

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council for the District of Dover held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 31 January 2018 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S S Chandler

Councillors:

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

Also Present: Alderman G J Hood  
Alderman P A Watkins

Officers: Chief Executive  
Director of Environment and Corporate Assets  
Director of Finance, Housing and Community  
Director of Governance  
Democratic Services Manager

### 57 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D G Cronk, N S Kenton, K Mills and A S Pollitt.

### 58 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 18 October 2017 and 6 December 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N A G Richards declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Motion (2) by reason of his employment and announced his intention to withdraw from the meeting for the consideration of that item.

### 60 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

61 PRESENTATION OF HONORARY ALDERMAN AWARDS

The Chairman announced that following the decision of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 18 October 2017 to make former district councillors G J Hood and P A Watkins Honorary Aldermen, the Council was now able to present them with their awards. The awards were in recognition of their decades of community service and the esteem that members of the Council held them in.

The Chairman presented the scrolls to both Aldermen and invited them to say a few words to the Council.

62 LEADER'S TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) The launch of the next phase of the review of the council's electoral arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The current phase of consultation on ward patterns would run from 30 January 2018 to 9 April 2018.
- (b) That the Homelessness PAG had met before Christmas. The meeting had considered a four stage process for intervention in respect of homelessness and the Council was investigating building and buying housing, including the use of modular homes. The January 2018 monthly update was encouraging against performance indicators.
- (c) That Kent had been approved as a pilot area for business rate retention. The pilot was for 1 year but could be extendable for an additional year.
- (d) The Medium Term Financial Plan would make provision for additional funding for Dover Town Centre. A new town centre officer post would be funded.
- (e) That internal changes would be made to put enforcement into one office under one manager. A legal officer would also be co-located with the enforcement team.
- (f) That Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council and Thanet District Council had contracted with Civica for 7 years. The contract had transferred 230 jobs to Civica and would also see an East Kent trading hub set up which the three authorities would share in the profits for as new work was taken on. The contract would also deliver savings to be split between the three authorities and safeguard jobs.
- (g) That he had met with the new owners of the Discovery Park who remained focussed on the growth of life sciences at the site. They would also look at retail, leisure and new homes opportunities.

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

- (a) To express his disappointment that the LGBCE had decided on 32 councillors as it did not provide enough members to provide for effective scrutiny.
- (b) To welcome that the Leader had started the meetings of the Homelessness PAG and to express support for modular homes and buying properties.
- (c) To welcome the news of the Business Rate pilot while expressing that as a one year pilot it reinforced the volatility in local government finances. He urged the Council to work through the Local Government Association on this issue.
- (d) That while the St James (DTIZ) development was beginning to bear fruit it was important to ensure that work commenced now on developing the rest of the town.
- (e) To welcome the creation of a single enforcement team as it was a major issue for the district. He urged a zero tolerance approach to unkempt buildings.
- (f) To express concern that the Civica deal while cheap in the shorter term would leave local government with a mess to clean up down the road.
- (g) To welcome the news that the Discovery Park would continue to focus on life sciences and express hope that there would be links with local universities and Europe.

The Leader of the Minority Opposition UKIP Group, Councillor G Rapley, included the following matters in her report:

- (a) To question what impact homelessness would have on the waiting list for council housing and to advise that she had heard a rumour that the old Buckland Hospital site would be used as accommodation for the homeless.
- (b) To welcome the news in respect of Dover town centre.
- (c) To state that more enforcement needed to be undertaken in respect of rubbish/litter.
- (d) That in respect of the news from the LGBCE, she would have preferred a number of 39 councillors.

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

- (a) That while homelessness was rising in coastal towns across England, the Dover District had seen a decline in presentations in January.
- (b) To respond to the Leader of the UKIP Group to advise that homelessness would have no impact on the waiting list for council housing and that he had not heard the rumour about the old Buckland Hospital site.

63 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no valid questions received from members of the public.

64 SEAT ALLOCATION AND GROUP APPOINTMENTS

- (a) The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor K E Morris, gave notice of the following changes to group appointments:

Dover Joint Transportation Board

Councillor P D Jull to replace Councillor M J Holloway.

Licensing Committee

Councillor P D Jull to replace Councillor M J Holloway.

