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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, 25 January 2017 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S S Chandler

Councillors:

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

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

56 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Glayzer, S Hill, N S Kenton, P S Le Chevalier, S M Le Chevalier and A F Richardson.

57 MINUTES

In respect of Minute No. 45(3) Councillor B Gardner requested that an amendment be made to the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2016 to include Councillor F J W Scales' point of personal clarification in respect of the Dover Soup Kitchen.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2016 were approved, subject to the inclusion of the point of personal clarification at Minute No. 45(3), as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

59 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, Councillor P A Watkins, made the following announcement:

(a) East Kent Councils Merger

Members were advised that the business case for the merger of five East Kent authorities (Ashford Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council, Shepway District Council and Thanet District Council) had been published today and a press launch had been held prior to the Council meeting with all the respective Council Leaders in attendance. A copy of the business case would be circulated to all Members.

Four of the five authorities had agreed to precede with the merger plans while the fifth authority, Ashford Borough Council, had decided not to proceed with the merger as the economic case did not suit it.

The Council's staff had been briefed earlier that day.

The merger plans did not include proposals for an East Kent unitary authority as this was not an option at this time.

The Council currently shared services with neighbouring authorities through East Kent Services and East Kent Housing and the proposals for a new East Kent District Council would be co-terminus with police, health and education areas. Although it was not in the business case, there was a need to identify which powers could be devolved to the new authority and in turn what powers it could devolve to the parish councils.

The business case and public engagement plans would be considered by each of the four councils. For Dover District Council this would see a report going to Cabinet and Scrutiny before being considered at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on 22 March 2017 to approve public engagement on the merger. A final decision on whether to proceed with the merger of the four councils would be made at a meeting of the full Council in July 2017.

Due to the unprecedented nature of the announcement, the Chairman took the decision to permit the main opposition leader, Councillor M R Eddy, to respond to the Leader of the Council.

Councillor M R Eddy expressed a cautious welcome for the publication of the business case and the opportunity to study it. He questioned what services the new council would be delivering and emphasised that the business case had to demonstrate that the merger would work for all members' constituents.

(b) Councillor M Philpott and former Director of Law, Property and Administration Mrs L Cumberland

The Leader informed members of the sad news of the death of the husband of former district Councillor M Philpott and the death of the husband of former Director of Law, Property and Administration, Ms L Cumberland.

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor S S Chandler, made the following announcements:

(a) Aylesham Ward By-Election

To welcome Councillor G Cowan back to the Council following his successful election to the Council in the Aylesham Ward by-election.

(b) Death of former Councillor Arthur Clay

To announce the sad news of the death of former district Councillor Arthur Clay who had served on the Council from 1987-1991. The Chairman called upon the group leaders present to speak and they paid tribute to the service and character of Councillor Clay, highlighting his knowledge of local government and his ability as an advocate for the people of Deal.

The Council stood in silence for a minute as a mark of respect for the deaths announced.

60

LEADER'S TIME

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

- (a) The on-going discussions on the potential merger of the four East Kent Councils.
- (b) That the Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing, Councillor N J Collor, and the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Planning, Councillor N S Kenton had met with the Local Government Association (LGA) in respect of the Motion agreed by Council in respect of litter on the A2. The LGA had agreed to take up the Council's case with the Government that the Highways Agency should be responsible for cost of clearing litter from the road and verges of the A2.
- (c) That Councillor N S Kenton had met with the local Member of Parliament (MP) to discuss the future of the former removal centre at Dover Western Heights. Due to the nature of the site it could not be disposed of in the normal way and instead would be considered as part of the Western Heights Masterplan.
- (d) The Kent and Medway Economic Partnership had discussed the siting for the 3rd Thames Crossing and the preferred route was supported by all but one MP in Kent. In respect of the HS1 route there were problems for passengers getting a seat on the train after the Ashford stop and solutions such as increasing the frequency of trains and the amount of rolling stock were discussed. The one hour journey time from Dover to London would be achieved by removing a stop in Folkestone on 1 of the 2 HS1 trains from Dover each hour.
- (e) That Hadlow College at Betteshanger had passed the first round of the ECIF grant bidding process.
- (f) That 2/3 of the work at the St James' site had been completed and the cinema structure was now going up. The piling rigs had left the site after

completing 750 piles to a depth of 22 metres and the new electricity sub-station had been connected.

