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COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2015 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Rev. Stuart Piper (Chairman), Councillors Ashbee, Bayford, Braidwood, Brimm, Buckley, Campbell, G Coleman-Cooke, Collins, Connor, Crow-Brown, Curran, Day, Dellar, Dennis, Dexter, Dixon, Elenor, Evans, J Fairbrass, L Fairbrass, Falcon, Fenner, Game, I Gregory, K Gregory, G Hillman, Howes, Jaye-Jones, Johnston, Leys, Matterface, Munday, Parsons, Partington, Potts, Rogers, D Saunders, M Saunders, Savage, Smith, Stummer-Schmertzing, Taylor, Taylor-Smith, Townend and Wells

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bambridge, K. Coleman-Cooke, Edwards, Grove, Hayton, E. Hillman, Larkins, Martin, Shonk and Tomlinson.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting - 21 May 2015

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Leader and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 21 May 2015 be approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

(b) Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting - 21 May 2015

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Leader and agreed that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 21 May 2015 be approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

(c) Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting - 16 June 2015

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Leader and agreed that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 16 June 2015 be approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PETITIONS

The Chairman proposed, the Leader seconded and Members agreed that the Council Procedure Rule restricting the time allocated for petitions to 30 minutes be waived for the duration of this item, to enable consideration of all the petitions received by the Council.

(a) Draft Local Plan, Birchington Petition

Mr Hudson presented a petition containing 1616 valid signatures as follows:

"We the undersigned, call on Thanet District Council to remove from the "Local Plan" their proposal to build 1000 Properties in Birchington.

The properties would be located at ST3 (Park Lane), S499 (Rear of King Edward Road), S489 (Canterbury Road, Essex Gardens and rear of Mill Row) and S515 (Minnis Road and rear of Surgery). The local infrastructure, including Social Services, the road network, water supply, schools, healthcare and employment opportunities are inadequate to meet the increased demand. Furthermore, this grade 1 farmland must be protected for the growing of vital crops and the sustainability of wildlife habitats for the benefit of the current generation and those of the future."

Members debated the petition.

Members agreed that the Council note the contents of this petition and that it should be included for discussion during the on-going local plan process.

(b) **Draft Local Plan, Westgate Petition**

Mr Morrish presented a petition containing 1444 valid signatures as follows:

"We the undersigned, Thanet residents, object to the proposal within the current draft local plan to build 1000 new houses on land bordering Minster Road, Westgate-On-Sea, currently owned by Quex Park Estates to withdraw this site from the draft local plan."

Members agreed that the Council note the contents of this petition and that it should be included for discussion during the on-going local plan process.

(c) **Draft Local Plan, Garlinge Petition**

Mr Evans presented a petition containing 220 valid signatures as follows:

"We the undersigned Thanet residents object to the proposal within the current draft local plan to build in excess of 1000 new houses on land between Dent-de-Lion and Minster Road, currently owned by Quex Park Estates. We call upon Thanet District Council and Quex Park Estates to withdraw this site from the draft local plan."

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the petition was referred to Cabinet without debate for a report to the Council within three ordinary meetings.

(d) **Draft Local Plan, Call for a Public Meeting Petition**

Mr Hardley presented an E-petition containing 431 valid signatures as follows:

"We the undersigned petition the council to in the persons of a) The Leader and b) Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning Services, call a public meeting in a venue suitable to accommodate the aforementioned undersigned, within 8 weeks of the closure of this petition, and present a full and detailed explanation to demonstrate why the consultation process, allocation of green field land and the scale of anticipated housing growth for Thanet is designated acceptable when so many people oppose this."

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the petition was referred to Cabinet without debate for a report to the Council within three ordinary meetings.

(e) **Car Parking Petition**

The Council received a petition containing 124 valid signatures as follows:

“We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to reinstate an area of car parking with pedestrian access to remove the need for members to walk all the way around Eaton Road to play bingo at Beacon Bingo.”

The petition organiser did not wish to present the petition at the meeting of Council, therefore in accordance with the Council’s Petition Scheme; the petition was referred to Cabinet without debate for a report to the Council within three ordinary meetings.

(f) **Accident and Emergency Petition**

Mrs Symonds presented a petition containing 1502 valid signatures as follows:

“We the undersigned, call upon Thanet District Council to vigorously oppose any plans by the East Kent Hospital Trust to downsize or end the provision of high quality Accident and Emergency services at the QEQM hospital at Margate.”

Members debated the petition.

Members agreed that the Council refer the petition to Cabinet and recommend that Cabinet set up a Cabinet Advisory Group which would consider the petition in tandem with other emerging proposals from the East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust.

6. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

(a) **Extension of Private Rental Selective Licensing to Additional Parts of Thanet**

Mr Davies asked Councillor L Fairbrass the following question:

“In view of the perceived success of the selective licensing scheme of private rental properties in the Wards of Cliftonville West and Margate Central will the Cabinet Member support the extension of the scheme to other parts of the Thanet District in particular the Wards of Central Harbour and Eastcliff”

Councillor L. Fairbrass responded with the following points:

- Proposals to consult on further selective licensing in Cliftonville were due to be considered at Cabinet.
- Central Harbour and Eastcliff had a lower proportion of privately rented accommodation than Cliftonville West and Margate Central, however targeting particular streets could potentially be beneficial.

(b) **The Dickens House Museum**

Mr Kirkpatrick asked Councillor Townend the following question:

“A year ago I urged progress regarding a substantial bequest to the museum. The previous Leader's answer was inaccurate. My challenge went unanswered. Are Legal still considering the simple clause in the Will, and can you confirm the new Administration's commitment to the museum assuring me progress may be expected?”

Councillor Townend responded with the following points:

- The administration was committed to a long term solution that would keep the Museum open.