- (b) The Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor M R Eddy, gave notice of the following changes to group appointments:

Licensing Committee

Councillor M R Eddy to replace Councillor N A G Richards.

65 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2018-19

The Director of Finance, Housing and Community presented the report on the Council Tax Base 2018/19.

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

- RESOLVED: (a) Determine that for the financial year 2018-19, the empty homes discount remains at 0% for Class C empty properties, and continue to remove the discount for 2nd homes so that Council Tax will be payable in full on these properties.
- (b) Determine not to revise the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2018-19.
- (c) Approve the District's Council Tax Base for 2018-19 as 37,962.69 and the tax base for the towns and parishes in the Council's administrative area, as set out in the table below:

<b>Parish</b>	<b>2017-18 Tax Base - using collection rate</b>	<b>2018-19 Tax Base using collection rate</b>
Alkham	306.43	307.61
Ash	1120.04	1126.94

Aylesham	1103.18	1365.88
Capel-Le-Ferne	626.51	660.15
Deal	6,594.87	6,651.71
Denton-with-Wootton	172.20	171.45
Dover	7,924.76	8,073.27
Eastry	779.46	788.15
Eythorne	775.78	782.97
Goodnestone	173.67	171.61
Great Mongeham	268.30	268.71
Guston	374.32	374.95
Hougham-Without	181.32	183.08
Langdon	227.85	227.56
Lydden	253.51	254.42
Nonington	295.17	293.16
Northbourne	269.79	267.72
Preston	302.76	326.30
Ringwould-with-Kingsdown	1,013.04	1,018.86
Ripple	150.81	152.03
River	1,497.88	1,487.35
St Margarets-at-Cliffe	1,283.08	1,303.27
Sandwich	1,925.51	1,922.46
Shepherdswell-with-Coldred	738.74	753.56
Sholden	670.64	746.02
Staple	228.32	229.77
Stourmouth	111.50	113.25
Sutton-by-Dover	305.59	307.40
Temple Ewell	639.36	645.05
Tilmanstone	153.23	153.26
Walmer	3,277.47	3,290.37
Whitfield	1,899.84	1,933.63
Wingham	672.16	681.07
Woodnesborough	442.87	464.24
Worth	444.44	465.46
Total	37,204.40	37,962.69

The manner of voting was as followed:

FOR (40)

AGAINST (0)

ABSTAIN (0)

J S Back  
S F Bannister  
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  
G Cowan

FOR (40)

AGAINST (0)

ABSTAIN (0)

N Dixon  
M R Eddy  
A Friend  
R J Frost  
B Gardner  
B J Glayzer  
D Hannent  
P J Hawkins  
P G Heath  
J M Heron  
M J Holloway  
S J Jones  
P D Jull  
L A Keen  
P S Le Chevalier  
S M Le Chevalier  
K E Morris  
D P Murphy  
A M Napier  
M J Ovenden  
G Rapley  
N A G Richards  
M Rose  
D A Sargent  
F J W Scales  
P Walker  
P M Wallace

66 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2018/19

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report on the Calendar of Meetings 2018/19.

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

RESOLVED: That the Draft Calendar of Ordinary Meetings for 2018/19 be approved in principle subject to final ratification at the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2018.

67 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME 2018/19

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report on the Members' Allowance Scheme 2018/19.

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

RESOLVED: That the Members' Allowance Scheme 2018/19 be made at the levels of 2017/18, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, subject to an increase in the Dependent Carers Allowance to £7.83 per hour in line with the National Living Wage from April 2018.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule 12(1) of the Council Procedure Rules, Members of the Cabinet responded to the following questions:

- (1) Councillor B J Glayzer asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris:

“Would the Leader of this Council advise this Council as to what is being reviewed to assist the problems around empty shop fronts on our Dover high street. Where adequate spending provisions can be addressed to bring back the much needed opportunities for local business entrepreneurs, promoting our Towns tourism and wellbeing.”

