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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, 29 January 2020 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor M D Conolly

Councillors:

J S Back	D G Cronk	D P Murphy
T J Bartlett	D Hannent	O C de R Richardson
M Bates	J P Haste	J Rose
S H Beer	M J Holloway	C A Vinson
E A Biggs	S J Jones	R S Walkden
T A Bond	P D Jull	P Walker
P M Brivio	L A Keen	H M Williams
J P J Burman	N S Kenton	C F Woodgate
S S Chandler	S C Manion	C D Zosseder
N J Collor	K Mills	

Officers: Chief Executive
Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)
Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)
Solicitor to the Council
Democratic Services Manager

45 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D G Beaney and M Rose.

46 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C F Woodgate disclosed to the meeting that section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Council tax and community charges: restrictions on voting) applied to him and did not vote on any question with respect to the setting of the council tax,

48 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor M D Conolly, made the following announcements:

- (a) To congratulate Councillor M Bates on his successful election in the Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe by-election held on 12 December 2019.

- (b) That the Council would be holding a VE Day 75th Anniversary event at Dover Castle on 8 May 2020. The intention was to have 75 guests with invitations extended to veterans, town and parish council leaders and local dignitaries.
- (c) That he had been moved by the ceremonies in Poland to mark the liberation of Auschwitz. He stated that the Holocaust had been a stain on humanity and reminded Members of the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect.

49

LEADER'S TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) To thank council staff for their warm welcomes on the visits he had conducted to the various council departments since becoming Leader of the Council and state the respect he had for the staff.
- (b) That the Council had been nominated for Public Sector Business of the Year at the East Kent Apprenticeship Awards to be held on 5 February 2020. The Council had 15 apprentices across a range of services with 2 on higher level apprenticeships in accountancy and law. The Council had seen two former apprentices go on to find permanent employment with the Council and East Kent Services.
- (c) That Councillor D G Beaney had won the Young Councillor of the Year award at the 10th annual Councillor Achievement Awards.
- (d) To congratulate Councillor M Bates on his election at the Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe Ward by-election and welcome him to his first meeting.
- (e) To welcome the appointment of Rose Hudson-Wilkin at the Bishop of Dover.
- (f) To congratulate Natalie Elphicke on her election as the new Member of Parliament for Dover.
- (g) To advise that Dover District Council and Folkestone and Hythe District Council had received additional funding from a government initiative to help those rough sleeping out of homelessness.
- (h) That he had met with three local Members of Parliament to discuss support for the dualling of the A2 and the need for a lorry park. He would also be meeting with the Leader of Kent County Council to discuss Thanet Parkway and parking at Dover Priory station. He had met with Highways England to discuss the Lower Thames Crossing.
- (i) He supported the need for strategic infrastructure and had met with the Port of Dover.
- (j) That the preparations for The Open Golf were proceeding well and the issues of legacy and climate change impact had been considered.

- (k) That the launch of the Council's tourism strategy would be held on 2 April 2020.
- (l) That meetings with ward councillors and town and parish council's would be held to discuss Local Plan proposals.
- (m) That the Cabinet would be receiving the report on the options for East Kent Housing in February 2020.
- (n) The proposals for Maison Dieu and the importance of securing external funding to undertake needed works.
- (o) That the Climate Change Working Group had held its first meeting.
- (p) That he had visited the Dover Repair Café and had been impressed by the fantastic work undertaken by the group. He advised that a 'Big Fix' would be held on 15 February 2020.
- (q) That he had been interviewed by the BBC South East programme 'Inside Out' about the success of the co-innovation hub, which now had every unit filled, and how it was getting new businesses into the High Street in Dover.
- (r) The new Green Energy Grant that paid 50% of costs (up to £10,000) to assist small businesses that wanted to improve their energy efficiency.

The Leader of the Opposition Labour Group, Councillor K Mills, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) To welcome the Leader of the Council's comments concerning staff and the benefits of the council operating a proper apprenticeship scheme.
- (b) To agree with the need for more parking at Dover Priory station.
- (c) To ask if the Leader of the Council had raised the issue of redundancies on efficiency grounds that had been announced by Port of Dover.
- (d) To ask if the Leader of the Council could provide an update in respect of the charges at Kent County Council tip sites.
- (e) To welcome the news of a special needs school for Walmer.
- (f) To ask that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services, Councillor N S Kenton, circulate the climate action letter and response as promised at the previous meeting of the full Council.
- (g) To call for a meeting of the BREXIT Task Force.
- (h) To refer to scrutiny looking at the call-in of car parking proposals for Deal and highlight that the proposed free parking at Albany Place was not located in a good position for tourists to utilise. He acknowledged that rural area had different parking needs and suggested that parish council's could run rural car parks if the Council did not want to impose changes.

