

THE MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL held at the Guildhall, Faversham, on Monday 9 March 2020, 7pm

Present:

The Mayor Cllr A Reynolds	Cllr J Saunders	Cllr C Williams
Cllr C Jackson	Cllr D Knights	Cllr B J Martin
Cllr H Perkin	Cllr T Martin	Cllr A Hook

In attendance: Louise Bareham, Town Clerk

Questions from Members of the public are recorded as an annex to the minutes.

174. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thomas due to illness, Cllrs Barker and Irwin due to work commitments. On being put to the Council it was **RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllrs Thomas, Barker and Irwin**

175. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None

176. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS TO REPORT

Cllr Hook confirmed Minute 165 was food served by Faversham Town Council, where the food is free. This did not include occasions such as the Mayor's Ball where food was paid for. Cllrs Saunders' motion for Minute 170 should be *Following the UK's recent departure from the European Union, the Town Council wishes to re-confirm the town's commitment to its twinning with Hazebrouck in northern France, a relationship which has existed for over fifty years. It notes the warm hospitality Hazebrouck councillors and residents always show towards visitors from Faversham and it hopes to continue working with the Faversham Town Twinning Association to promote friendship and understanding between the people of the two towns.*

Subject to the amendments, it was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council held on 10th February 2020.**

177. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The MAYOR, Cllr Reynolds reported on recent events attended.

178. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Services Committee.**

179. THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council participates in the Great British Spring Clean, organised by Keep Britain Tidy, taking place from 20th March to 13th April by working with the community including schools and businesses with litter picks and clean up events organised to improve the town's environment.***

180. FAVERSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Hook to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group***

181. EXTENSION OF THE COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND

It was agreed to send a letter of support

182. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

It was agreed to monitor the current situation with regard to events and meetings.

183. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the receipts and approve the payments.***

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

ANNEX

Presentation from Sue Davis, Rough Sleeper Coordinator at SBC

Sue started in position in July 2019 around the time when SBC received £154,000 funding from the government. Since then 48 people have been placed in accommodation - 5/6 private rental, 3 housing association, some returned home, some went into rehab, some into shared accommodation.

SBC has borrowed a block at the Quays, which was previously empty – Merlin Block which has 24 beds, this is now occupied by 21 people with 3 dogs. Initially dogs were not allowed but they were chipped and are well behaved, so that has worked well.

A head count is undertaken every two months, there has been the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPE) in place over the winter but that won't be available much longer. There are a number of Eastern Europeans sleeping rough, but they refuse to engage with the rough sleeper team. It may be that they are under threat and too frightened. The team is unable to assist people who are illegal immigrants.

People need to be genuinely homeless and Sue will go out and check to find them sleeping rough, before they can be helped and offered temporary accommodation.

There will be a further £215,000 available and this will enable employment of an additional staff member. They work closely with the police and other services to assist the homeless.

Swale was the only Kent area to make the top 10 in reducing homeless figures.

The bus in Sittingbourne was closed down for a specific reason, but all the people were rehomed.

When the cold weather protocol is finished people will be assessed for priority needs.

They are called the Reset Team.

Questions

Mr C Oswald Jones noted in Community Services Committee Minute 40 that Cllr Belsom was not Chair of St Nicholas Allotments.

Mr J Rowlands asked about Helen Whately's petition for saving Magna Carta. Cllr Hook responded that the Council had not received it, but were not selling Magna Carta, but thought if you were going to collect a petition you would present it.

Mr F Macdonald noted the Councillors' Code of Conduct regarding accountability. He felt that Cllr Perkin should have declared a DPI because of her vegan business, when voting for the Council to become 100% vegan. He also felt that choice had been taken away.

Cllr Perkin confirmed that she had no intention of catering for FTC events, but it was something she strongly believed in as it was a sustainable way of eating.

Cllr Williams reiterated the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and noted it was impossible to be carbon neutral while serving meat base products.

The Town Clerk confirmed that Cllr Perkin's DPI was up to date and she was not obliged to repeat a declaration.