In response, the Leader of the Council advised that a recent report to Cabinet had set out a range of matters that the Council would be engaging on including proposals in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2018/19. As part of the MTFP there were proposals for the allocation of funds of £80,000 for regeneration enabling costs in Dover, town centre improvement works of £300,000 and £100,000 for enhancements to the public realm in Market Square. As part of the Local Plan process the opportunity existed for the development of a new strategy for the town centre and the Council would be pressing other organisations to participate in helping improve the town centre.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor B J Glayzer exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (2) Councillor P D Jull asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris:

“Following your promise at a previous council meeting to set up a Policy Action Group on the subject of homelessness, could the Leader give an update on what has happened since?”

In response, the Leader of the Council advised that the Homelessness Project Advisory Group had met for the first time on 13 December 2017 and received a report outlining the current position in respect of homelessness in the Dover District and the various actions that were being undertaken by the Council to address the issue. This had already seen some progress with the number of people in temporary accommodation falling over the past three months by 13% from 109 to 96. In addition, the number in bed and breakfast accommodation had fallen from 45 to 27 over the same period. The various actions and projects would be monitored through monthly performance reports and meetings.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor P D Jull exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (3) Councillor M J Oviden asked the Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Councillor M J Holloway:

“Through the good work of the Community Partnership Unit and its joint working with Kent Police, KCC and other organisations, and working

closely with Kent's Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner, this Conservative led District Council gives priority to making our communities safe, bearing down on crime and anti-social behaviour.

Can the Portfolio Holder reassure residents that community safety will remain a District priority in 2018? In answering the question could the Portfolio Holder confirm:

- That despite budget pressures, District staff numbers and resources allocated to the Council's Community Services Team and CSP Unit, will remain at the current historically high level;
- The funding available for community safety projects in 2018; and
- What initiatives are in the pipeline, in particular to educate our younger citizens and steer them away from bad behaviour and crime."

In response the Portfolio Holder for Community Services advised that the Council not only maintained but increased resources in this area during 2017/18. The Council had recruited a Domestic Abuse Co-Ordinator to co-ordinate the effective delivery of a programme to support those suffering from domestic abuse through 'one stop shops' in Dover and Deal offering free and confidential multi-agency advice and delivering the Domestic Abuse Training Programme.

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner had committed £31,744 in funding to the Dover District Community Safety Partnership in 2018/19, which represented an extra 10% on last year's funding.

A key part of the Partnerships work was focussed on diverting young people away from anti-social behaviour and through the Inspire Fund over 600 young people with opportunities to explore new interests and learn new skills.

The Council was also looking to modernise its CCTV provision.

Councillor M J Ovenden did not ask a supplementary question.

- (4) Councillor M Rose asked the Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Councillor M J Holloway:

"Increasing the District's prosperity for all residents is at the heart of this Conservative lead District Council's agenda.

Building on the excellent foundations laid by his Conservative predecessor aimed at regeneration, the new Leader is committed to boosting the District's Tourism by harnessing the potential of its history, and strategic position as the UK's main gateway to Europe.

Can the Portfolio Holder please confirm what this Conservative led District Council is now doing to achieve this very welcomed ambition?"

In response the Portfolio Holder for Community Services stated that he recognised that tourism played a vital role in driving the district's economy with 16% of the workforce engaged in this sector. As part of the budget

proposals there would be support for the promotion and marketing of tourism and a scoping exercise was underway to explore how resources could be used to have the greatest impact.

Councillor M Rose did not ask a supplementary question.

- (5) Councillor G Cowan asked the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor:

“This council and more importantly the people of Dover district have waited for over two decades for the new DTIZ to open, many who rely on public transport. Can the Portfolio Holder for Access & Licensing advise this council what steps have been made to provide good transport links to the new DTIZ shopping centre located at St James?”

The Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing advised that the scheme design for the St James development, run by Legal and General, did not provide for buses to enter the site the Council was keen to see improvements in public transport links through Castle Street and Market Square. As a consequence the Council had been working with Stagecoach and Kent County Council on the matter to bring forward changes to the highway layout within Market Square to facilitate bus route changes.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor G Cowan exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (6) Councillor P M Brivio asked the Portfolio Holder for Built Environment, Councillor J S Back:

“Can the Portfolio holder for the Built Environment comment on what the implications for Dover District Council will be of Thanet District council pulling out of their support for the unified computer system for East Kent Housing?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Built Environment stated that the Council had been notified by Thanet District Council of its intention to withdraw from the implementation of the single system for East Kent Housing and was in the process of investigating a number of issues arising from this decision. Once the Council had the answer to these issues it would be able to determine the most appropriate way to proceed.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor P M Brivio exercised her right to ask one supplementary question.