- (g) That work was on-going in respect of the master planning for the area from Dover Western Docks to the Town Hall. The works on the A20 were expected to complete within the next couple of weeks.
- (h) That TAP variable speed limit works would now conclude in June 2017 not March 2017 as originally planned due to a redesign of the signage following objections from environmental groups.

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

- (a) To welcome the news that the LGA supported the Council in respect of making Highways England pay for the clearing of waste from the road and verge of the A2.
- (b) To welcome the news of the sensitive handling of Dover Western Heights site and the progress of the St James' site.
- (c) To express concerns that needed road improvements would be delayed as a result of the objections by one of the Kent MPs to the preferred 3rd Thames Crossing route.
- (d) To welcome the news in respect of the HS1 route and the achievement of the one hour journey time to London.
- (e) To welcome the news that the variable TAP signs would be in place in June 2017.
- (f) To warn that the impact of BREXIT had yet to be felt on the local economy.

In the absence of the Leader of the Minority Opposition UK Independence Party Group, Councillor A F Richardson, no report was given.

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

- (a) That BREXIT could actually benefit the local economy through the creation of new civil service and freight forwarding jobs.
- (b) That the regeneration of Dover Town Centre would be put forward to the LEP for funding as similar schemes had been successful elsewhere.

(Councillor M R Eddy made a Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests by reason of his membership of the Western Heights Preservation Society.)

61 SEAT ALLOCATION AND GROUP APPOINTMENTS

There were no changes.

62 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

63 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions from Members.

64 MOTIONS

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

"While recognising the sterling efforts of the staff to take the East Kent University Hospitals Trust out of special measures, this Council views with serious concern the emerging proposals under the draft Sustainability and Transformation Plan to remove 300 acute beds from hospitals in East Kent. This Council firmly believes such proposals will prove detrimental to health care in this district, exacerbating the existing difficulties within the interdependent health and social services, and calls on Government to increase its funding to the NHS and to Kent County Council's social services while at least maintaining current funding to the rest of local government."

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor S F Bannister.

It was moved as an AMENDMENT by Councillor P A Watkins:

"While recognising the sterling efforts of the staff to take the East Kent University Hospitals Trust out of special measures, this Council views with serious concern the emerging proposals under the draft Sustainability and Transformation Plan that require a reduction of 300 beds from hospitals in East Kent. This Council firmly believes such proposals will prove detrimental to health care in this district, exacerbating the existing difficulties without radically addressing the social care bed shortfall, quality community social care packages, GP manpower shortages and increased practice hours availability. Added to this list must be included additional provision of specialised housing to include intermediate care and also discretionary use of Disabled Facilities Grant. None of the changes should take place until full deployment and recruitment of specialist community nursing teams and allied professions are in place. Use of the not for profit sector services is essential to bolster the Social care sector.

This Council calls for full integration and commissioning of Health and Social provision to be accelerated and fully funded to meet the Health and Social care deficit in East Kent."

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor F J W Scales.

Councillor M R Eddy, with the consent of his seconder, agreed to accept the amendment.

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

RESOLVED: That while recognising the sterling efforts of the staff to take the East Kent University Hospitals Trust out of special measures, this Council views with serious concern the emerging proposals under the draft Sustainability and Transformation Plan that require a reduction of 300 beds from hospitals in East Kent. This Council firmly believes such proposals will prove detrimental to health care in this district, exacerbating the existing difficulties without radically addressing the social care bed shortfall, quality community social care packages, GP manpower shortages and increased practice hours availability. Added to this list must be included additional provision of specialised housing to include intermediate care and also discretionary use of Disabled Facilities Grant. None of the changes should take place until full deployment and recruitment of specialist community nursing teams and allied professions are in place. Use of the not for profit sector services is essential to bolster the Social care sector.

