

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

SHEPWAY AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held on 18th February, 2021, via video conferencing link, commencing at 7 p.m.

Hosted by: Charmaine Keatley, KALC

Joined by: Cllr. Frank Hobbs (Chairman) - Postling P.C.

Cllr. Graham Allison (Vice-Chairman) – St. Mary in the Marsh Parish Council

Cllr. Martin Sweeney – Lydd Town Council

Cllr. Paul Thomas – New Romney Town Council

Cllr. Neil Matthews – Saltwood Parish Council

Cllr. Clive Stanyon – Elham Parish Council

Cllr. Ian White – Lympe Parish Council

Cllr. Cleo Smith – Newington and Peene Parish Council

Cllr. Laszlo Dudas – Stelling Minnis Parish Council

Cllr. Tony Hutt – Swingfield Parish Council

Cllr. Tim Allard – Swingfield Parish Council

Cllr. Tony Hills – Lydd Town Council

Cllr. Gillian Heywood – Lyminge Parish Council

F&HDC Officer Julia Wallace

Gillian Smith – Clerk to Area Committee

1079. APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Nigel Fursdon, Sellindge Parish Council

Cllr. Christine Hobbs, Postling P.C.

1080. MINUTES:

Clerk informed she omitted the apologies of Cllr. Tony Hills from the previous minutes.

With this amendment the Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 17th December, 2020.

1081. MATTERS ARISING:

Following the suggestion of Ewan Green, for a Planning meeting with the Shepway Area Committee twice each year, no date for the first meeting has been received.

1082: F&HDC Officer Julia Wallace: Update on Otterpool Park.

A presentation provided updates on the proposal for Otterpool Park that is being led by a delivery team known at Otterpool Park LLP. Work is underway with waste water treatment to deal with nutrients; phase I of a masterplan including a town centre; archaeological work and outline planning application.

Production of a housing strategy will provide a trajectory for growth over 30+ years, with a sustainable and balanced population including community facilities and basic GP needs.

There will be space for dentists and 1900 houses.

A transport strategy will address bus services, investment in existing road networks and plans to reduce the need for cars. The town centre is to have a lake, park, primary school and shops. Consultation will be held on phase I of the masterplan.

Several questions were raised about the impact of the new town on neighbouring villages, increased congestion on already overused roads and environmental impact. Discussion took place regarding a new town, accommodating the area's need for additional housing or, the inevitable increase of development to existing villages.

The chairman thanked Julia for the presentation and update.

1083: REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:

(a)KALC Executive Committee:

Annual meeting was held on 30th January, 2021. The chairman has been appointed to Finance and General Purposes, Transport, Constitutional and a reserve on Partnership Working Committees.

Cllr. Paul Thomas has been appointed to Planning, Health and Wellbeing and a substitute to other Committees.

A small surplus in income over expenditure has been recorded. Due to the economic situation there will be no raising of extra funds for reserves.

Training is now commencing on-line and is very popular.

Cllr. Thomas informed cash flow is very important and urged councils to pay fees in a timely manner. KCC consultations informed remote meetings need to be managed as public interactions has resulted in disruption at zoom meetings and KCC officers have advised they will not attend zoom meetings.

A Planning conference will take place on 17th April, 2021 and an Area Committee Workshop on 25th February, 2021.

(b)Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Council's Joint Committee:

Meeting held on 14 January, 2021 included a talk on the Census to be held in March and raising awareness to residents. Talks were also provided on Brexit, MyAccount and the Budget. It is expected that council tax will rise by 2%, KCC will rise by 5% that includes 3% for social care and the percentage for Police is still to be announced.

Chairman informed MyAccount did not provide updated information on the recently disrupted bin collection service.

Cllr. Thomas informed census support centres are being identified at Folkestone and Hythe and is pursuing a centre on the Marsh.

(c) Joint Transportation Board:

Next meeting to be held on Monday 22 February, 2021, that will include items for a weekend ban of traffic at Newington, footway bans in Folkestone and Dymchurch Road, Hythe.

Parking ban from Jubilee Close and Bluewater caravan park.

Roadworks are planned for Southern Gas and Open Reach and enhanced Broadband is due shortly in Postling.

1084: AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT SHEPWAY DISTRICT JOINT COMMITTEE:

Cllr. Allison raised concern about condition of un-adopted roads and unattended buildings. This was supported by Cllr. Tony Hills who agreed to also discuss the matter at KCC.

Health Care Services across the district is causing concern and a speaker for the Area Committee, April meeting requested.

Also raised was contamination and sewage works at Ashford and Canterbury together with lack of information on F&HDC web-site regarding waste collections during inclement weather.

a)Accountability for maintenance to non-adopted roads

b)Commercial buildings left unattended/derelict

c)Health care service across the district – speaker for Area Committee in April.

d)Contamination and sewage works at Ashford and Canterbury

e)F&HDC web-site not up-to-date

1085: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr. Sweeney wished to raise the matter of health care issues on the Marsh that had already been addressed in the previous item. Cllr. Sweeney agreed to approach Bill Mellor from CCG and invite him to attend the next Area Committee Meeting.

1086: DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 15th April, 2021 at 7pm. This is likely to be a remote meeting via Zoom and joining details will be forwarded with the next Agenda.

Meeting terminated at 8.55pm

Signed:

Date