

FULL COUNCIL
Wednesday 8th September 2021

MINUTES

Present:

Members	Present	Apologies	Absent
Mayor: Cllr P Darrington	✓		
Deputy Mayor: Cllr L Dyball	✓		
Leader: Cllr M Horwood	✓		
Deputy Leader: Cllr L Ball	✓		
Cllr S Andrews		✓	
Cllr C Barnes		✓	
Cllr J Barnes		✓	
Cllr G Darrington	✓		
Cllr J Domigan	✓		
Cllr M Foster		✓	
Cllr J Griffiths		✓	
Cllr C Lee	✓		
Cllr V Letchford		✓	
Cllr T Searles	✓		
Cllr A Skipper		✓	
Cllr J Tuckfield	✓		

Officers: CEO & Town Clerk – Ryan Hayman
 Sales, Marketing and Democratic Manager – Suzie Barnbrook
 Kent County Councillor – Cllr Perry Cole

Public Session: None

11302 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Andrews, Cllr C Barnes, Cllr J Barnes, Cllr M Foster, Cllr J Griffiths, Cllr V Letchford, Cllr A Skipper.

11303 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

11304 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To approve as correct the Minutes of the Meetings held on Wednesday 21st July 2021.

APPROVED AND SIGNED

11305 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2020/2021 – Appendix A

To note year-end Internal Audit report findings.

NOTED

Cllr M Horwood would like to thank RFO and all other staff involved.

11306 GRANTS IN

CEO to provide verbal update.

CEO gave update on grants received this financial year:

£2000	Bruce Wake Trust – Changing place facility at Swanley Park
£2000	Kent County Council – Serving hatch at Swanley Link Café
£6145	Lawn Tennis Association – New electric gate access
£1030	Kent County Council – Remembrance memorial bench
£4602	Kent County Council & UK Power Networks – EV charging hubs at Civic Centre
£9887	National Lottery – Changing place facility at Swanley Park
£500	Friends of Swanley Park – Changing place facility at Swanley Park
£5646.96	Sevenoaks District Council - Kickstart Scheme funding for Estate Technician position
£2000	Davidson Training – Apprenticeship grant
£14,000	Swanley Rugby Club – Upgraded and refurbished Changing Rooms at Civic Centre
£4328	Sevenoaks District Council – Town Centre COVID-19 recovery fund

11307 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – Appendix B

To approve update to Financial Regulations.

APPROVED

With minor amendment.

11308 MAYORS COMMUNICATION

To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may desire to lay before the Council (Councillors are reminded that no decision making may take place as a result of this item)

Cllr P Darrington, since being Mayor has attended 12 events. Cllr P Darrington was pleased with the superb arrangements for the 1812 Night and we had 47 people in the VIP area. It was very well managed as well as social distanced. We have received three letters of appreciation. £129 was collected on the evening for the charities, lower than expected as people do not seem to carry cash these days.

Date for The Mayors Charity Ball will be Friday 25th February 2022.

11309 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(Councillors are reminded that no decision making may take place as a result of this item)

Kent County Councillor (KCC), Cllr P Cole reported:

As many of you know, August is traditionally perceived as being a ‘quiet’ time, where few if any council meetings are held and the business of Local Government ‘ticks on’. Although the central government issues and ergo County and Town Council concerns around Covid and its effects on our residents as well as the implementation of the hugely successful vaccination program and lifting of the remaining lock-down measures appear to have taken centre-stage, there are, of course, the year on year problems to resolve - such as school placements and arranging Home to School Transport for those who require it. Additional stresses have been placed on KCC by both the ever-increasing it seems number of asylum seekers crossing the busiest shipping lane in the world, the English Channel, to claim sanctuary. You will be aware of the pressure that this has brought to bear on KCC services especially when one considers the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children are factored into the equation.

KCC are legally obliged to look after UASC's until they are 25 years of age and with the National Transfer Scheme being only a 'voluntary' scheme, Kent has borne the brunt of shouldering what is a national responsibility until fairly recently. Further pressure has been added by the arrival of many Afghan individuals and families who aligned themselves to British Forces operating in Afghanistan and who feared for their lives under the new Taliban government. Working closely with partners from both local government and the voluntary sector, efforts are being made to assimilate these displaced people within the UK - including Kent. Two recent consultations were advertised over various broadcasting outlets:

A questionnaire regarding bus services across Kent and another poll concerning where residents see their priorities when it comes to determining and agreeing KCC's budget for next year. The Bus Service questionnaire attracted over 3500 responses and in excess of 500 suggestions for taking bus services forward. The process is part of a larger project: 'National Bus Improvement Schemes' looking at how services can adapt and provide the quality of service expected by our residents at the times and locations that the demand requires them to operate. This is an on-going piece of work that will evolve as it develops and I hope to report back at some stage with positive developments. It is important to remember that at present, KCC neither 'run' bus services nor approve the allocation of a licence to run or terminate such services and it is very much the operators prerogative to change, curtail or cease certain routes to their advantage. It would be best to remind STC and our residents again next April/May of the need to register for student bus passes in good time ready for the start of the September term. This should result in the majority of the applications being processed in readiness for the start of term. For students, including Post 16 students that may qualify for Home to School transport under SEN agreement, it is important that KCC is informed at the earliest opportunity of the college or other learning establishment that the student wishes to or has started to attend. In some cases, the college needs to liaise with KCC SEN to ensure that they meet Home to School Transport criteria and regrettably, there are a number of parents/carers still awaiting a final decision on whether their child will qualify for such transport. On a more local level, I have been looking at the issues concerning the localised 'Flash Floods' that afflicted many parts of Swanley in July.

Two 'public meetings' were held last Wednesday and a number of very good points were raised. Once the data has been compiled I will be meeting with KCC Highways drainage managers to look at how we can address these regular problems. For the interim, I would urge residents to continue to report issues as they find them - rather than leaving them to potentially create a bigger problem. Blocked drains or gullies can be reported to KCC via the 'Report a Problem' option found under the heading 'Roads and Travel' and then simply following the prompted questions. The system allows for the inclusion of photographs and the on-site mapping allows for the location of the fault to be precisely determined using the 'What 3 Words' software. For those without internet access, the KCC control team can be contacted on 03000 418181 or, if it is 'out of hours' then 03000 419191.

District Councillor, Cllr G Darrington:

I'm still acting as intermediary at Northview and Kettlewell sites between the residents, West Kent Housing Association and the Contractor Helix. West Kent Housing Association and Helix preferred that I did this rather than the residents contacting them directly. The system is far more efficient and it stops anger being vented directly towards them. Some of the conditions that were agreed have been overlooked at times causing issues, in fact UK Power Network arrived unannounced last week and blocked off a passage way and started drilling.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 6th October 2021

Meeting Closed: 20:09