

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Faversham Town Council

Monday 27 April 2020, 7pm

Present:

The Mayor, Cllr A Reynolds	Cllr A Hook	Cllr K Barker	Cllr J Irwin
Cllr J Saunders	Cllr C Jackson	Cllr H Perkin	Cllr D Knights
Cllr B J Martin	Cllr T Martin	Cllr E Thomas	Cllr C Williams

In attendance:

Louise Bareham – Town Clerk

206. **Apologies for Absence**

None

207. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr Thomas FACE

Cllr Irwin Faversham Umbrella

208. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was proposed by the Mayor and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting dated 14th April 2020.***

209. **Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee 15th April 2020**

The recommendations of the Committee under Minute Ref 105 Committee Structure Review were proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the amendments committees and the 2020-21 calendar***

Cllr B J Martin proposed, seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Recovery Plan note from the Town Marketing Group***

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that an email from Swale Citizens Advice outlining their proposed use of the funds would be sufficient for the £6,000 grant to be released***

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the Annual Meeting of Faversham***

Town Council is held on 11th May

210. **Emergency Grant Applications**

Cllr Saunders reiterated that the emergency grant had been set up on the basis of providing emergency support for local people. Money had been granted to WFCC for free food parcels, the Town Council, Age UK and the Mutual Aid volunteers etc were quite effective and there has not been a crisis of no food. He acknowledged that we were seeing applications from other organisations because of the period of time, they were now drifting into financial difficulties.

Cllr Perkin noted that Faversham Umbrella may be entitled to funding from SBC. Cllr T Martin reported that one of the applicants was not within the Faversham Wards.

It was agreed to defer the decision on the grant applications.

Cllr Saunders proposed, seconded by Cllr B J Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the Policy and Finance Committee review the COVID Emergency Grants Policy and in particular (a) the criteria for giving emergency grants, (b) the possibility of introducing a separate grant to help local organisations recover from the economic impacts of the emergency.***

211. **Coronavirus Emergency Update**

Cllr B J Martin reported a cashflow shortage for SBC, which was still having to pay out precepts. Bulk waste collections were to resume and household bins were being collected. 327 households were in temporary accommodation. The community response at WFCC had been good.

Cllr Thomas reported that he received daily updates on waste and BIFFA expected to take on extra staff. Parking had been an issue in Tanner Street and the parking team would be doing a letter drop.

Cllr Hook reported on KCC's mental health campaign. The waste sites remained closed.

Cllr Saunders reported that the Faversham Foodbank had cut back on volunteers, but the volume of donations were holding up. The usage was at usual levels and they had been liaising with WFCC.

Cllr B J Martin noted the crowdfunding that SBC were doing to raise money for the voluntary organisations.

The issue of whether the duck feeding area at Stonebridge should be open was reviewed, as a number of complaints had been received about crowding issues. Members agreed it should be opened in the hope that people would make the right decision over social distancing.

The Town Council had received a request to become an e-referral agency for the Foodbank. Cllr T Martin proposed, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the offer to become an e-referral agency**

212. **Waste Management**

Cllr Thomas had nothing further to add to his update

213. **Housing Needs Survey**

Item withdrawn

214. **Ramadam**

Cllr B J Martin proposed, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council notes the changes made to religious celebrations by all faith groups during this unprecedented time.**

The publication of guidance by the Muslim Council of Britain for those observing Ramadan <https://mcb.org.uk/resources/ramadan>

This Council Understands Ramadan began on Thursday 23/4, and that under normal practice Muslims spend the month fasting during daylight hours, conducting charitable works, and strengthening family ties, in what is the holiest period of the Islamic year.

This Council is thankful for the efforts of those in our community, of all faiths and none, in offering community support during this time.

The Town Council is available to support, however it can, the needs of all residents of any faith or none on our helpline number, 01795 503286, through our social media channels, via email or direct correspondence with councillors. Faversham Town Council would like to wish all those observing, a blessed and happy Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak.”

215. **Any Other Business**

The Mayor noted that arrangements for the virtual VE75 Day and that VJ Day must also be remembered.

The meeting closed at 20.03

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Macdonald

At your meeting held on 14 April Councillor Denise Knights brought up the subject of flying a flag for the NHS on the Guildhall. I was surprised to hear this topic being debated as (under the government guidelines) this is not a flag allowed without permission from Swale planning. I was even more surprised at the council's agreement to fly two flags from the same flagpole! This guidance can easily be found on the internet <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flying-flags-a-plain-english-guide>. My questions are 1) why was this debated and resolved? And 2) why has this not been recorded in the minutes, which only mention the agreement to purchase a NHS flag? I also see that the minutes of the full town council meeting held on 9 March – which were approved at the meeting of 14 April – have still not been made available to the public. Please let me know how I can get a copy.

Cllr T Martin referred Mr Macdonald to the Town Council's Flag Policy, which allow the Town Council to fly any flag of its choice.

Cllr Irwin agreed it was not a sensible decision and it would be better to fly a NHS flag on a Thursday rather than two flags at the same time.

Cllr Hook didn't think the previous discussion left him to expect two flags would be flown at the same time, it would look odd.