

AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at the Guildhall, Market Place, Faversham on Monday, 28 September 2009

Present: The Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs A J Walker and Councillors T Gates, Mrs C Davis, M S Gates, J N Coulter, D H S Simmons, J R Winlow, D G Wade, N A Kay, M R Baldock and Mrs J E Hawkins.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Mulhern and L G R Hobbard-Mitchell.

2. MINUTES

It was noted that Cllr J R Winlow had not been present at the meeting of the Town Council held on 1 September 2009 and the Minutes were duly amended and initialled by the Mayor.

Concern was also raised with regard to the Minute relating to Item 5 of the Town Clerk’s Report (West Faversham Community Association). It was agreed that the remainder of Minutes of the Meeting were approved by Members and the Mayor was given authority to sign them when he had had the opportunity of discussing this particular item with the Town Clerk on her return from holiday.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was made by Cllr Mrs C Davis on Planning Application TP/09/0068 – 7 & 8 Ospringe Place, Faversham.

4. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that since the last Town Council meeting he had been very pleased to open the Carnival Exhibition at the Fleur de Lis and had attended the Hop Festival with numerous visiting Mayors who were once again complimentary on both the organisation of the event and the town of Faversham. In the afternoon of that day the Mayor had presented prizes at the Abbey Physic Garden for the Faversham in Bloom Competition and had also been pleased to be invited to award long service awards to members of the Citizens Advice Bureau at their Annual General Meeting.

Other civic engagements had included the Mayor of Ramsgate’s Day Out, a visit to the house of Charles Darwin at Downe in aid of the Mayor of Bromley’s charity, the raising of the Green Flag at the Oare Gunpowder Works and a weekend in the twin town of Hazebrouck for their “Ville Ouverte”.

The Mayor had also attended a meeting to discuss the Mapping Local Foods Web organised by the CPRE where Faversham is one of the 22 communities in England where mapping activity will occur during 2009 and a meeting with representatives from Sainsbury’s who had outlined their plans for a new supermarket in Faversham. Other meetings had included the Alexander Centre Group Meeting, where the Mayor reported that it was hoped progress would be made in the next few months and a meeting with Mr Hugh Robertson MP to discuss plans to involve Faversham in more local control of its facilities.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was:

RESOLVED that recommendations be sent Swale Borough Council as set out in Planning Schedule 28.09.09.

6. TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

1. 2008/2009 Audit

It was reported that the Town Council were in receipt of a satisfactory Auditor’s Certificate for Financial Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2009 which contained no adverse comments. The Mayor commented that the Audit Commission had required completion of the accounts considerably earlier this year and Members agreed to record a vote of thanks to the Town Clerk and the Internal Auditor for their work.

2. Quality Parish Council Application

Members noted that the Town Council’s Quality Parish Council application had been submitted and that it may be some time before Members hear if the application has been successful.

3. Youth Working Party

Councillors received and agreed the notes of the Youth Working Party and attention was drawn to the Autumn Clean-Up Day which has been arranged to take place on Saturday, 24 October 2009. It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox and on being put to the meeting:

RESOLVED that a grant of £500.00 be awarded to the Faversham Youth Centre to be used for the Centre’s Disabled Club’s proposed Christmas Pantomime.

4. Public Realm Working Group

Cllr Mrs C Davis reported the notes of the meeting of the Faversham Joint Public Working Group held on 16 September 2009 which were approved by Members.

5. Community Empowerment Peer Review

It was agreed that the Mayor, Cllr E J Wilcox, would represent the Town Council at the focus group to be held at 11am on Wednesday, 7 October 2009 at Swale House with the Information and Development Agency who will be carrying out a Pilot Peer Review of the Borough Council’s Community Empowerment work.

6. Bus Services to Canterbury

After discussion, Members agreed that the Town Clerk should write to Stagecoach and request that they carry out a six-month trial of reorganising one of their hourly services to Canterbury to leave Faversham via the railway station and The Mall and that this should be properly advertised.

7. Abbey Street – Historical Plaque

Following the decision made at the last meeting of the Town Council when Members agreed that no further plaque should be placed in Abbey Street to specifically identify the work of Mr Herbert Richards in the restoration of this street, Members considered a further application made by his granddaughter, Mrs Helen Simmons, who had offered, subject to the Town Council’s approval, to provide such a plaque at her own expense. Members agreed that

although Mrs Simmons had kindly offered to cover the costs involved they consider that the wording on the existing plaque is sufficient and they do not agree to any further plaques being provided.

8. Faversham Creek Consortium

Following the suggestion received by the Town Clerk from Cllr Mike Cosgrove that it would be of great advantage for the Town Council to receive regular reports from its representatives of the Creek Consortium, Cllr D G Wade commented that although he does sometimes find it difficult to attend meetings, he has not always been formally notified of the dates or supplied with minutes of the meetings. It was agreed that Members feel that it would be useful to receive regular reports from the Consortium.

9. Kent Association of Local Councils – Finance Information Day

Members noted the date of the next KALC Finance Information Day to be held on Saturday, 17 October 2009 at Lenham Community Centre.

10. Officer Surgeries

Members were pleased to receive notification from Mr Peter Chegwidden, the Recycling Officer for Swale Borough Council, that he will hold his first Officer Surgery at the Alexander Centre on Thursday, 8 October from 2pm to 4pm to meet residents on a one-to-one basis to discuss issues, and agreed that these surgeries should be encouraged. It was agreed that the Town Council should publicise this event on their notice boards.

7. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

It was:

RESOLVED that the Payments and Receipts, in Annex 21.09.09 circulated with the Agenda, be approved and confirmed.