

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Sandwich Town Council held on Monday 30th May 2022 in The Delf, Guildhall, Sandwich.

Present: Councillors: J Franklin (Chairman)

**A Fox
J Franklin
D Friend
P Graeme
N Gray
K Heaven
H Sampson
D Sivrikaya
C Ungerson
C Wiles**

Officer: C Leith (Minutes)

A minute of silence was held as a mark of respect for the late Cllr Bragg.

14.05.22 MAYOR'S OPENING COMMENTS

The Mayor's opening comments reflected two enjoyable Mayoral engagements this week at Sir Roger Manwood's School and Brightlingsea.

The Mayor moved to discuss Item 15 in Confidential matters at the end of the STBF meeting following this meeting. This was contended by Cllr Gray, who believed this matter should be discussed in public within this meeting. A vote was taken to discuss Item 15 in public:

For: Cllrs Gray, Sivrikaya, Ungerson, Wiles and Heaven

Against: Cllrs Friend, Graeme, Sampson, Fox and Franklin (using casting vote to carry the motion.)

15.05.22 APPROVAL FOR APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Lintott (away), Marie (work), Carter and Carter (annual holiday).

16.05.22 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

Cllr Gray declared an interest in item 13 regarding the Phoenix Centre, due to his involvement in preparations to reopen the centre.

17.05.22 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sandwich Town Council held on 25th April 2022.

RESOLUTION: Minutes were approved as accurate.

18.05.22 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sandwich Town Council held on 11th May 2022.

RESOLUTION: Minutes were approved as accurate.

- 19.05.22 PUBLIC REQUESTS TO SPEAK**
Mrs Sally Hayter addressed the Council regarding staffing.
- 20.05.22 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCIL ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO SANDWICH**
Cllr Friend, our DDC representative confirmed that he had submitted his report for May, which had been circulated to all councillors.
- 21.05.22 REPORT FROM CLLR S CHANDLER, KCC REPRESENTATIVE FOR SANDWICH**
Cllr Chandler updated councillors on several KCC matters that included information regarding the KCC Draft Strategy for Kent and the Post-16 education offering in the county.
- 22.05.22 UPDATES FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS THAT THEY HAVE ATTENDED AS NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL**
Cllr Sampson reported on efforts of The Christmas Lights Committee, who were hanging bunting for forthcoming Jubilee Celebrations this weekend. Cllr Sampson also mentioned that a Ukrainian refugee recently arrived in Sandwich, wanting to contribute to the town, had also joined the Sandwich Lights Committee.

URGENT MATTERS

- 23.05.22 PAYMENT SCHEDULES**
- (i) Cllrs received the mid-month payments, totalling £25,766.27. Those payments which are not supported by a minute reference number have been authorised by the Chief Executive as they fall within Officer delegated powers of expenditure.
RESOLUTION: Received and approved.
- (ii) Cllrs received the schedule of payments totalling £23,567.22.
RESOLUTION: Received and approved.
- (iii) Cllrs were asked to confirm which authorised signatories will authorise the end of May payments using NatWest Bankline.
RESOLUTION: Authorised signatories approved.
- (iv) Cllrs were asked to confirm which authorised signatories will authorise the end of June payments using NatWest Bankline.
RESOLUTION: Authorised signatories approved.

NON-URGENT MATTERS

- 24.05.22 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**
Councillors received and considered a Schedule of Meetings for 2022/2023.
RESOLUTION: Council resolved to approve the Schedule of Meetings for 2022/2023.
- 25.05.22 DISABILITY ACCESS STRATEGY WORKING GROUP**
Councillors received a report from the CEO containing a request from Cllr Ungerson to continue disability access strategy work within the town.
RESOLUTION: Council agreed that Cllr Ungerson be permitted to send letters on behalf of STC enquiring about accessible access in the town.

26.05.22 THE PHOENIX CENTRE

Councillors received a report from the CEO containing a recommendation that STC should consider helping with the reopening of The Phoenix Centre and for the CEO to join The Friends of the Phoenix Centre to ascertain how we can be of assistance.

Cllr Gray left the room.

Cllr Ungerson informed Council that a Draft Agreement to lease had been undertaken by the revival of the Phoenix Centre group and that it would become 'The Sandwich Community Hub.' There is a scheduled meeting planned for 20th June, whereby they are hopeful that Sandwich Boxing Club will be permitted to come back and will share the building with other groups. The intention is to create a new charity with trustees, two of whom should be council appointed and it was not felt that the involvement of the CEO was required.

Cllr Friend responded by informing Council that he had recently been in contact with David Wood about the next scheduled meeting, but that DDC had not been made aware of these latest developments as reported by Cllr Ungerson.

Cllr Sampson added that he believed that the CEO should be involved with this venture.

A vote was taken to ascertain whether the CEO should be involved to extend STC's offer of expertise and assistance.

For: Cllrs Sampson, Friend, Fox and Graeme

Against: Cllrs Franklin, Wiles, Ungerson, Sivrikaya and Heaven

Cllr Friend asked that it be recorded that STC had resolved not to offer their assistance.

RESOLUTION: Council resolved that the CEO should not be involved in the process of reopening the Phoenix Centre.

27.05.22 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Council received a report from the CEO on behalf of Cllr Friend to consider whether STC can assist the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) within the town on their return to Sandwich.

Cllr Heaven suggested that STC should ascertain whether our support would be welcomed by the CAB.

It was suggested that a working party should be established with DDC and CAB to ascertain how we may be able to support and facilitate their return to Sandwich.

Cllr Sampson offered his services to contact the CAB on behalf of STC.

A vote was taken to establish whether the CEO should be involved with this collaboration:

For: Cllrs Sampson, Friend, Fox and Graeme.

Against: Cllrs Ungerson, Wiles, Gray, Sivrikaya, Heaven and Franklin.

RESOLUTION: Council resolved not to set up a collaboration with DDC/STC/CAB but proposed that Cllr Sampson replace the previous councillor as the STC representative for CAB should he be required.

28.05.22 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

- (i) It is recommended that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

RESOLUTION: Council resolved to discuss Item 15 further at the conclusion of the STBF meeting.

Please see below information copied from the STBF Minutes, where this item was discussed further following this meeting.

In the previous STC meeting, the Mayor moved to discuss Item 15 in Confidential matters at the conclusion of the following STBF meeting. This was contended by Cllr Gray, who believed this matter should be discussed in public. A vote was taken to discuss Item 15 in public:

For: Cllrs Gray, Sivrikaya, Ungerson, Wiles and Heaven

Against: Cllrs Friend, Graeme, Sampson, Fox and Franklin (using the Chairman's casting vote to carry the motion.)

29.05.22

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 27th June 2022 in The Delf, Guildhall

Signed.....

Date.....