

## **WESTGATE-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm, Wednesday 3<sup>RD</sup> February 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Buildings, 31 St. Mildred's Road, Westgate-on-Sea.**

**Present: Councillors King (Chairman), Ashbee, Charlton, Cornford, Morrish, Nightingale, Pennington, Rickett, Rolfe and Scott.**

**Also present: Laura Bungard (Community Warden) and Roy Wade (Interim Town Council)**

### **201. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

**The Chairman opened the meeting welcomed Members and residents and gave the usual "housekeeping" instructions.**

### **202. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**No apologies for absence were submitted.**

### **203. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**A pecuniary declaration of interest was disclosed by Councillor Cornford in respect of the budget head relating to the rental level of the Town Council's office.**

### **204. MINUTES**

**It was moved by Cllr. Rickett and seconded by Cllr. Pennington that the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016, as amended by the insertion of "and the Interim Town Clerk be engaged for a period of 3 months" be approved and signed by the Chairman.**

### **205. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY WARDEN**

**Laura Bungard, the Community Warden, read from her report (attached at appendix A) and responded to questions raised by Cllr. Morrish in respect of the deplorable state of the pavements and Cllr. Scott concerning the availability of the Fido dog cleaning machine.**

### **206. PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK**

**The Council received oral representations the following residents: Bertie Braidwood, Teresa Sleighbury, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Kettle, Ms. Jarman and Mr. Love and relating primarily to the unsatisfactory cleanliness and condition of the roads and pavements and dog fouling within Westgate-on-Sea and urging that measures be put in place to improve the situation.**

### **207. BUDGET/PRECEPT REQUIREMENT FOR 2016/17**

**Council considered the draft budget/precept requirement for the year 2016/17 and considered the consolidated report and draft budget prepared by Councillor Ashbee and tabled at the meeting.**

**The tabled report consolidated the budget heads contained within the appendices sent out with the original agenda. Councillor Ashbee apologised for the lateness of the consolidated report and set out that in future years a draft report would be placed before the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration prior to it being reported to Council for consideration and approval.**

The Chairman referred to the comments made by residents who would like to see measures put in place to make the town and even more attractive environmentally Town to live in.

There followed further discussions on the details relating to the introduction and method of funding revised cleansing arrangements within Westgate-on-Sea and again had regard to the recent survey and analysis of the survey "War on Rubbish. Members were also made aware of the staffing implications and transport and other equipment which would be needed if the arrangements were to be put in place. It was suggested, also, that funds from the Margate Charter Trustees should not be used as income to finance current expenditure since this one-off payment would not be available for the 2017/18 budget.

The Interim Clerk agreed with concerns raised by some Members that approval would need to be sought from TDC and Council was advised that if approval was given discussions would be held with the District Council. It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Rolfe and

**RESOLVED:** That the consolidated budget submitted by Councillor Ashbee be approved and Thanet District Council be requested to approve a precept of £66,810 for Westgate-on-Sea Town Council.

**For the Proposition:** Councillors Ashbee, Charlton, Cornford, King, Nightingale, and Rolfe.

**Against the Proposition:** Councillors Morrish, Pennington, Rickett and Scott.

#### **208. LOCAL TAX AND BENEFITS PROCEDURS FOR THOSE IN NEED**

Councillor Nightingale asked that this item be withdrawn for consideration at the March meeting in view of the other matters to be considered by Council.

#### **209. FREEMAN AND HONORARY FREEMAN**

Councillor Cornford proposed that Dr. Dawn Crouch be made an honorary Freewoman of Westgate-on-Sea in recognition of the outstanding research and services she has contributed to the Community. Councillor Cornford also undertook to report in more detail to the March meeting on the commitment given by Dr Crouch to the Town.

It was moved by Cllr. Ashbee and seconded by Cllr Cornford and

**RESOLVED:** that Dr. Dawn Crouch be made an honorary freewoman of Westgate-on-Sea in accordance with the provisions of Sections 248 & 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **210. THANET LOCAL PLAN – PROPOSED HOUSES FOR WESTGATE-ON-SEA**

Councillor Scott agreed that in view of the lateness of receiving further information on this subject that consideration be given to it at a later meeting.

**Signed: Chairman of the Council**

**Time concluded: 9.10pm.**