

## COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2020 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

**Present:** Councillor Jason Savage (Chairman); Councillors Albon, Ashbee, Bambridge, J Bayford, R Bayford, Boyd, Braidwood, Campbell, Crittenden, Currie, Dennis, Dexter, Duckworth, Cllr Everitt, Fellows, Cllr Game, Garner, Hart, Hopkinson, Huxley, Keen, Kup, Pat Moore, Ovenden, L Piper, Cllr Rev. S Piper, Potts, Pugh, Rattigan, Rawf, Rogers, Roper, Rusiecki, D Saunders, M Saunders, Scobie, Scott, Shrubb, Taylor, Tomlinson, Whitehead, Wing, Wright and Yates

### 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councilors Ara, Bailey, Coleman-Cooke, Day, Farrance, Green, Gregory, Paul Moore, Parsons, Potts and Towing.

### 2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice Chairman and agreed, that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 6 February 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Congratulations were offered to Councillor Rattigan for his recent election to Cliffsend and Pegwell Ward.

### 4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest. The Monitoring Officer advised that there was a general dispensation available to all Members to allow consideration of agenda item 13, Council Tax Resolution 2020-21.

### 5. **PETITIONS**

#### (a) **Margate Clocktower Toilets Petition**

Members noted the report.

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

Ms Austin asked Councillor Duckworth the following question:

“TDC’s Corporate Statement commits it to working with communities to “foster shared responsibility and increase community engagement.” But limiting public and Councillors’ questions to 50 words reduces engagement, as it is difficult to frame useful questions within such limits. Will Council consider increasing the word limit for questions to 100?”

Councillor Duckworth responded with the following points:

- It was good to challenge these sort of rules to see if they helped or hindered community engagement.

- The Constitutional Review Working Party would review the matter, and Ms Austin was asked to send her arguments and evidence to Mr Howes so that he could bring it to the Working Party's attention.

## 7. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Roper asked Councillor Albon the following question:

“Has the Council gathered statistics on the number of incidences of fly tipping over the last five years?”

Councillor Albon responded that the following number of incidents had been reported to the Streetscene Enforcement department:

2015/16 - 1,617  
 2016/17 - 1,776  
 2017/18 - 1,940  
 2018/19 - 1,918

Councillor Roper followed up his question by asking if there was a reason for the rise in the number of incidents?

Councillor Albon responded that the biggest increase was between 2016/17 and 2017/18, there were a number of possible reasons for this increase, such as an increase in the use of unlicensed carriers, or changes to Kent County Council Waste and Recycling Centre charges. Council officers responded very quickly to clear a site once it was reported.

## 8. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motions.

## 9. **LEADERS REPORT**

During his report the Leader covered the following areas:

- Councillor Rattigan was welcomed to the Chamber and thanks were offered to former Councillors Stevens and Constantine for their contribution to the Council when in office.
- It had been a long time since the last Leaders Report, there would be a review of the timetable to see if the distribution of Council meetings could be more evenly spread across the year.
- The failure of the QEQM Hospital stroke service judicial review had left many people worried. There were also concerning reports of maternal care failings at the hospital.
- Operation Brock had been stood down.
- On 17 February 2020 Cabinet formally agreed to bring the management of the Councils' housing stock in house. The transition was expected to take 12 months and a Cabinet Advisory Board would be established to monitor the transition.
- The Ramsgate Port and Harbour feasibility study had been published and a three month stakeholder engagement exercise was now underway.
- The Council had committed £2million to the Thanet Parkway Station project along side significantly larger amounts from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and Kent County Council. The project looked to get planning consent from Kent County Council in May.

- The Margate Town Deal Board would meet next week. A viable Town Investment Plan would be required in order to access the £25million Town Fund.
- The Thanet Community Forest School successfully applied to the Urban Tree Challenge Fund.
- Cabinet would receive a report on the work underway in response to the climate emergency declaration at its next meeting.
- The Leader and Deputy Leader had received a guided tour of Hartsdown and Ramsgate Leisure Centres in January. These facilities were successfully managed by Your Leisure on behalf of the Council, despite the level of completion in the fitness sector.
- Thanks were offered to all Members for their cooperation in working for the people of Thanet.

