**Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council of**

**Westgate-On Sea Town Council**

**on 9th January 2017**

**Held at**

**Town Hall Buildings, 31 St Mildred’s Road, Westgate-On-Sea, Kent CT8 8RE**

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| Present | Cllr King (Chairman), Cllr Rolfe, Cllr Nightingale, Cllr Scott, Cllr Morrish, Cllr Rickett |  |
| Also in attendance | Miss Julie Pilbeam (Town Clerk), 17 residents |  |
| 541 | **To receive apologies for absence**  Apologies were received from Cllr Pennington and Cllr Cornford with reasons for absence. It was **RESOLVED** that apologies be accepted. |  |
| 542 | **Declarations of Interest**  There were none |  |
| 543 | **Minutes**  It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of 12th December be signed and approved as a true record of the meeting.  Cllr Scott requested that it be minuted that she did not agree with the decision concerning the striking out of the addendums at that meeting. |  |
| 544 | **Resignations From Council**  The Chairman announced the resignation of Cllrs Ashbee and Charlton. It was **RESOLVED** for the use of polling cards in the forthcoming election to be approved at a cost of £530.  It was noted that the date of the election would be 16th February and interested candidates should apply before 20th January 2017. Nomination packs are available from Thanet District Council. |  |
| 545 | **Westgate Community Centre**  It was **RESOLVED** to donate the sum of £500 to Westgate Community Centre. |  |
| 546 | **Thanet District Councillors Report**  Cllr Partington spoke on behalf of herself and Cllr Bambridge. It was reported that the Local Plan is a concern for the community of Westgate as a whole and the town council was commended for setting up a Neighbourhood Plan to address the perceived housing issues and offered to assist the town council where possible.  It was also reported that four planning applications for Manston Airport had proceeded to appeal at Thanet District Council and concerns should be lodged before 24th January. Cllr Partington asked residents to contact her directly if necessary. |  |
| 547 | **Public Questions**  A resident asked the following questions:  Would the Council either collectively or individually tell me what it has achieved since it was created, what is it contemplating now and crucially what are its plan for the future for the benefit of the residents of Westgate on Sea?  What is the plan about expenditure to achieve the Councils objectives as outlined in its duty to deal with amongst other things the cleaning and sweeping of our streets and pavements?  The holding of the forthcoming election to replace two members who have resigned from the Council who were never elected but appointed appears to me a contradiction and that the whole of the Council members should stand down and put themselves forward for election in February 2017.  Cllr Morrish confirmed the legal position of councillors being elected unopposed.  Cllr Morrish also updated the meeting on the forthcoming public consultation meeting for the Neighbourhood Plan to be held on 11th February 2017 at the Westgate Pavilion in order to establish resident’s views. It was noted that the town council’s input into the Local Plan was key and that the views of residents are needed.  The Clerk confirmed that detailed reports will be included with forthcoming agendas which should assist with residents understanding of the town council’s activities. |  |
| 548 | **Chairman’s Report**  The Chairman reported that the issues with the gaps between the zig zag lines on the crossing in Westgate Bay Avenue was progressing. It was reported that the Joint Transportation Board initially appeared reluctant to resolve the issue of cars parking in between the crossing and the zig zag lines however Dean Barclay at Kent County Council has reported that issues with illegal parking have been raised in the latest safety audit and an approval has been made to re-line the area. It has not been possible to complete the re-lining as yet due to parked cars not adhering to the temporary restrictions to the area to allow the painting to take place  It was **RESOLVED** for a letter of appreciation be sent to the Westgate Christmas Lights Committee to thank them for their hard work in 2016.  The Chairman reported that Mrs Brenda Carter, churchwarden at St Saviours Church had been in touch concerning the Remembrance Day service. The church would like to explore the town council taking this on as a civic event.  It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact St Saviours church regarding investigating taking over the Remembrance Day service. | **Clerk**  **Clerk** |
| 549 | **Councillor’s Reports**  Cllr Rickett reported that he had been working with Cllr Bertie Braidwood on the footpath between Ersine Drive and Canterbury Road which had become slippery due to fallen leaves. It had transpired that Kent County Council contract Thanet District Council to clean any footpath that is Kent County Council owned in the town. It was reported that the pathway was cleaned up within two days. It was also reported that Kent County Council had also fixed all the broken street lights.  The public were encouraged to report any issues to Thanet District Council.  It was reported that Cllr Cornford and Cllr Rickett had visited events team at Thanet District Council to investigate a food festival in Westgate.  It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Rickett will refer his report concerning a local food festival to the Clerk for consideration by Council.    Cllr Rickett reported that Freeman of the Town, Dr Dawn Crouch, would be interested in the celebration of heritage food through the years in Westgate.  Cllr Morrish reported the minutes of the last meeting of Planning and Environment Committee and reported that the Council has supported the West Bay Café planning application. Cllr Morrish confirmed that the town council had sent in a detailed response recommending that the District Council approve the application for new restaurant which will be an asset to the area and improve the area for disabilities.  Cllr Morrish also reported that the neighbourhood plan launch will be at the Pavilion on 11th February 2017 for the public to consult. A grant has been approved to cover the costs of this consultation process.  It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to officially invite the local MP Sir Roger Gale to the public consultation meeting. | **Cllr Rickett**  **Clerk** |
| 550 | **General Power of Competence**  It was **RESOLVED** that the town council satisfies the eligibility to exercise the General Power of Competence as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and s1 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 and to adopt the General Power of Competence. |  |
| 551 | **Minutes of Standing Committee**  The minutes of the meeting of Planning, Highways and Environment Committee will be circulated at the next meeting, | **Clerk** |
| 552 | **Representation on Outside Bodies**  It was reported that St Michael’s Care Home had made a request for representation from the town council.    It was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to contact the care home for more information. Cllr Nightingale expressed an interest in the role.  Cllr Scott reported that Thanet is classed as a ‘Fair Trade Island’.  It was **RESOLVED** for the town council to support this initiative for Thanet. | **Clerk** |
| 553 | **Westgate Pavilion Theatre**  The Chairman reported that the closing date for representations in the community asset transfer scheme is 18th January. The Chairman reported that he had written to the secretary of state to ask why Thanet District Council were not allowing the town council to exercise their rights.  Cllr Rickett reported that he was progressing the application for the Asset of Community Value on the pavilion.  It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to complete the final land registry searches for the Asset of Community Value application and liaise with Cllr Rickett.  It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Thanet District Council to follow up the expression of interest in the community asset transfer scheme. | **Clerk/Cllr Rickett**  **Clerk** |
| 554 | **Cleaning Operatives**  The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Thanet District Council to make arrangements for the full details of the requirements of the town council in order to present a full report on the cleansing initiative decisions to be taken at the next meeting. | **Clerk** |
| 555 | **Meeting Closed at 8.10pm** |  |



Date 6th February 2017