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel that the members allowance scheme for elected members of Folkestone and Hythe District Council be amended.

Proposed by Councillor David Monk
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Jenny Hollingsbee and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report A/19/19.**
- 2. To refer the report to the Governance Working Group and report back to Council.**
- 3. To thank the Independent Remuneration Panel for undertaking the review.**

(Voting: For 24; Against 1; Abstentions 2)

67. Members' Allowances - Independent Remuneration Panel

This report recommended the council's approval for the appointment of members for the Folkestone and Hythe Independent Remuneration Panel.

Proposed by Councillor David Monk
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Jenny Hollingsbee and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report A19/18.**
- 2. To appoint:**
 - (a) Chris Harman**
 - (b) Beverley Crouch**
 - (c) Paul Murphy**
 - (d) Judy Williams**

As members of the Folkestone and Hythe Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of four years from 2 December 2019.

(Voting: For 27; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

68. Budget Approval for Folkestone Beach Chalets Scheme

This report proposed changes to the Council's capital programme including the capital funding implications. The capital works are a request from the Trustees of the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity to provide capital funding of £500,000 to support the renovation of 16 of existing

beach chalets, the demolition of the remaining 58 beach chalets and the installation of 120 new beach chalets at Marine Walk, Folkestone.

Proposed by Councillor Tim Prater
Seconded by Councillor Connor McConville that

Recommendation 2 be amended to read:
"To refer the matter to Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the scheme as a whole prior to decision being made by the Council.

In accordance with the Council procedure rule 17.5 five members present demanded a recorded vote.

FOR: Davison, Dorrell, Fuller, Keen, J Martin, McConville, Meade, Prater, Shoob, Treloar, Wade, Wing

AGAINST: Berry, Brook, Collier, Gane, Godfrey, Hills, Hollingsbee, P Martin, Meyers, Monk, Mullard, Peall, Rolfe, Whybrow, Wimble

ABSTENTIONS: None

(Voting: For 12; Against 15; Abstentions 0)

The vote was LOST.

Proposed by Councillor Douglas Wade
Seconded by Councillor Stuart Peall and

Resolved:

That a further recommendation be added:

- 3. That details of how this loan is to be implemented are yet to be finally decided and will be decided subject to appropriate consultation and flexibility of implementation.**

(Voting: For 27; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

Proposed by Councillor David Monk
Seconded by Councillor John Collier and

Resolved:

- 1) To receive and note report A/19/16.**
- 2) To approve the change to the Council's capital funding programme to include £500,000 to be met from Prudential Borrowing to support the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity's Folkestone Beach Chalets Scheme.**

In accordance with the Council procedure rule 17.5 five members present demanded a recorded vote.

FOR: Berry, Brook, Collier, Davison, Dorrell, Fuller, Gane, Godfrey, Hills, Hollingsbee, Keen, J Martin, P Martin, McConville, Meade, Meyers, Monk, Mullard, Peall, Rolfe, Shoob, Treloar, Wade, Whybrow, Wimble, Wing

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: Prater

(Voting: For 26; Against 0; Abstentions 1)

69. **Otterpool Park - Additional Capital Funding**

This report considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on additional capital funding for the Otterpool Park project.

Proposed by Councillor David Monk
Seconded by Councillor David Wimble and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report A/19/17.**
- 2. To make available an additional one hundred million pounds to be drawn down over a period of up to five years to enable the Otterpool Park project to proceed.**

In accordance with the Council procedure rule 17.5 five members present demanded a recorded vote.

FOR: Berry, Brook, Collier, Gane, Godfrey, Hills, P Martin, Meyers, Monk, Mullard, Peall, Prater, Rolfe, Shoob, Wimble

AGAINST: Davison, Dorrell, Fuller, Keen, J Martin, McConville, Meade, Treloar, Wade, Whybrow

ABSTENTIONS: Wing

(Voting: For 15; Against 10; Abstentions 1)