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

- There was a lot of concern about the future of the QEQM hospital and its performance.
- A Cabinet Advisory Board to review the East Kent Housing (EKH) transition was good, and it was important to have regular communication with Council tenants.
- The Members briefing on the Port and Harbour feasibility study was well attended and well presented.
- The Isle of Thanet Tree and Woodland Initiative submitted the bid to the Urban Tree Community Fund, and used the Thanet Community Forest School as the lead name. Thanks were offered to Mr Evans and Councillor Ashbee for their work on the bid. Over 300 volunteers had been involved planting trees and a special thank you was offered to TDC Officer Mr Bowen for his support.
- The Conservative group would continue to work closely with the Leader for the benefit of the people of Thanet.

Councillor Reverend Piper as leader of the Thanet Independents Party made the following points:

- Welcome was extended to Councillor Rattigan and concern was expressed at the resignation of former Councillor Stevens.
- The failure of the QEQM judicial review was disappointing but not surprising. There was a need to persuade clinicians to take a different approach.
- Maternity care at QEQM hospital needed urgent attention. The Council must have a voice to urge proper care to be carried out.
- There were allegations that money had been spent on safety checks that were not carried out during EKH's management of the Council's housing stock. These allegations should be investigated.

The Leader replied to Councillor Reverend Piper's comments with the following point:

- Following the failure of EKH, people lost their jobs and the Board had been removed.

Councillor Roper as Leader the Green Party made the following points:

- Congratulations were offered to Councillor Rattigan.
- Concern about the QEQM hospital were shared, it was hoped that the recent bad news would be used to help focus efforts.
- It was disturbing that it had cost £18.4 million to keep the Manston airport site prepared for Operation Brock.

- Concern about the Parkway Station had been raised from residents during the recent Cliffsend and Pegwell by-election.
- TDC should work with Stage Coach and KCC to ensure that the Parkway Station has a suitable bus service.
- Consultation following the Port and Harbour feasibility study should involve all stakeholders.
- Plans to increase street cleaning staff were good as it would make the area look more attractive to visitors.
- Congratulations were offered to the Isle of Thanet Tree and Woodland Initiative, however more needed to be done to protect existing trees within Thanet. The Council should also stop using harmful weed killers.
- Council Members were working well together for the people of Thanet.

The Leader replied to Councillor Roper's comments noting that:

- £18.4 million was a lot of money, however it was good that the Manston lorry park had not been put into use.
- Opinion in Cliffsend and Pegwell was divided regarding the Parkway Station. It was a big opportunity for the District as a whole.

Councillor Pugh joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

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

Councillor Bayford, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, presented the report and the following points were noted:

- The Panel met on 20 February and received a report on the future of the Council housing stock presented Cllr Whitehead. It was recommended that Members view the minutes once they were published as a lot of areas were explored.
- The Panel agreed that a Member/Officer panel be set up to review the performance targets that made up the quarterly performance report.
- The panel requested that the Empty Properties Action Plan be presented to the Panel when it was ready.
- There would be a workshop open to all Members, to identify topics for scrutiny review.

Members noted the report.

#### **11. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND INDEPENDENT PERSON**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman and Members agreed the recommendations detailed in the report, namely that:

1. Mr Dennis James should be appointed as Thanet District Council's Independent Person for a new four term from the Annual Council meeting in May 2020.
2. Ms Causier should be appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a one year term with immediate effect.
3. Mr Tucker should be appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee with immediate effect. In addition he should also be initially appointed as Thanet District Council's Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee until the Council's Annual meeting on 14th May, where he should then be appointed as the Chairman of the Standards Committee for a new four year term.

**12. THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA) DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman and Members agreed the recommendations detailed in the report, namely that:

“This Council welcomes the cross-party support within the Council for combating antisemitism in all its manifestations. This Council hereby adopts the following definition of antisemitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and pledges to combat this pernicious form of racism.

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

In addition the council agrees to the inclusion of the IHRA definition and working examples within the Council’s constitution and codes of conduct for Members and Officers.”

**13. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2020-21**

It was noted that in accordance with council procedure rule 17.6, a recorded vote would be taken on the motion or any amendments and substantive motions.

