



Broadstairs & St Peter's Town Council

ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY – Draft minutes

Monday 13th March 2023 at 7:00 PM

Location: Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs

PRESENT:

The Town Mayor: Cllr. R. Dexter, Chairman

Cllr. Ruth Bailey, Cllr. Jill Bayford, Cllr. Robert Bayford, Cllr. Rosalind Binks, Cllr. Roger Binks, Cllr. John Buckley, Cllr. Mike Garner, Cllr Paul Moore, Cllr Aram Rawf, Cllr. David Saunders, Cllr. Mavanne Saunders.

Town Clerk: Kirsty Holroyd

Members of the Public

Introduction: The Chairman welcomed councillors and members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. David Parsons and Cllr. Wendy Moore,

2 OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

Those present were reminded of the right to record, film or broadcast any meetings of the Council, committees and subcommittees is established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

The Chairman suggested that those wishing to remain anonymous refrain from giving their name when speaking.

3 MINUTES OD THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on Monday 14th March 2022 were approved and could be signed by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING

In response to a query from a local resident concerning the planting of a hedge at Culmer's Amenity Land, the Town Clerk reported that the decision to plant had been taken by the former Town Clerk under her power of delegated authority.

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

a) Council Report - Cllr. Roy Dexter

Please see attached.

b) Finance and General Purposes Committee – Cllr. Rosalind Binks

Please see attached.

c) Planning Committee – Cllr Jill Bayford

Please see attached.

Cllr Bayford wished to record her thanks to all the committee members and staff at Broadstairs and St. Peter's Town Council for their hard work this year

d) Community Assets Committee – Cllr R Binks

Please see attached.

6 QUESTION AND DEBATE

Green space at St Peter's Court

A local resident enquired as to why some green space at St Peter's Court had not been included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Members of the sub-committee which had drawn together the plan explained that the Thanet District Council Public Consultation was currently open until 23 March 2023 and all comments should be directed to Thanet District Council as directed by strict government process. The Town Clerk confirmed she would check the details and someone from the Town Council would correspond with the resident to ensure all comments were received and considered in the proper way.

Community Gardeners

A member of the Community Garden Team thanked the Council and the local community for their support of the It's Your Neighbourhood scheme and announced that the town would be entering the competition once again in 2023. One of the main priorities will be improving sustainability with a particular emphasis on capture of rainwater. The speaker hoped the group could continue to enjoy the support of the Town Council.

Viking Bay lift

A local resident asked for clarity on the future of the lift. Cllr Rosalind Binks confirmed that although the Town Council had made the decision not to pursue taking on the running of the lift, it will remain in TDC's ownership and will operate this summer. In clarification to a comment in her report it was confirmed that when it was built the lift was compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act but legislation has moved on and the lift no longer meets modern standards. Unfortunately the District Council lacks the significant resources necessary to update the lift to DDA standards.

Promenade lighting

A local resident asked who was responsible of the decorative lighting along the promenade and why was it so often on during daylight hours. The Town Clerk replied that whilst the Town Council had installed the decorative lighting, it ran off TDC owned lamp columns which were in need of an upgrade. A large-scale project to refurbish all the seafront lighting was in the final stages of planning and it is hoped the whole infrastructure will be upgraded by TDC over the spring and early summer.

Levelling up fund

A local resident enquired why Margate and Ramsgate appear to benefit from large government funds such as Levelling Up whilst Broadstairs seems to miss out.

Members explained that such funding is granted to communities meeting certain levels of deprivation. Members have applied and appealed several times before, but Broadstairs consistently fails to meet the necessary criteria.

TDC statutory spend in Broadstairs

A local resident asked whether the Town Council knows how much TDC Council tax is spent in Broadstairs. Members explained that TDC only receives 12% of the Council tax it collects (the remainder being split between the Town Council, KCC, fire and police services). The money it raises in tax is for statutory services, predominantly waste removal and street cleansing. As such all residents across the District receive an equitable service. Money is split by department or service area and it would therefore be very complex to establish expenditure on a town by town basis. It was noted, however that due to the number of bays and beaches within Broadstairs a significant amount of TDC money is spent on coastal defence and enhancement within the town.

Precept

A local resident asked whether the precept which the Town Council requests is to balance its own books or to carry out works and provide services passed down from TDC. The Chairman explained the budget and resulting precept demand is based on works and services provided by the Town Council only.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:02pm