

**South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council**  
**www.swancc.org.uk**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
August 2021**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00pm

**97/21 Record attendance and list apologies for absence**

**Present** Sue Mullan (SM) (Chair) David Mullan (DM) Paul Bohill (PB) Peter Porter (PP) Johnny Hunt (JH) Steve Campkin (SC) Nirosha Thilagarajan (NT) Jacky Godden (JG) joined meeting at 19:35pm

**Apologies** were received from Councillors, Andy Roberts, Graham Galpin and Eric Parkinson (EP) also Clerk Rob Woods (RW) and Peter New (PN) NHW

**Also in attendance:** Sarah Evans (SE) (Clerk) 4 members of the public.

**98/21 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest**

SC KCC Cllr ABC Cllr and Tenant of Gas House Fields. JG Company Secretary Godden Tree Surgery.

**99/21 Agree Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and sign**

The minutes of the July Meeting were agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed.

**Proposed DM– Seconded PP Resolved: Unanimous agreement.**

**100/21 Meeting adjourned for members of the public to raise questions on items on the agenda  
(This item will last no more than 15 minutes in total)**

The meeting adjourned 19:11pm

Resident Dave Gower reported his bike had been stolen and that he had reported the crime, that he had also found a bike which had been damaged and abandoned, had been reported to police but not heard back. The Council committed to put an article on social media and for the Clerk to liaise with the PCSO.

**Action Clerks SE to liaise with Mr Gower for photos and information.**

The meeting reconvened at 19:20pm

**101/21 To receive reports from Borough and County Ward Councillors, Kent Police, Neighbourhood Watch (attached) and KALC representatives.**

Due to apologies SM read reports from Ward Cllrs Andy Rogers, Peter New from Neighbourhood Watch, both reports in Appendices. SM updated from KALC meeting a) A&E options to be given a 12 week public consultation, Pilot Project to revise IT Platform for Planning Application is to include Ashford Borough Council, Funding available for 10 Council to improve the Planning Portal, will now mean that it is more fit for purposes a specific change of note is after a decision is made on a planning application comments will remain and can be reviewed at a future date. Noted the update on the Wetlands at Stodmarsh, its benefits and plans.

SC updated Council on KCC a) it is a good organization to work for ranking 35<sup>th</sup>, b) progress on climate emergency –KCC recognised there is a Climate Emergency but have not declared it, c) £27 million is committed towards plans to combat climate change, 75% of those funds will come from Government funding 25% from KENT rate payers, d) 40% reduction in carbon emissions compared to 2019, no plans are in place to comment on the Climate and Eco Energy Bill - KCC has its own targets and would be unusual for a Council to comment e) KCC has an infrastructure first policy using Section 106 funds and will continue to work with district council on this issue, f) E buses are being considered subject to a business plan, Operation Brock has been stood down but is under review, g) budgets at KCC are tight budget £1.1 billion, spend £1.5 billion. h) Kent as an area pays £29.8 billion in tax i) SC has queried the planned development of cycle paths through Frog Orchard to be funded by S106 monies from 3 building companies further updates to follow.

j) SC advised he had personally strimmed the overgrowth around Gas House Fields and the footpaths running through it, k) the Willesborough Wombles had met and cleared litter from Frogs Island, l) SC also raised the issue of the planned changes at A&E that a public consultation was planned. PP queried the very high grass growth on road verges, SC advised Aspire were very behind schedule and that work on the A2070 was planned, DM queried the Consultation for A&E and commented on the importance of publicising this and ensuring residents are aware how important it is to contribute.

JG joined meeting at 19:35pm.

**102/21 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (attached) and endorse the decision to apply for Capital Grant Funding subject to Ward Cllr approval and seeking of further funding as required.**

Council discussed the recommendation to apply for Capital Grant Funding for the Benches, Living Workshop, Disabled Access Beds and pathing and the Community Plot.

**Resolved: Proposed JH Seconded NT and agreed unanimously**

The Minutes of the meeting were circulated in advance and noted without further comment.

