

Minutes of a meeting of the Sandwich Town Council Heritage and Townscape Committee held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall on Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors: C Ungerson (Chair)
J Franklin
K Heaven
D Sivrikaya
C Wiles

Officer: Responsible Finance Officer (Minutes)

16.11.22 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Councillor members and members of the public who were in attendance.

The Chair then suggested that agenda item 5 (iii) be considered at the same time as agenda item 9. The Committee agreed.

17.11.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Sampson (work commitment), Marie (work commitment) and Friend (work commitment). Cllr Gray had apologised verbally to the Chair that afternoon for not being able to attend due to an emergency at home.

18.11.22 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

None.

19.11.22 PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK

None.

20.11.22 SANDWICH WATERWAYS

(i) The committee received a verbal update from the working party chair, Cllr Heaven, who is in the process of find members for the group. The aim of the working party is to explore how to improve the quality of the waterways in Sandwich. Suggestions made by Dr S Fuller in his recent study on the Delf would be a helpful source of information. It was restated by Cllr Heaven that although waterways are not within Sandwich Town Council's remit, STC might qualify for membership of the Internal Drainage Board. The Environment Agency and Dover District Council could also be consulted. A call for councillors to volunteer for this working party will be made to Sandwich Town Council at the meeting on Monday 28th November 2022.

(ii) The committee were updated that the Internal Drainage Board had not yet responded to correspondence from the Chief Executive.

(iii) Following a motion to change the order of business, this item was considered alongside agenda item 9. Tree Protection, Planting and Maintenance.

21.11.22 EMPTY BUILDINGS

The committee received and considered additional information from Cllr Chandler (KCC) in relation to Wayfarers and School House. Cllr Ungerson summarised an email from Cllr Chandler which expressed regret that she was unable to attend due to another meeting. In the email Cllr Chandler confirmed that she had emailed the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property to ask for an updated position on the two properties but has not yet had a response. An update on Wayfarers was also read out stating that a number of bids had been received and bids were being analysed. Progress has been made and a decision will follow shortly as to who the preferred bidder is. Cllr Ungerson added that Wayfarers was still currently advertised on the agent's website.

22.11.22 TOURIST INFORMATION

The committee received and considered a verbal update from the working group chair, Cllr Wiles, regarding membership. A full list of members will be presented as an item on the Town Council agenda for the meeting on Monday 28th November. The working group aims to complete their study and report back to the Town Council by February or March 2023.

23.11.22 SECOND HOMES, HOLIDAY LETS AND AIRBNB

The committee received an update from the CEO, stating that she had not yet had a response from Dover District Council regarding their council tax and rubbish collection policies for second homes and Airbnb properties.

24.11.22 TREE PROTECTION, PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE

Agenda item 5 (iii) was discussed alongside this item.

- (i) The committee received and considered a proposal to develop a Moat Park around Sandwich which had been written by Mr S Fuller. In addition they considered a proposal from the voluntary Tree Warden to plant trees at various sites in Sandwich, particularly in Cow Leas Meadow. It was noted that the Tree Warden's report contained more modest suggestions than the proposal for a Moat Park. Cllr Franklin stated that most of the land on the plans didn't belong to Sandwich Town Council. He added that Cow Leas Meadow was private land owned by STC to be kept as designated grazing land and shouldn't have any more trees planted on it but he agreed that the proposal to plant a hedge on the border between the meadow and Waites' garage would not impact on grazing. Councillor Ungerson suggested that the Committee arrange a walkabout on either Saturday 3rd or Sunday 4th December to view the areas proposed for planting and discuss the planting suggestions. The Committee agreed to

do this.

25.11.22 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

The committee was told that Dover District Council has been asked for an update regarding the Traffic Management plan for buses and traffic next to the Guildhall Square but had not yet had a response. A particular problem appears to be the permanent bus 'stand' which extends to the corner of Cattle Market and is likely to be a traffic hazard. Cllr Sivrikaya also enquired about the plastic drain which had been fitted but other councillors stated that the drain in question is in fact metal. Cllr Franklin agreed to discuss these and other related matters with the CEO and a response should be sought from Dover District Council in time for the Town Council meeting on Monday 28th November.

26.11.22 BOWLING STREET LIGHT

The committee was updated that the Chief Executive had contacted Kent County Council regarding the non-heritage lighting but has not yet received any additional information from them.

27.11.22 TRAILS OF DISCOVERY LAUNCH

The committee was given a verbal update from Cllr Ungerson about the Children's Trails of Discovery, which is a new Sandwich trail for children developed by The Arts Society Sandwich and the Sandwich Local History Society. The launch is taking place in the Guildhall Gallery on Friday 2nd December at 5.30pm. Light refreshments will be served. Cllr Ungerson invited committee members to attend.

28.11.22 UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ON MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE HERITAGE AND TOWNSCAPE COMMITTEE

No update due to Cllr Friend not being in attendance.

29.11.22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 11th January 2022 at 6:30pm.