This Council calls for full integration and commissioning of Health and Social provision to be accelerated and fully funded to meet the Health and Social care deficit in East Kent.

(Councillor K Mills arrived at the meeting during this item of business and immediately withdrew from the meeting for the remainder of its consideration.)

65 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2017/18

The Director of Finance, Housing and Community presented the report on the Council Tax Base 2017/18.

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

- RESOLVED:
- (a) That for the financial year 2017/18, the empty homes discount be reduced to 0% for Class C empty properties, and the 2nd homes discount be removed so that Council Tax will be payable in full on these properties.
 - (b) That the District's Council Tax Base for 2017/18 be approved as 37,204.40 and the tax base for the towns and parishes in the Council's administrative area be as set out in the table below:

Parish	2016/17 Tax Base - using collection rate	2017/18 Tax Base using collection rate
Alkham	298.68	306.43
Ash	1095.02	1120.04
Aylesham	1024.03	1103.18
Capel-Le-Ferne	617.71	626.51
Deal	6,477.35	6,594.87

Denton-with-Wootton	167.40	172.20
Dover	7,679.07	7,924.76
Eastry	754.48	779.46
Eythorne	771.20	775.78
Goodnestone	166.59	173.67
Great Mongeham	264.10	268.30
Guston	379.08	374.32
Hougham-Without	179.88	181.32
Langdon	226.57	227.85
Lydden	247.63	253.51
Nonington	293.91	295.17
Northbourne	264.67	269.79
Preston	257.35	302.76
Ringwould-with-Kingsdown	1,018.35	1,013.04
Ripple	149.51	150.81
River	1,481.45	1,497.88
St Margarets-at-Cliffe	1,256.81	1,283.08
Sandwich	1,875.75	1,925.51
Shepherdswell-with-Coldred	731.93	738.74
Sholden	547.05	670.64
Staple	227.89	228.32
Stourmouth	110.80	111.50
Sutton-by-Dover	296.68	305.59
Temple Ewell	640.31	639.36
Tilmanstone	151.87	153.23
Walmer	3,261.05	3,277.47
Whitfield	1,821.38	1,899.84
Wingham	664.23	672.16
Woodnesborough	415.20	442.87
Worth	436.93	444.44
Total	36,251.91	37,204.40

The manner of voting was as followed:

FOR

AGAINST

ABSTAIN

J S Back
S F Bannister
T J Bartlett
P M Beresford
T A Bond
P M Brivio
B W Butcher
S S Chandler
N J Collor
M D Conolly
M I Cosin
G Cowan
D G Cronk
N Dixon
M R Eddy
A Friend
R J Frost

FOR

AGAINST

ABSTAIN

B Gardner
D Hannent
P J Hawkins
P G Heath
J M Heron
M J Holloway
S J Jones
L A Keen
S C Manion
K Mills
K E Morris
D P Murphy
M J Ovenden
A S Pollitt
G Rapley
M Rose
D A Sargent
F J W Scales
P Walker
P M Wallace
P A Watkins

66 ADOPTION OF A SCHEME OF ENROLMENT FOR AN HONORARY ALDERMAN

The Director of Governance presented the report on the Adoption of a Scheme of Enrolment for an Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman.

In response to concerns over the criteria and costs for the award expressed by members of the main opposition group, Councillor P A Watkins suggested that a working group of members could look into it further.

