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## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council for the District of Dover held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 27 January 2016 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S S Chandler

Councillors:

J S Back	R J Frost	S C Manion
S F Bannister	B Gardner	K Mills
T J Bartlett	B J Glayzer	K E Morris
P M Beresford	D Hannent	D P Murphy
T A Bond	P J Hawkins	M J Ovenden
P M Brivio	P G Heath	A S Pollitt
B W Butcher	J M Heron	G Rapley
P I Carter	S Hill	A F Richardson
N J Collor	M J Holloway	M Rose
M D Conolly	T P Johnstone	D A Sargent
M I Cosin	S J Jones	F J W Scales
D G Cronk	L A Keen	P Walker
N Dixon	N S Kenton	P A Watkins
M R Eddy	P S Le Chevalier	
A Friend	S M Le Chevalier	

Officers: Chief Executive  
Director of Environment and Corporate Assets  
Director of Finance, Housing and Community  
Director of Governance  
Head of Democratic Services  
Public Protection Manager  
Team Leader – Democratic Support

### 61 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P M Wallace.

### 62 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S F Bannister declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute No.69 (Council Tax Base 2016/17) by reason of his ownership of an empty property and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of the item of business.

### 64 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council announced that the Vice-Chairman had attended the International Holocaust Memorial Day event held by Deal Town Council on behalf of Dover District Council.

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect for International Holocaust Memorial Day.

65 LEADER'S TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor P A Watkins, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) That Option C was his preferred choice in respect of the Operation Stack lorry park as well as the continuation of the Dover Traffic Assessment Project (TAP). He thanked Councillor N J Collor for his hard work in respect of Operation Stack and TAP and also Councillors P M Brivio and M R Eddy for supporting TAP at Kent County Council and Mr Charlie Elphicke MP for supporting it in Parliament and with Central Government.
- (b) The importance of ensuring that the Kent road connections for the third Thames Crossing were fit for purpose, with needed improvements undertaken to the M2/A2 and Brenley Corner. He urged Members to respond to the consultation in support of the Highways England preferred option with the A229 variant.
- (c) The need to remove the roundabouts at Prince of Wales and Duke of York to create a clearway managed by TAP in advance of the St James' (DTIZ) Development opening. Traffic projections had shown that there was the potential for gridlock if this was not undertaken.
- (d) That the Shakespeare Cliff repairs could be monitored via the Council's website and that 19,000 tons of rock was being used to prevent further damage. While the repairs were being undertaken South Eastern Trains were making timetable amendments to improve connections via Ramsgate but there were still some problems with return trains at night.
- (e) That the Council would be making a response to the rail franchise consultation and the importance of ensuring that the district received the service it needed and deserved. This included the 'Golden Hour' for highspeed train journeys to London.
- (f) The 5 East Kent authorities met with Kent County Council at the end of December to discuss the Devolution Agenda. It was proposed that a model lining up with the federated Clinical Commissioning Groups would deliver economies of scale through joining up health and social care.
- (g) That the Dover District had the third highest apprenticeships take-up in Kent.
- (h) That the first meeting of the steering group for the new Dover Leisure Centre was not far off being called.

The Leader of the Main Opposition Group, Councillor M R Eddy, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) To thank Councillor P A Watkins for his kind words and to thank Councillor Collor for his presentation to Kent County Council on the transport issues facing the district. He advised that the needed dualling of the A2 was included in the final recommendations.

- (b) The importance of good transport links for the local economy.
- (c) To express concern over proposed reductions in the Kent County Council highways budget given the £250 million backlog in repairs and to emphasise the need to maintain the highways budget in the Dover District due to the damage caused by lorries to roads.
- (d) The need for cross-party engagement on the devolution agenda.
- (e) To welcome the news in respect of apprenticeships but underline the need for quality apprenticeships and not just cheap labour.

The Leader of the Other Opposition Group, Councillor A F Richardson, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) To welcome the response from the Council in respect of Operation Stack.
- (b) To advocate the introduction of variable speed limits for TAP rather than a static 40 mph limit.
- (c) To express support for the Highways England preferred option in respect of the third Thames Crossing and echo comments on the importance of dualling the A2.
- (d) That the situation in respect of Shakespeare Cliffs was predictable as the beach had been shrinking since the creation of Samphire Hoe and to hope that lessons had been learnt for the future. That while the restoration of the Dover to Folkestone railway line was an urgent matter that it should not just be a quick fix.
- (e) To welcome the news about apprenticeships but emphasise the need for quality apprenticeships.

In response, the Leader of the Council raised the following matters in his right of reply:

- (a) That there would be a litter pick undertaken when the Roundhill Tunnels were closed for maintenance work.
- (b) That the funding of a variable speed limit for TAP would need to be in place by April 2016 otherwise no works would be able to be undertaken until the Autumn due to summer traffic levels.
- (c) To express the view that Kent County Council want a Kent-wide unitary authority rather than being split into 3 unitary areas.

## 66 SEAT ALLOCATION AND GROUP APPOINTMENTS

The Group Leaders advised that there were no seat allocations or group appointments.

## 67 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule 12 of the Council Procedure Rules, the Chairman of the Planning Committee responded to the following question:

- (1) Councillor S F Bannister asked the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor F J W Scales:

“With record breaking amounts of rainfall in Britain over recent years and the likelihood that the consequences of global warming will be a semi-permanent visitor to these shores does the Chair of Planning feel that is it time for this Council to review its policies in regard to building in low lying areas that are prone to flooding?”

In accordance with Rule 12 of the Council Procedure Rules, Members of the Executive responded to the following questions:

- (2) Councillor M R Eddy, in the absence of Councillor P M Wallace and with the consent of the Chairman, asked the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance, Councillor M D Conolly:

“What are the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance's views on the Local Government Association's proposal that local councils should be allowed to levy council tax or a similar charge on land which has been given planning permission for development but where development has not been commenced within a set period, in order to encourage developers to create much needed housing rather than allowing the land to lie idle thereby making purely paper profits?”

- (3) Councillor B Gardner asked the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Planning, Councillor N S Kenton:

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Planning outline his views on the effectiveness of the current set of procedures and protocols when it comes to this Council agreeing a value for applications for less than 15 properties where a contribution to the Affordable Housing Fund is sought from developers?”

- (4) Councillor P M Brivio asked the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor:

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing provide an update on what is happening with regard to the derelict property of Bushey Ruff which has become an eyesore in otherwise beautiful surroundings?”

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Planning, Councillor N S Kenton, answered the question as related to his portfolio.

- (5) Councillor D A Sargent asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor P M Beresford:

“Is the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Well-being able to provide a revised figure of planned new builds of social housing for the district now

that changes to rental income introduced by the government will make it impossible to meet the much publicised target of 500 units?”

- (6) Councillor M R Eddy asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor P A Watkins:

“As the town of Sandwich has a proud tradition of welcoming refugees which dates back to at least the 16th century, does the Leader agree that Sandwich Town Council should be congratulated on their plans to encourage residents to donate to help support Syrian refugee families coming to the Dover?”

- (7) Councillor L A Keen asked the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance, Councillor M D Conolly:

“Is the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance satisfied with the arrangements the Council has in place for deducting trade union membership subscriptions through payroll, and does he agree that this is an important part of our industrial relations and that this system is an administrative matter for the Council and should not be interfered with by the national Government?”

- (8) Councillor S F Bannister will ask the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Public Protection, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Does the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Public Protection agree that the District's residents will view with cynicism a consultation on the site options for replacement Dover Leisure Centre when the current administration of the Council gives every appearance of having already decided on Whitfield?”

69 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2016/17

The Council considered the report of the Director of Finance, Housing and Community.

Members were advised that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 this item was considered to be a budget decision within the meaning given to it in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 and therefore a recorded vote would be held.