- (i) To ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health to provide an update to the Council on the serious maternity issues arising at East Kent Hospitals.
- (j) To state that while tenants were badly served by East Kent Housing he was concerned that the council had not heard from the Board that had been dismissed. He asked for updates to members as the matter progressed and emphasised the need for tenants to be involved in decisions going forward.
- (k) That concerns over the impact of fireworks on vulnerable people and animals needed to be addressed.

In response the Leader of the Council advised:

- (a) That he had met with the Port of Dover the day before the redundancies had been announced.
- (b) That he supported the services that the new school in Walmer brought to the district.
- (c) That he would ask the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services to circulate the climate action letter and response to Members.
- (d) That the consultation on car parking would look at options as part of the consultation.
- (e) That he would look to have an updated provided on maternity services as soon as he could.
- (f) To agree with the importance of tenants being involved in the future options for East Kent Housing.
- (g) That he would raise the issue of fireworks with the local Members of Parliament.

50 SEAT ALLOCATION AND GROUP APPOINTMENTS

Councillor T J Bartlett moved the following changes to Conservative Group appointments:

Committee	Change
Licensing Committee	M Bates (replaced M J Holloway)

RESOLVED: That the following changes to Conservative Group appointments be noted and agreed:

Committee	Change
Licensing Committee	M Bates (replaced M J Holloway)

51 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions on notice from Members of the public.

52 CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

The Council received the recommendation of the Cabinet made at its meeting held on 4 November 2019 that a climate change emergency be declared.

It was moved by Councillor T J Bartlett, and duly seconded by Councillor K Mills, that a climate change emergency be declared.

Councillor T J Bartlett advised that there was a lot of work to be undertaken but that the Council was undertaking a number of measures in response. The Council had formed a climate change working group and preparing a Climate Change Strategy with the intention of the council becoming a net zero carbon emitter by 2030 at the latest. The Council was also rolling out LED street lighting and looking to improve recycling at communal blocks.

It was noted that the Climate Change and Energy Conservation Officer had been nominated as a Heat Hero for her work in helping with tackling the issue of fuel poverty.

RESOLVED: That the Council declare a climate change emergency.

53 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2020-21

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) introduced the report on the Council Tax Base 2020-21. The attention of Members was drawn to the amended recommendations published in the supplementary paper.

It was moved by Councillor S C Manion, duly seconded by Councillor S S Chandler, and

- RESOLVED: (a) That for the financial year 2020/21, the empty homes discount for properties unoccupied and unfurnished remain at 0%, so that Council Tax will be payable in full on these properties.
- (b) That the District's Council Tax Base for 2020/21 as 39,029.75 and the tax base for the towns and parishes in the Council's administrative area be approved, as set out below:

Parish	2019/20 Tax Base - using collection rate	2020/21 Tax Base using collection rate
Alkham	310.13	304.27
Ash	1152.87	1161.21
Aylesham	1474.03	1568.81
Capel-Le-Ferne	659.24	673.96
Deal	6750.79	6828.29
Denton-with-Wootton	172.51	171.43
Dover	8198.33	8299.07
Eastry	816.95	817.26
Eythorne	792.44	802.60

Goodnestone	174.81	174.43
Great Mongeham	268.83	274.27
Guston	399.09	403.13
Hougham-Without	182.30	180.70
Langdon	236.07	242.80
Lydden	251.67	257.00
Nonington	295.01	295.03
Northbourne	269.95	270.56
Preston	366.78	380.46
Ringwould-with-Kingsdown	1021.39	1028.01
Ripple	149.51	148.49
River	1488.97	1496.74
St Margarets-at-Cliffe	1294.76	1303.78
Sandwich	1917.37	1940.37
Shepherdswell-with-Coldred	757.31	765.48
Sholden	736.36	736.50
Staple	232.27	232.89
Stourmouth	116.29	116.46
Sutton-by-Dover	303.62	304.77
Temple Ewell	651.17	662.04
Tilmanstone	154.16	156.52
Walmer	3337.77	3340.57
Whitfield	1972.43	2039.52
Wingham	677.85	685.90
Woodnesborough	465.57	479.01
Worth	477.66	487.42
Total	38,526.26	39,029.75

- (c) That the “Long Term Empty Premium” for properties that have been left empty and substantially unfurnished be determined as followed:
- (i) for periods of 2 but less than 5 years, a Long Term Empty Premium to be charged at 100%; and
 - (ii) for periods of 5 years or more a Long Term Empty Premium to be charged at 200%.