It was moved by Councillor P A Watkins, duly seconded and

- RESOLVED: (a) That the Council repeal the 'Policy for Long Service Awards to Elected Members of Dover District Council.
- (b) That any Members who were eligible for the award at the time of its repeal and who haven't received an award be given the choice of receiving an award recognising their service.
- (c) That the Council adopt the Scheme of Enrolment, including the rights and privileges, for Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen as set out in Appendix 2.
- (d) That on conferment of the courtesy title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman, the recipient be provided with a commemorative scroll and badge.

67 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2017/18

The Team Leader – Democratic Support presented the report on the draft Calendar of Meetings 2017/18.

Members were advised that the Chairman of the Planning Committee had raised concerns over the dates for Planning Committee being in the same week as full Council in July and October 2017 and that this was being looked into to find a workable solution.

It was moved by Councillor M R Eddy, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the draft Calendar of Ordinary Meetings for 2017/18 be agreed in principle subject to the Planning Committee dates in July and October 2017 being re-examined.

68 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2017/18

Councillor M D Conolly presented the report on the Members' Allowances Scheme 2017/18.

It was moved by Councillor M D Conolly that Option 2 be adopted and that the Members' Allowance Scheme 2017/18 be made at the levels of 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 2, subject to an increase in the Dependent Carers Allowance to £7.50 per hour in line with the National Living Wage from April 2017.

It was duly seconded and on being put to the meeting was

RESOLVED: That the Members' Allowance Scheme 2017/18 be made at the levels of 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, subject to an increase in the Dependent Carers Allowance to £7.50 per hour in line with the National Living Wage from April 2017.

69 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION 2016/17

The Review of the Constitution 2016/17 was presented by the Director of Governance.

Councillor P G Heath expressed his thanks to the Director of Governance and his team for their work in producing the Review of the Constitution.

It was moved by Councillor P G Heath that the recommendations of the Governance Committee, including the amendment to item 21 of the delegations to the Head of Regeneration and Development (Council Function), with the addition of the changes circulated at the meeting to items 45 and 46 of the delegations to Head of Regeneration and Development (Council Function) be agreed as followed:

- (a) AMEND Council Function, Delegation to Head of Regeneration and Development - Item 21 (h) to now read: "(h) Powers to enter into planning obligations, to modify and discharge planning obligation and related powers."
- (b) DELETE Council Function, Delegation to Head of Regeneration and Development - Item 45 as follows:

	Column 1 Legislation	Column 2 Brief Description	Column 3 Conditions/Exclusions Limitations/Notes
72. 45	Section 16(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (c.9) as applied by section 74(3) of that Act	Power to determine applications for conservation area consent	

(c) AMEND Council Function, Delegation to Head of Regeneration and Development – Item 46 as follows:

	Column 1 Legislation	Column 2 Brief Description	Column 3 Conditions/Exclusions Limitations/Notes
46	Section 13(1) and 14(1) and (4) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and regulations 3 to 6 and 13 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990 (S.I. 1990/1519) and paragraphs 8,15 and 26 of Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions Circular 01/01 and The Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications – Notification to Historic England and National Amenity Societies and the Secretary of State (England) Direction 2015	Duties relating to applications for listed building consent and conservation area consent.	

It was duly seconded and

RESOLVED: (a) That that the proposed changes in the Review of the Constitution 2016, specifically relating to Part 3, Responsibility

for Functions, Section 1 (Responsibility for Local Choice Functions), Section 2 (Responsibility for Council Functions) and Section 6, Sub Section C (Scheme of Officer Delegations) that relate to Council functions be approved and incorporated into the Council's Constitution, issue no. 20.

- (b) That the proposed changes to items 21, 45 and 46 relating to Council functions in Part 3, Responsibility for Functions, Section 6, Sub Section C (Scheme of Officer Delegations) in respect of the delegations to the Head of Regeneration and Development be approved and incorporated into the Council's Constitution, issue no. 20.

70 URGENT BUSINESS TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor P A Watkins, made an announcement under urgent business that the Supreme Court had granted the Council the right to appeal the decision in respect of the Western Heights.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm