

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sandwich Town Council
held in the Council Chamber on:
Monday 27th March 2023**



Chair: Cllr J Franklin
Councillors: D Carter, P Carter, A Fox, D Friend, K Heaven, D Marie,
M Moorhouse, M Pennington, H Sampson, D Sivrikaya, V Tomlins, C Wiles and
C Ungerson

Officer: The Chair asked members' agreement for the minutes to be taken by a councillor as provided for in the SO. Cllr Pennington offered to act as recorder of this meeting, which was then proposed and agreed by Council.

STC.03.23.1	<p>Chair's opening remarks: The Mayor had attended the inaugural meeting and dinner of the Ronse-Renaix Twinning Association on 2 March, and on 18 March had the privilege of welcoming guests from a variety of museums and the Lord Lieutenant to visit the museum for the "Wheels of time" exhibition which was a great success, thanks to the museum co-ordinator and her staff.</p>	
STC.03.23.2	<p>Apologies for absence received: Apologies were received from: Cllr Graeme (personal reasons) and Cllr Gray (illness.)</p>	
STC.03.23.3	<p>Declarations of interest: The following declarations of interest were received: None</p>	
STC.03.23.4	<p>Minutes of the Full Council Meeting: To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of STC held on 27th February 2023 and to consider any matters arising from those minutes not covered elsewhere in this Agenda.</p> <p>Cllr Moorhouse pointed out that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report had been received by him in relation to minutes 09/10.02.23; - STC had apparently not been invited to the Tourism meeting on 14th March; - The press release by South Thanet Conservatives of 23rd March contained abusive language relating to Sandwich Matters and the Council, in stark contrast with the paper noted at minute 19.02.23; - Council was not informed if a letter had been sent to DDC about the deadline for Coronation Street parties (22.02.23); - Information was outstanding on the purchase of a new sign for the closure of King St. (24.02.23). <p>Cllr Sivrikaya asked for a response to the Conservative party press release to be sent.</p>	Town Clerk

	RESOLUTION: Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	
STC.03.23.5	Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting: To approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary STC Meeting held on 15 th March 2023 RESOLUTION: Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	
STC.03.23.6	Minutes of the Heritage and Townscape Committee Meeting: To approve the Minutes of the H&G Committee Meeting held on 13 th March 2023 RESOLUTION: Cllr Ungerson said this draft of the minutes did not reflect the amendments she had made, and a decision was postponed to the next meeting.	Town Clerk Cllr Ungerson
STC.03.23.7	Minutes of the Planning Committee: To approve the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 th March 2023. RESOLUTION: Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	
STC.03.23.8	Payment Schedules: 8a Council received and noted the payments for mid-March, totalling £41,174.44. RESOLUTION: Mid-month payments were received and approved. 8b Council received and approved the schedule of payments for March, totalling £12,580.09. RESOLUTION: Schedule of payments were received and approved. 8c Council confirmed nomination of Cllr Franklin and Cllr Sampson to authorise end of March payment schedules on Bankline. RESOLUTION: Authorised signatories were agreed and approved. 8d Council confirmed nomination of authorised signatories to authorise mid-April payment schedules on Bankline. Payment schedule was agreed and approved.	RFO Councillors Franklin and Sampson
STC.03.23.9	Public Participation: A 15-minute session is set aside for members of the public to make representations at the meeting in respect of the business on the agenda. Individual representations should not exceed 3 minutes. (Written notice of the desire to exercise the right to speak, together with the topic to be addressed, must be given to the Chief Executive Officer prior to 9:00 on the Monday preceding the meeting) A) Friends of Betteshanger presented their opposition to plans to build a surf lagoon and hotel in the reserve there and asked for the Council's support. To build a hotel and draw in between 200,000 and 600,000 visitors was irresponsible in an area known for its shortage of water supply, and for its biodiversity both in plants (wild orchids) and birds (turtledoves). B) Save Ash Level Campaign group asked for the Council's support in opposing an application from Statkraft UK Ltd to construct a solar panel energy farm covering 180 acres at Ash Level, despite it being the site of significant Roman remains near Richborough, as well as being of importance to indigenous and migrating birds.	