- (7) Councillor P J Hawkins asked the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Customers waiting for a bus in South Street Deal can have a considerable time to wait, especially if arriving by public transport and waiting for a connecting bus for a long distance onward journey. Customers have seen the size of the waiting room and its opening hours decrease over the years until its closure and now have nowhere they can freely go for shelter or to feel safe and secure. Will the portfolio holder for Property Management and Environmental Health please tell me if this Council has plans to reopen the waiting room in South Street, Deal?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health advised that the waiting room in South Street had been closed following the highways improvement works being undertaken by Kent County Council. As part of these works changes had been made to the location of bus stops and the new bus stops were served by conventional bus shelters. As a consequence there were no plans to reopen the shelter.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor P J Hawkins exercised her right to ask one supplementary question.

- (8) Councillor A M Napier asked the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“The Tram Shelter on Folkestone Road is Grade II listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for its special architectural or historic interest and is reputedly the only remaining shelter of the Dover Corporation Tramways which ceased operating in 1936.

Will the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health outline what steps he proposes to take to protect this community asset from vandalism and deterioration?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health advised that while the Tram Shelter was rightly recognised as an important part of Dover’s history it had been subject to frequent vandalism and repairs were carried out as and when required. The Council would take action against anyone caught damaging the shelter.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor A M Napier exercised her right to ask one supplementary question.

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

“Is the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing able to say if for Dover District Council has applied to the government for funding that is available (£1.5 million with further funding to follow) for the installation of car charging points?”

The Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing advised that the Council had not applied for the funding under this scheme as it did not meet the full capital costs or the ongoing maintenance costs that would arise. However, the Council welcomed the installation of new charging points at Lidl, St James development and Sholden and was keen to see the number of charging points in the district increase.

Councillor P M Brivio did not ask a supplementary question.

- (10) Councillor N A G Richards asked the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor:

“With increasing traffic on the Port Of Dover starting to impact the air quality and roads surrounding Dover, would the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing be willing to consider working with relevant partners to

introduce a congestion charge for all HGVs using the port, in order to use the levy collected to combat these issues?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing stated that he shared the concerns over the air quality in Dover but that there had been some improvements in recent years with a significant reduction in concentrations of nitrogen dioxide on the A20 particularly along Snargate Street, Dover. In respect of applying a levy to all HGVs using the Port of Dover the recent improvements in air quality provided for limited justification for the introduction of such a measure.

The Council published annual reports on nitrogen dioxide and particulate levels and would be updating the Air Quality Action Plan during 2018.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor N A G Richards exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (11) Councillor M I Cosin asked the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance, Councillor M D Conolly:

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance please tell me if the appropriate capital will be set aside in the next year's budget for the renovation of Tides Leisure Centre in Deal?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance advised that work was underway to identify the alterations and enhancements needed to secure a sustainable future for Tides Leisure Centre and the draft budget proposals for 2018/19 included £6 million of support for the renovation work.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor M I Cosin exercised her right to ask one supplementary question.

- (12) Councillor A M Napier asked the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance, Councillor M D Conolly:

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance tell me how much has the “Western Heights & Farthingloe” planning application cost this council financially?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance stated that it had cost the Council £160,934.06.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor A M Napier exercised her right to ask one supplementary question.

- (13) Councillor M R Eddy asked the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance, Councillor M D Conolly:

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance confirm that vulnerable people who have been sanctioned are able to request a Nil Income Form and whether this council volunteers that information rather than only provides the form on application?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance advised that, on the assumption this referred to benefit claimants where a sanction could be imposed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), in circumstances where somewhere declared to the Council that they had no income they would be asked to complete a document that identifies how they are meeting their day-to-day living expenses which would be used to confirm the situation and where relevant assess their entitlement to benefits (such as Housing Benefit).