It was moved by Councillor M D Conolly, duly seconded and

- RESOLVED: (a) That for the financial year 2016/17, the empty homes discount be reduced to 0% for Class C empty properties, and remove the 2<sup>nd</sup> homes discount so that Council Tax would be payable in full on those properties.
- (b) That Council Tax Reduction Scheme be approved and not be revised or replaced by another scheme.
- (c) That the District's Council Tax Base for 2016/17 be approved as 36,251.91 and that the tax base for the towns and parishes in the Council's administrative area be approved as set out in the table at Appendix 2 as follows:

<b>Parish</b>	<b>2015/16 Tax Base using collection rate</b>	<b>2016/17 Tax Base using collection rate</b>
Alkham	295.37	298.68
Ash	1,088.34	1,095.02
Aylesham	862.66	1,024.03
Capel-Le-Ferne	616.81	617.71
Deal	6,344.48	6,477.35
Denton-with-Wootton	168.76	167.40
Dover	7,514.01	7,679.07
Eastry	752.72	754.48
Eythorne	765.70	771.20
Goodnestone	172.38	166.59
Great Mongeham	263.00	264.10
Guston	383.17	379.08
Hougham-Without	182.26	179.88
Langdon	224.80	226.57
Lydden	244.11	247.63
Nonington	295.31	293.91
Northbourne	265.29	264.67
Preston	258.52	257.35
Ringwould-with-Kingsdown	1,011.53	1,018.35
Ripple	145.75	149.51
River	1,478.45	1,481.45
St Margarets-at-Cliffe	1,241.27	1,256.81
Sandwich	1,884.80	1,875.75
Shepherdswell-with-Coldred	732.71	731.93
Sholden	452.45	547.05
Staple	227.81	227.89
Stourmouth	109.72	110.80
Sutton-by-Dover	298.00	296.68
Temple Ewell	628.25	640.31
Tilmanstone	149.99	151.87
Walmer	3,224.73	3,261.05
Whitfield	1,744.48	1,821.38
Wingham	659.48	664.23
Woodnesborough	383.49	415.20
Worth	433.13	436.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,503.73</b>	<b>36,251.91</b>

The manner of voting was as followed:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
J S Back	B J Glayzer	
T J Bartlett		
P M Beresford		
T A Bond		
P M Brivio		
B W Butcher		

P I Carter  
S S Chandler  
N J Collor  
M D Conolly  
M I Cosin  
D G Cronk  
N Dixon  
M R Eddy  
A Friend  
R J Frost  
B Gardner  
D Hannent  
P J Hawkins  
P G Heath  
J M Heron  
S Hill  
M J Holloway  
T P Johnstone  
S J Jones  
L A Keen  
N S Kenton  
P S Le Chevalier  
S M Le Chevalier  
S C Manion  
K Mills  
K E Morris  
D P Murphy  
M J Ovenden  
A S Pollitt  
G Rapley  
A F Richardson  
M Rose  
D A Sargent  
F J W Scales  
P Walker  
P A Watkins

(Councillor S F Bannister declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute No.69 (Council Tax Base 2016/17) by reason of his ownership of an empty property and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of the item of business.)

70 2016-19 REVISED STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PRINCIPLES ISSUED UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

The Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor, introduced the report on the Revised Statement of Policy and Principles issued under the Gambling Act 2005.

It was moved by Councillor N J Collor and duly seconded:

RESOLVED: That the Statement of Policy and Principles issued under the Gambling Act 2005 be adopted.

71 DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2016/17

The Council considered the Draft Calendar of Meetings 2016/17.

Councillor M I Cosin advised that the proposed Council date for 28 September 2016 conflicted with the Labour Party Conference and requested that the date be changed.

It was moved by Councillor P A Watkins and duly seconded

RESOLVED: That the Draft Calendar of Meetings 2016/17 be approved in principle subject to the deletion of the Council date scheduled for 28 September 2016.

72 MOTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor P Walker gave notice of his intention to move the following Motion:

"In order to deliver Dover District Council's objectives for housing and economic regeneration, this Council will, with effect from 1 February 2016, instigate an addition to its Housing Policies that housing developments, be they for purchase or rent, must include a minimum of 40% affordable housing and a minimum of 10% of high-end housing."

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor M R Eddy.

Councillor P A Watkins proposed that the Motion be withdrawn and that instead he would make the necessary arrangements for the Cabinet Project Advisory Group (the former LDF Group) to conduct a strategic housing market assessment.

Councillor P Walker accepted Councillor P A Watkins's proposal and, with the consent of his seconder, withdrew his Motion.

73 URGENT BUSINESS TIME

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 7.38 pm