

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

**Westgate-On Sea Town Council**

**on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Held at**

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



<b>Present</b>	Cllr King (Chairman), Cllr Nightingale Cllr Page, Cllr Pennington; Cllr Rolfe, Cllr Scott, Cllr Stewart	
<b>Also in attendance</b>	Miss Julie Pilbeam (Town Clerk) Laura Bungard (Kent County Council Community Warden), 10 members of the public, Cllr Partington and Cllr Bambridge (Thanet District Council), Cllr Gregory (Kent County Council)	
759	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b> It was RESOLVED to accept apologies for Cllr Cornford and Cllr Morrish	
760	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were none.	
761	<b>Minutes</b> It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2017 be signed and approved as a true record of the meeting.	
762	<b>Chairman's announcements</b> The chairman explained the usual housekeeping rules.	
763	<b>To report resignation of Cllr Rickett</b> The Chairman reported that ex-councillor Mr Rickett had allowed his resignation letter to be circulated and published on social media and the Chairman felt that responses to the allegations contained in the letter were required. The Chairman explained that contrary to the comments that the Town Council had not achieved anything in its first two years the Town Council had actually achieved the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Successful agreement with Thanet District Council for the asset transfers of the Lymington Road recreation ground, football pitches, pavilion and beach shelters back to Westgate</li><li>• Running of allotments</li><li>• Licenses for the football pitches to be used this season by local clubs</li><li>• Licenses for the renovation of the beach shelters in time for the summer season</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• becoming a local employer, now employing four people</li> <li>• The introduction of a varied Events Program under Cllr Nightingale; such as funding Christmas Lights, organising Pancake Races, taking over the organisation of the Remembrance Sunday parade</li> <li>• Developing Westgate-In-Bloom</li> <li>• Covering the Christchurch clock repairs</li> <li>• Funding the Youth Project to ensure its survival in the town</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman re-iterated that the Council had achieved a great deal since its inception and much more was anticipated in the coming year.</p>	
764	<p><b>Public Participation Session</b> There were no public participation requests.</p>	
765	<p><b>Parking Charges Consultation</b> It was agreed to submit the response provided by Cllr Pennington and Mr Reg Bell. Cllr Pennington was thanked for his work with Mr Bell on this matter.</p>	
766	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b> The Chairman reported that there is to be a training and information evening on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June for all councillors held at the United Services Club function room by the Local Monitoring Officer and urged everyone to attend this important engagement.</p>	
767	<p><b>Committee Structure</b> After some discussion it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of Full Council.</p>	
768	<p><b>Town Clerk's Report</b> <b>Asset Disposal at Thanet District Council</b> Thanet District Council have agreed to transfer Lymington Recreation Ground to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Planning Grant</b> The Town Council has been granted £1835 towards the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan. Locality reduced the grant funding of the prize draw to only £50 therefore a short fall of £100 exists due to the questionnaire being published advertising up to three prizes of £50 to be won. A contingency for the consultant was submitted however the exact quote of £885 was agreed therefore the group are minded to ensure no additional consultancy fees are instructed at this time. Expenditure must be claimed between the periods of 17/05/2017 and 30/09/2017</p>	

	<p><b>Councillor and Staff Identification Cards</b> The Clerk is investigating the costs of photographic ID cards for staff and councillors.</p> <p><b>National Association of Local Councils Award Scheme</b> Now that the Town Council has strengthened its governance structure it has the opportunity to apply for a NALC Award. For those councils who are already confident that they perform to a high standard the scheme provides assurance to the council that it is up-to-date and progressive by the standards set by the sector. For those who wish to improve, it provides a framework to plan and make the first steps. The NALC Award scheme helps the council improve performance and confidence, with policies in place for continuous development. This scheme is also a way ensure that the commitment and hard work of councillors and officers is recognised and respected.</p> <p>To achieve the Quality Award a council demonstrates that it meets all requirements of the Foundation Award and has additional evidence of good governance, effective community engagement and council improvement. The Clerk will be submitting Westgate-on-Sea Town Council for the Quality Award in the first instance.</p>	
769	<p><b>Reports from Councillors</b> Cllr Scott reported that there had been a good response to the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire and encouraged the public to take part. Cllr Page reported that she had attended the YouCAN launch along with Cllr Rolfe and that the new house was a fantastic place to provide respite to cancer sufferers and their families. Cllr Nightingale reported that following a meeting with the Royal British Legion the chairman was very supporting of the Town Council taking over the Remembrance Day Parade and keen to create a branch of the legion in the town.</p>	
770	<p><b>Reports from District Councillors</b> Cllr Carol Partington addressed the meeting and confirmed that all ward councillors had attended a meeting with officers at Thanet District Council concerning the asset transfer of the Recreation Ground to the Town Council and all were supportive of the proposal. The proposed parking charges were discussed and Cllr Partington confirmed that the Joint Transportation Board is due to consider the changes on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Following that, if the proposal is</p>	

	<p>approved, Thanet District Council will launch a full statutory consultation.</p> <p>Cllr Partington reported that the two trees removed from Minster Road had been diseased but there was no plans to replace them and the Tennis Court nets in Westbrook were damaged and she was pressing for replacements.</p>	
771	<p><b>Reports from County Councillors</b></p> <p>Cllr Gregory addressed the meeting and confirmed that the reason for the waste recycling centre in Margate being closed at the weekend was due to the skips being full after taking extra waste whilst another local tip was closed.</p> <p>Cllr Gregory also reported that following the request from the Town Council to install 'Welcome to Westgate' signs at the boundary ends on Canterbury Road this was being worked on by KCC officers.</p> <p>Cllr Gregory also pledged support for the petition against the parking charges.</p> <p>Cllr Gregory, Cllr Partington and Cllr Bambridge left the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Scott left the meeting at 19.55pm</p>	
772	<p><b>Report from Community Warden</b></p> <p>The report from Laura Bungard was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.</p>	
773	<p><b>Annual Return 2016/17</b></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement</p>	
774	<p><b>Annual Return 2016/17</b></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17.</p>	
775	<p><b>Annual Return 2016/17</b></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the Accounting Statements for 2016/17.</p> <p>Cllr Scott re-entered the meeting at 8.03pm</p>	
776	<p><b>Minutes of Committees</b></p> <p>The following minutes from committees held since the last Full Council meeting were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 15/05/2017</li> <li>(b) Planning, Highways and Environment Committee – 22/05/2017</li> <li>(c) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 22/05/2017</li> </ul>	
777	<p><b>To note the minutes from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and consider the decisions required.</b></p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were noted.</p>	

778	<p><b>Correspondence – All NOTED.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Thanet Community Safety Partnership Minutes</li> <li>(b) Notice of licensing hearing at Thanet District Council on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017</li> <li>(c) Notice of amendment 13 Order from Thanet District Council</li> </ul>	
779	<p><b>Questions from Councillors</b></p> <p>There were none.</p>	
780	<p>Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted it was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting during consideration of the following items:</p>	
781	<p><b>Town Council offices and meeting room</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Town Council vacate the Town Hall Buildings and enter into a lease for the vacant shop in Ethelbert Square and hold future meetings in the United Reform Church hall in order to ensure full accessibility to members of the public. It was agreed for the Town Clerk to organise a lease and submit to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for approval. It was also agreed for a hearing loop system to be investigated at the church hall. Future meeting dates would be communicated with councillors depending on the hall availability.</p>	
782	<p><b>Meeting Closed at 20.28pm</b></p>	

X

Cllr Tom King  
Chairman

Date