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor M R Eddy exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (14) Councillor P Walker asked the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“The considerably intolerable and on-going noise levels created at Lydden Race Circuit are seen by many residents as beyond an acceptable level. Will the Cabinet Member for Property Management and Environmental Health now take positive and decided action to put enforcement in place?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health advised that the Council would continue with its proactive monitoring regime and keep liaising directly with the Wootton Environmental Protection Group to ensure that visits were suitably targeted at the loudest most intrusive events.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor P Walker exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (15) Councillor M R Eddy asked the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health inform the Council of the number of announced and unannounced visits made by officers of our Port Health and Environmental Health services to each of the ferries sailing out of Dover over the last four calendar years?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health advised over the last four years all visits to ferries had been to conduct a Ship Sanitation Inspection which took place twice a year per ferry and all visits had been announced.

The Council had made the following number of visits over the four year period:

2014	16
2015	18
2016	18
2017	19

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5, Councillor M R Eddy exercised his right to ask one supplementary question.

- (16) Councillor S F Bannister asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor K E Morris:

“Is the Leader of the Council as concerned as our Independent MP for Dover that the proposal to introduce a ‘Dad’s Army’ Border Force would be a calamitous mistake?”

In response the Leader of the Council stated that it was important to maintain a high level of security at our borders and that the Port of Dover must be properly policed by trained officers. He would urge caution in adopting a model that included an equivalent of Special Constables.

69 MOTIONS

- (1) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor M J Holloway moved the following Motion:

“That the Council agrees that the Leader writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the circumstances and actions taken around the Chimes at St Peter’s Church Sandwich and request the provision of robust guidance in dealing with statutory noise nuisance emanating from Church Bells and Chimes. In the meantime the authority will continue to work with the Churches Conservation Trust to achieve a satisfactory resolution to the issue.”

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor P I Carter.

On being put to the meeting the Motion was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: “That the Council agrees that the Leader writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the circumstances and actions taken around the Chimes at St Peter’s Church Sandwich and request the provision of robust guidance in dealing with statutory noise nuisance emanating from Church Bells and Chimes. In the meantime the authority will continue to work with the Churches Conservation Trust to achieve a satisfactory resolution to the issue.”

- (2) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor P Walker moved the following Motion:

“Dover District Council will introduce an incentive scheme to aid small businesses in Dover’s Town Centre (from Cannon Street to London Road incl.) in order to help them benefit from the developing DTIZ.

This scheme should look at:

- How business rates are applied.
- Relocation to a more advantageous position in the town.
- Appointing a Small Business Advisor.”

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor M R Eddy.

It was moved as an AMENDMENT by Councillor F J W Scales:

“Dover District Council explore the possibilities of operating an incentive scheme to aid small businesses in Dover’s Town Centre (from Bench Street to the Maison Dieu) in order to help them benefit from the developing DTIZ with a report back to Cabinet.”

The Amendment was seconded by Councillor M D Conolly.

Councillor P Walker, with the consent of his seconder, agreed to accept the Amendment and it became the SUBSTANTIVE Motion.

On being put to the meeting the SUBSTANTIVE Motion was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: “Dover District Council explore the possibilities of operating an incentive scheme to aid small businesses in Dover’s Town Centre (from Bench Street to the Maison Dieu) in order to help them benefit from the developing DTIZ with a report back to Cabinet.”

(Councillor N A G Richards declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Motion (2) by reason of his employment and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this matter.)

(3) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor P M Wallace moved the following Motion:

“A councillor’s relationship with the community in their ward is one of the most important factors in our role as elected representatives. We can strengthen this relationship by redistributing the Dover District Community Grants Scheme fund to the individual ward councillors, so they can play an active hands-on role in the development of their ward.

This council will re-allocate £500 from the Dover District Community Grants Scheme to each ward councillor and modify the criteria so councillors can help a broader range of interests in the ward.”

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor M R Eddy.

Councillor K E Morris proposed that as this was an executive matter officers be asked to assess the ways of administering such a scheme with a view to implementing a reformed scheme, including revised criteria and giving notice of the changes to the scheme, in May 2019.

Councillor P M Wallace, with the consent of his seconder, agreed to withdraw his Motion on the understanding that the Cabinet were committed to developing the scheme for the new council and there would be the opportunity for cross-party input on the new schemes design.

70 URGENT BUSINESS TIME

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

The meeting ended at 8.36 pm