



BROADSTAIRS & ST. PETER'S

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 27 January 2025 at 7pm in Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs.

Present: Cllrs J Bayford, J Bright, K Bright, R Farooki, M Garner, C Leys, P Moore, A Munns, E Orhan, J Nichols, S Roberts & G Rusiecki.

Town Clerk: Kirsty Holroyd

Before the meeting commenced, the Chairman, Cllr M Garner welcomed everyone and drew their attention to the openness and transparency legislation confirmed in several notices around the room.

543. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies with reason were received and accepted from Cllrs Hobson and Kemp. Cllr Pressland was absent.

544. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

545. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 December 2024 can be approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chairman.

546. MATTERS ARISING

None

547. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF BROADSTAIRS AND ST PETER'S.

None

548. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 January 2025.
RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

549. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

i) Members received the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 January 2025.

ii) Members considered a nomination for Cllr Munns to join the committee.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Munns be appointed to the Environment committee with immediate effect.

550. COMMUNITY ASSETS COMMITTEE

i) Members received the draft minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 January 2025.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

ii) Members received the risk assessment on Retort House which underpinned the decision to close the building to the public.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

551. COMMUNICATIONS

i) The Town Mayor gave a report on his activities on behalf of the Council over the last month. Please see attached.

The charity concert at the Sarah Thorne Theatre prompted a discussion about the future of the venue, which is on KCC's disposal list.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk draft an open letter to be signed by all councillors and sent to the Leader and Chief Executive of KCC as well as the local MP and the KCC member for Broadstairs.

ii) The Town Clerk reported that she and the Events Supervisor had attended a networking event held by TDC that day to encourage the hospitality industry to work more closely with education providers in order to build the tourism trade in Thanet. Some interesting contacts had been made.

Pierremont Hall has been short listed for a prize at the Kent Wedding Awards. The Events Supervisor and the Events and Bookings Manager will attend a gala dinner on Thursday evening at which the winner will be announced.

The Town Clerk had been successful in applying for a KCC Helping Hands grant for the Town Shed. The money will assist the set up of a new Creative Monday Club which aims to combat isolation, loneliness and mental health issues in older people.

A complaint about the timing of some road works due to be undertaken in the half term holiday and Blues Bash week had been received by many councillors from the Chamber of Commerce. Cllr Binks, KCC Members for Broadstairs had been successful in moving the works to another, less busy week.

552. FINANCE

i) Members received a report concerning payments for the period 17 December 2024 to 22 January 2025 (see attached).

19.42 Cllr J Bright left the room

RESOLVED: That the payments be approved

ii) Members received a report concerning receipts for the period 17 December 2024 to 22 January 2025. (see attached)

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

iii) Members received information about works or services authorised between meetings under financial regulation 4.1 as follows:-

- £66.67 plus vat To Grand Garage for the first service for the electric van
- £578 plus vat to EK Fire Protection for replacement fire extinguishers
- £470 plus vat to EK Fire Protection for fire extinguishers and fire blankets for Unit 2 Retort House
- £102 to Laines printers for flyers and business cards for Events Supervisor
- £120 to the Old Bakehouse for cupcakes for an under 18s Easter event
- £55 to Amazon for Easter themed decorations
- £100 to Amazon for Easter themed decorations for an under 13 Easter event.

RESOLVED: That the payments be approved.

iv) Members received a summary of staff salaries totalling £28,465 for the month of December.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

19.44 Cllr J Bright re-entered the meeting

v) Members received and approved a report concerning payments for the period 22 January 2025 when the agenda was sent out until 27 January 2024. There had only been one such payment:-

- Stripe transaction fee £1.15.

RESOLVED: That the payments be approved.

553. DICKENS HOUSE MUSEUM

Members received the end of season report from the Tourism Manager at TDC and noted that £5000 had already been allocated in the draft budget as assistance for 2025 as requested. The Town Clerk reported that an informal enquiry had been made as to whether additional funds might be made available.

19.48 Cllr Farooki left the room

RESOLVED: that additional funding would not be made available from the Town Council but that the Tourism Manager should approach the ward councillors to discuss her requirements.

554. CHRISTMAS DECORATIVE LIGHTING

Members received the report of the Deputy Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note that a discount to reflect the breaches of contract had been and accepted and a meeting to discuss the issues would take place shortly. Cllr Alan Munns agreed to sit in on that meeting.

19.51 Cllr Farooki re-entered the room.

555. BUDGET 2025-26

i) Members received an updated document previously scrutinised by the F&GP working group and subsequently the committee detailing proposed

expenditure and resulting total requirement. The updates included latest amendments following a second forecasting exercise.

RESOLVED: Members approved the budget and noted a total requirement of £1076,933.

ii) Members received an update showing the effect of any surplus and anticipated income to offset the requirement as already scrutinised by the F&GP committee.

RESOLVED:

i) **Members agreed that anticipated income be used to offset expenditure.**

ii) **Members agreed that anticipated underspend be used to offset expenditure.**

iii) Members received a document which illustrates the effect of any increase on the precept demand upon the Council tax. It was agreed that a small contingency fund ought to be added in light of the urgent works needed at Retort House.

19.54 Cllr Orhan left the meeting.

RESOLVED: Members agreed a total requirement of 892,590 which results in a Band D Council Tax of £84.46. This represents an increase of approximately 2% on the current year or £1.66 per annum on the average Band D property. Cllr Leys wished to record that he did not support this decision.

556. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Members received and considered a draft document which had been developed to aid transparency of Town Council's procedures.

RESOLVED: That the document is fit for purpose and can be adopted.

557. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Members received and considered the draft document. The Town Clerk confirmed this will be a plan for the coming year which will see increased engagement and more tangible news and publicity materials.

RESOLVED: That the policy is fit for purpose and can be adopted.

558. TOWN FORUM

Members discussed the format of the next Town Forum, due to take place on Monday 10 February 2025.

RESOLVED: That a short presentation will highlight the main activities of the Council since the last Forum. Groups will then be invited to give a five minute presentation on their own group's news and activities. There would be a session for questions and group discussion, and everyone would be asked what they would like to see on the agenda of the following Forum (September 2025).

559. DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER

Members received responses to the Government's proposals from NALC, SLCC

and KALC. It was noted that very little information had yet been released and the role of Local Councils had not been made clear. It is hoped there will be more information available by the time of the next Town and Parish Liaison meeting at TDC.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

The following item was discussed after a resolution to exclude the public under standing order 3d due to the confidential nature of the business.

560. TENANT ISSUES

The Town Clerk reported that the final lease for the Viking Suite had been received from the solicitor. This would be shared for approval by the legal group (Cllrs J.Bright, K Bright, Garner, Munns and Orhan).

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

561. LEGAL ISSUES

The Town Clerk reported that no response had yet been received from the solicitor dealing with the end of tenancy arrangements at Retort House. She also reported that no response had been received from TDC over the payment of their water bill.

Cllr K Bright agreed to follow this up.

562. COMMUNITY AWARDS

Members received an update on the nominations for awards. A maximum of four groups or individuals can be nominated for a KALC Community Award. Since two of the four original nominees had gone forward at the Thanet Community Champions awards, the other two will now go forward for the KALC awards. Councillors were asked for details of their work for the nomination form.

Members of the public, had any been in attendance, would have been permitted to re-enter the meeting.

563. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 24 February 2025 at 7pm in Pierremont Hall

Meeting closed at 8.23 pm

Signed _____

Date _____