	<p>C) Christina Glynn spoke in favour of improving visibility at the bus stop following the works on the Guildhall forecourt. DDC claim that it meets the relevant standards, but an audit report has been sent to STC which questions the safety of the current situation and there is a fear that remedial works once the renovation of the forecourt is finished will be expensive.</p> <p>D) Sally Hayter spoke in response to the 'Debate not Hate' paper put forward by Cllr Sampson at the February Council meeting. While in favour of the paper she felt discussion had put too much emphasis on abuse <u>of</u> councillors and other in public office, rather than <u>by</u> councillors.</p> <p>E) William Fortescue spoke to complain about the Conservative leaflet which claimed the party had led efforts to have the Phoenix become the Jubilee Centre for the community since this had been the work of local residents in Upper Strand Street. He asked for the leaflet to be withdrawn.</p>	
STC.03.23.10	<p>Report from our Dover District Councillor on matters relating to Sandwich.</p> <p>Cllr Friend reported that Kent Police had provided an update on the review of community policing. In response to a comment by Cllr Moorhouse he confirmed that DDC had decided to increase the precept by 2.98% excluding the special increase for care costs.</p>	
STC.03.23.11	<p>Report from our Kent County Councillor on matters relating to Sandwich.</p> <p>Cllr Sue Chandler gave a summary of the history of the development of the forecourt and confirmed that the work should be finished by the end of May. She added that the KCC budget had given priority to social care and to construction (because of steeply rising material costs) and mentioned the Coronation celebration planned for 8 May. In closing she commented, in relation to the paper on 'Debate not Hate', that the amount of abuse she had received had increased significantly in her years as a county councillor.</p>	
STC.03.23.12	<p>Updates from Councillors: To receive and note verbal updates from Councillors on meetings that they have attended as nominated representatives of the Council.</p> <p>Cllr Sampson reported on the AGM for the Christmas lights which took place on 14 March. There are two vacancies on the Committee. The meeting had discussed lights for the forecourt and a standard package for shops.</p> <p>Cllr Marie mentioned the forthcoming assembly of East Kent Scouts on 23 April in Sandwich and invited councillors to join the procession.</p> <p>Cllr Moorhouse reported on the meeting of the Area Committee, which had discussed changes to bus services, and climate change. The three senior positions in KALC are now filled by representatives from East Kent.</p>	
STC.03.23.13	<p>Financial Information:</p> <p>12a Council received the Sandwich Town Council statement of accounts as at 28th February 2023 (income and expenditure and budget)</p> <p>RESOLUTION: Received and approved.</p>	

STC.03.23.14	<p>Bank Account Signatories Council received a report from the RFO regarding bank account signatories. Given that nominations of Councillors remain valid for three months, that the validation of new signatories takes some time, and that the outcome of the elections cannot be predicted, it was decided that the two councillors would remain as signatories for mid-April, but that council members following the elections could be nominated as soon as possible.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: Existing nominated Councillors remain for mid-April. Additional Councillors to be nominated.</p>	Town Clerk Councillors
STC.03.23.15	<p>Guildhall Square Council received a report from Officers asking them to consider how the newly refurbished Guildhall Square should be managed moving forward. Cllr Marie said that multiple questions would need answering as the square is opened. Without access to the square, it is difficult to settle some issues, but he proposed that the new Council should create a committee to address these issues as soon as the work is finished. It was proposed that a working group should be set up in the interim to ensure smooth implementation of existing agreements and plans for the new situation, led by Cllr Marie. Any interested Councillors wishing to be involved were invited to attend the first Working Party meeting.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: Council agreed to establish a Working Group to ensure smooth implementation of existing agreements and plan to take things forward with respect to the Guildhall Square.</p>	Town Clerk Councillors
STC.03.23.16	<p>Premises Licence: Council received an application for a Premises Licence from The Quayside Bar.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: Recommend support of Premises Licence.</p>	
STC.03.23.17	<p>Staff Toil Council received a report from The Mayor regarding staff toil.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: Council approved the payment of staff toil.</p>	
STC.03.23.18	<p>Sandwich Waterways Cllr Heaven presented a written report regarding Sandwich Waterways, emphasising the need to explain its findings to residents, which was received and noted by Council.</p>	
STC.03.23.19	<p>Confidential Matters: Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972) the public may 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.</p> <p>19A Council received and noted a contract ref STC01.23.5 and 25.02.23, pertaining to legal advice received by Solicitors.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: Invoice received for legal work related to a personnel matter was duly discussed at the conclusion of the STBF Meeting.</p>	

	Resolution: Council agreed that the invoice be returned to the legal company with the comment that the payment is not for the Council.	
STC.03.23.20	Date of next Full Council Meeting: 24th April 2023.	

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