**Resolved Proposed PP – Seconded NT– Agreed unanimously**

**103/21 To receive and note the draft minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 (attached)**

The Minutes of the meeting were circulated in advance and noted without further comment.

**Resolved: Proposed PP – Seconded NT– Agreed unanimously**

**104/21 To receive an update from the Communications Working Group (Cllr Porter) on**

- a) The Council Community Plan
- b) Newsletter
- c) Website and Social Media

PP updated Members on the previously circulated minutes and noted that the Council Plan would now be drafted by RW for discussion at Septembers' Council Meeting due to the ill health of GG. The newsletter would be distributed end of August and Members needed to ensure any content was with NT and SE by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August, That the Facebook trial was successful for May, hindered in June by Covid19 preventing Meetings in June but would be updated again for August 21.

**105/21 To consider a report attached and a verbal report of the clerk on the content and structure and organising needs of the Annual Meeting of Electors for September 2021 and agree.**

**Resolved: Members agreed unanimously to a) a working group of RW, SE, JG, JH and PP to prepare the event. SC would help with set up on the day. b) to hold the Annual Meeting of Electors Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October2021 at Stockpot Café Meeting Room.**

**106/21 Agree a draft policy for an Honorary Freeperson of the Parish.**

Members discussed a previously circulated report.

**Resolved Proposed DM Seconded PB and agreed unanimously to adopt policy.**

**107/21 To consider a report of the Clerk on the granting of Honorary Freeperson of SWAN Parish, the creation of SWAN's own Local Bravery Award. Nominations of Ashford Mayor Award and Nominations for Queens Birthday Honours List.**

Members discussed a previously circulated reported.

**Resolved:- agreed unanimously a) to grant Peter New Honorary Freeperson of SWAN, b) To create a SWAN bravery award for Andy and Harry Hodges for their bravery in the Mill View explosions. C) to investigate the possibility of nominations for MBE or OBE for David Smith for his lifetime service to SWAN area, to also investigate possibility of nominating Peter New Neighbourhood Watch or Lauren Corbett Salvation Army. Either for this Honours list or monitor future opportunities.**

**Actions PP, DM to assist SE to research MBE nomination process.**

**108/21 To consider a report on the theme and organising requirements for a small event for October 2021 and agree a working group. (Cllr Porter)**

**Resolved: Agreed by unanimous vote to aim to hold a small SWAN market subject to venue of East Stour School and create a working group of all Members to establish it.**

**109/21 To consider a report on options to reduce single use plastics and agree at least 3 options to sign pledge.**

Members considered a previously circulated reported

**Resolved by unanimous agreement 1) To note on the ALDI consultation the need for plastic free options and to also write to ASDA requesting the same. 2) To follow the 3 suggestions for the SWAN Office 3) To each consider options in report to reduce single use plastic. 4) To sign the pledge and publicise.**

**110/21 To receive correspondence/e-mails**

**a) Any other correspondence of an urgent nature received between 27<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021**

- 1) GG is extremely unwell and requests a leave of absence
- 2) Email from Mark Davies, Strategic Applications Team Deputy Team Leader, to note SWANCCs request for permits for the construction team to use Wainwright Car Park until the end of the year in the hope of easing the parking pressure on surrounding streets has been agreed.
- 3) Letter from Mandy Cracknell to advise due to the death of a replacement team member our letters have yet to be responded to.
- 4) Email from Quinn providing traffic survey sent to Darren Hickman to progress the Speed Indicator Device for Newtown Road.

**111/21 To agree date of next Council meeting as 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and items to be included on the agenda**

Date confirmed 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Items for inclusion

- 1) Management of Footpaths and the ownership of them in the SWAN area.
- 2) Underpass and Graffiti
- 3) Community Plan

**112/21 Forum for exchange of information between Council members**

**a) Any other exchanges of information**

PP updated members on the current graffiti at the underpass and the need for a more permanent solution.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8:43pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

(Chair)