It was proposed by Councillor Yates and seconded by Councillor Campbell that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed, namely:

1. That Members approve the Thanet District Council element of Council Tax charges as set out below for the listed property bands:

COUNCIL TAX PER PROPERTY BAND FOR 2020-21								
BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Proportion of band D	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
Annual Charge	158.76	185.22	211.68	238.14	291.06	343.98	396.90	476.28

2. That Members approve the determinations at Section 1 of this report.

The Monitoring Officer conducted a recorded vote on the motion as follows:

43 Members voted in favour the motion: Councillors Albon, Ashbee, Bambridge, J Bayford, R Bayford, Boyd, Braidwood, Campbell, Crittenden, Currie, Dennis, Dexter, Duckworth, Everitt, Fellows, Game, Garner, Hart, Hopkinson, Huxley, Keen, Kup, Pat Moore, Ovenden, L Piper, S Piper, Pugh, Rattigan, Rawf, Rogers, Roper, Rusiecki, D Saunders, M Saunders, Savage, Scobie, Scott, Shrubbs, Taylor, Tomlinson, Whitehead, Wright, Yates.

No Members voted against the motion:

One Member abstained from voting on the motion: Councillor Wing.

The motion was carried.

#### 14. CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARDS 2019/20

It was proposed by the Chairman, Seconded by the Vice-Chairman and Members agreed the proportionality between groups for committees, panels and boards for the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year as shown at table 2 of the report.

#### NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COMMITTEES

Council noted the following changes the nominations to committees for the remainder of the 2019-2020 year:

##### **Planning Committee**

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	Tomlinson	1	Duckworth	1	Taylor	1	Garner
2	Coleman-Cooke	2	Scobie Moore	2	Dennis		
3	J Bayford	3	Albon				
4	Wright	4	Keen				
5	Hart	5	Currie				
6	Scott						

##### **Planning Committee** (*pool of substitute Members*)

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	Towning	1	Everitt	1	Rusiecki	1	Roper
2	Stevens Rattigan	2	Campbell	2	S. Piper		
3	Paul Moore	3	Pat Moore Scobie				
4		4	Green				
5		5					

### Licensing Board

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	Bambridge	1	Currie	1	Potts	1	Wing
2	Rogers	2	Green				
3	Dexter	3	Ara				
4	MSaunders	4	Scobie				
5	Wright	5	Huxley				
6	Shrubb						

### Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	R Bayford	1	Campbell	1	L Piper	1	Roper
2	Boyd	2	Huxley	2	Rusiecki		
3	Coleman Cooke	3	Gregory Keen				
4	Paul Moore	4	Pat Moore				
5	Parsons- Rattigan	5	Hopkinson				
6	Scott						

**Governance and Audit Committee**

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	Day	1	Crittenden	1	Braidwood	1	Garner
2	Dexter	2	Moore				
3	Boyd	3	Campbell				
4	Kup	4	Currie				
5	Shrubbs	5	tbc				
6	Towning						

**Governance and Audit Committee** (*Pool of Substitute Members*)

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	Pugh	1		1	Potts	1	Roper
2	Scott	2					
3	Rattigan	3					
4		4					

**General Purposes Committee**

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	Game	1	Campbell	1	S. Piper		



2	Pugh Ashbee	2	Everitt	2	Ruseicki		
3	Stevens Dexter	3	Rawf				
4	Day	4	Ovenden				
5	D Saunders						
6	M Saunders						

**General Purposes - (Pool of Substitute Members)**

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	Wright	1	Albon	1	Braidwood		
2	Dexter	2	Pat Moore				
3	Rogers	3	Scobie				
4		4					
5							

**Boundaries and Electoral Arrangements Working Party**

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	Parsons	1	Currie	1	S. Piper		
2	Moore	2	Green				
3	Stevens Rattigan						

**Constitutional Review Working Party**

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green		Independent Members (non Councillors) *	
1	Stevens Hart	1	Hopkinson	1	Piper			1	Sexton
2	Tomlinson							2	Vacant

NOTE: \*drawn from the Independent Members of the Standards Committee

**Standards Committee**

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green		Independent Members (non Councillors) *	
1	Kup	1	Campbell	1	Braidwood			1	Sexton
2	Dexter	2	Duckworth					2	Vacant
3	Fellows	3	Crittenden					3	Vacant
4	J Bayford							4	Vacant

**Joint Transport Board**

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	M Saunders	1	Scobie	1	Taylor		
2	Fellows	2	Farrance Crittenden				
3	Hart	3	Keen				

**East Kent Services Committee**

Labour		Conservative		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	Everitt						
2	Whitehead						

**Standards Appointments Working Party**

Conservative		Labour		Thanet Independents		Green	
1	Fellows	1	Scobie	1	Dennis		

Meeting concluded: 7.45pm