- Legal advice had been received and was being scrutinised by officers. Once completed a meeting would be arranged with all relevant parties to discuss how to proceed.
- A report was expected to be considered at Cabinet in January 2016 which would contain a recommendation for the long term future of the Museum.

(c) **A&E Services in Thanet**

Mrs Renz asked Councillor L. Fairbrass the following question:

“Having accepted a petition regarding opposition to proposed changes to A&E services in Thanet, the previous Council decided to refer the matter to Kent County Council by letter. That letter hadn't been sent. Will you please re-open the matter using information T.A.T.E. (Thanet Action for Trauma Emergencies) has gathered over the last three years?”

Councillor L. Fairbrass responded with the following points:

- The letter had been sent on 10 July and Mrs Renz would be provided with a copy.
- The QEQM Hospital A&E Review Task and Finish Group continued to exist and had a watching brief pending further developments.

7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

It was noted that no questions had been received from Members of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was noted that no notices of motion had been received from Members of Council in accordance with the Council Procedure Rule 16.

9. LEADERS REPORT

During his report the Leader covered the following areas:

- The situation regarding the East Kent Hospitals Trust.
- Representatives from the Hospital Trust would be invited to address full Council in November.
- Dreamland had successfully opened and the scenic railway would be operational shortly.
- There had been an extraordinary Cabinet meeting to discuss the future of the airport site, it was decided that there would be a review into the decision made in 2013.
- Kingdom, the ‘poo police’, had issued 333 fines across the district, 321 in Margate and Cliftonville, 2 in Broadstairs and 10 in Ramsgate.

Councillor Bayford as Leader of the Conservative Party responded with the following points:

- QEQM was under pressure.
- Dreamland had received excellent press coverage.
- There was concern amongst local residents regarding possible noise impact now that Dreamland had been issued with a late music license.
- It was good that TDC had another chance to assess the suitability of River Oak as an indemnity partner.
- The Leader described Manston as a two horse race at a recent Cabinet meeting which may have indicated a change in stance from the administration.

- Despite campaigning against the Manston Green development, Members voted for the application at the last Planning Committee meeting.

The Leader replied to Councillor Bayford's comments with the following points:

- There were two competing visions for the airport site. One vision used the existing asset, and the other began with the destruction of that asset. The Leader felt that the vision should incorporate using the existing asset.
- The Planning Committee had made its decision on the evidence put before them without pre-determination.

Councillor Johnston as leader of the Labour Party made the following points:

- The Chairman of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) should address Council.
- Funding and officer time would be needed to fight for the hospital.
- The officers and members involved in the Dreamland project should be thanked for their hard work.
- There were still outstanding issues such as the cost of the Dreamland Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).
- The Council should be mindful of CPO's; it was previously felt that the risk of underwriting the CPO was too great.
- Kingdom were providing a good service for the Council, however the company had said that it was not making enough profit.

The Leader replied to Councillor Johnston's comments with the following points:

- The Kingdom contract was inherited from the previous administration; however the Leader would provide the information requested in writing.
- The CPO of Dreamland appeared to have been conducted by a leap of faith.
- The cross party support regarding hospital services in East Kent was welcome.

10. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Councillor D Saunders, the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny, presented his report and made the following points:

- The Panel (OSP) had met and agreed to reconstitute three working party sub-groups from 2015/16.
- Political proportionality was applied to the sub-groups, and increased the number of Members on each to seven.
- The sub-groups met earlier in June and Members of Council would be kept up to date on the matters under consideration by OSP.

In response to the report the following points were raised:

- OSP would look at events surrounding the PriceWaterhouseCooper review into the future of Manston Airport.
- OSP would look at the Heritage Lottery Funding bids for the Margate Museum and the Mayors Parlour.

Members noted the report.

11. REPORT ON SIGN UP TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman and Members agreed the recommendation as shown in paragraph 4.1 of the report, namely that:

'The Council and its Councillors in carrying out their duties, make this public expression of their commitment to the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership and agree to be bound by the Thanet District Council code of conduct.'

12. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

It was proposed by the Leader, seconded by Councillor Bayford and Members agreed the nominations to the Non–Executive outside bodies as follows:

Name of Outside Body	No. of Reps	Representative
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	2	Cllr Crow-Brown Cllr K. Gregory
Age UK: Thanet	1	Cllr Dellar
Campaign to Protect Rural England (formerly, the Council for the Protection of Rural England)	1	Cllr Crow-Brown
Canterbury Festival	1	Cllr Wells
Citizens Advice Bureau, Thanet	2	Cllr Smith Cllr Game
East Kent Housing Board	1	Cllr L Fairbrass
East Kent Housing Area Board	2	Cllr Falcon Cllr Crow-Brown
Millmead Children's Centre Partnership Ltd (formerly, Sure Start)	1	Cllr Taylor
Multiple Sclerosis Society	1	Cllr Collins
Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside London	1	Cllr K.Gregory
Powell Cotton Museum and Quex House	1	Cllr Ashbee
(The) River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board	1	Cllr Stummer- Schmerzing
Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve Steering Group (formerly, The Sandwich Bay Reserve Management Committee)	1	Cllr Townend
Thanet Countryside Trust	2	Cllr Dixon Cllr Bayford
Thanet Rural Regeneration Group	1	Cllr Howes
Thanet Sports Network	1 +reserve	Cllr L Fairbrass
Thanet Volunteer Bureau	1	Cllr Falcon
Trust for Thanet Archaeology	2	Cllr G. Coleman- Cooke
Youth Advisory Group (formerly, Concorde Youth Centre)	1	Cllr Smith

13. COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO LGBCE CONSULTATION

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman and Members agreed that:

'That Council notes the recommendations of the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.'

Meeting concluded: 8.30 pm

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