In accordance with the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 18.6 (voting on budget decisions) a recorded vote was held in respect of this item of business. The manner of the voting was as followed:

FOR (29)	AGAINST (0)	ABSTAIN (0)
J S Back		
T J Bartlett		
M Bates		
S H Beer		
E A Biggs		
T A Bond		
P M Brivio		
J P J Burman		
S S Chandler		

FOR (29)	AGAINST (0)	ABSTAIN (0)
N J Collor		
M D Conolly		
D G Cronk		
D Hannent		
J P Haste		
M J Holloway		
S J Jones		
P D Jull		
L A Keen		
N S Kenton		
S C Manion		
K Mills		
D P Murphy		
O C de R Richardson		
J Rose		
C A Vinson		
P Walker		
R S Walkden		
H M Williams		
C D Zosseder		

54 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2020/21

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) introduced the report on the Council Tax Support Scheme 2020-21.

It was moved by Councillor S C Manion, duly seconded by Councillor O C de R Richardson, and

RESOLVED: That the adoption of the revised Council Tax Support Scheme (including the Exceptional Hardship Scheme) as set out in this report as Option C be approved.

55 AMENDED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019-20

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report on the Amended Calendar of Meetings 2019-20.

It was moved by Councillor T J Bartlett, duly seconded by Councillor S S Chandler, and

RESOLVED: That the Calendar of Ordinary Meetings for 2019-20 be amended as set out in Appendix 1 of the report as followed:

Meeting	Old Date	New Date
Cabinet	2 March 2020	24 February 2020
Council	4 March 2020	26 February 2020

56 DRAFT CALENDAR OF ORDINARY MEETINGS 2020-21

The Democratic Services Manager presented the Draft Calendar of Ordinary Meetings 2020-21.

It was moved by Councillor T J Bartlett, duly seconded by Councillor P D Jull, and

RESOLVED: That the Draft Calendar of Ordinary Meetings for 2020-21 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved in principle subject to final ratification at the Annual Meeting of Council on 13 May 2020.

57 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2020-21

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the report on the Members Allowances Scheme 2020-21.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.4, six members present at the meeting required that a recorded vote be held.

It was moved by Councillor S C Manion, duly seconded by Councillor S S Chandler, and

RESOLVED: That the Members' Allowances Scheme be made at the levels set out in Appendix 2 of the report with effect from 1 April 2020, subject to the Dependants' Carers Allowance being increased to £8.72 per hour in line with the National Living Wage.

On being put to the vote, the manner of voting was as followed:

FOR (17)	AGAINST (12)	ABSTAIN (1)
J S Back	S H Beer	J P Haste
T J Bartlett	E A Biggs	
M Bates	P M Brivio	
T A Bond	J P J Burman	
S S Chandler	D G Cronk	
N J Collor	S J Jones	
M D Conolly	L A Keen	
D Hannent	K Mills	
M J Holloway	P Walker	
P D Jull	H M Williams	
N S Kenton	C F Woodgate	
S C Manion	C D Zosseder	
D P Murphy		
O C de R Richardson		
J Rose		
C A Vinson		
R S Walkden		

58 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 P Walker asked the Portfolio Holder for Community and Tourism, Councillor M J Holloway:

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Community and Tourism please update Members on what progress there has been on the District’s new Tourism Strategy?”

In response Councillor M J Holloway stated that this was a key strategic priority for the Council and at the heart of its regeneration and prosperity programmes. There had been significant progress on developing the District’s new Tourism Strategy and although it was still in the consultative phase of development it had already resulted in investment decisions being taken. The District’s draft growth strategy for tourism, titled “Destination White Cliffs Country” was published in November 2019 and key stakeholders had been further consulted on the document following this.

The Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee had welcomed the Strategy and as a result of its recommendations, as agreed by the Cabinet, indicators were being developed to better measure the Strategy’s impact. In particular, there would be numerical based targets introduced aimed at bringing Dover Town visitor satisfaction levels up to those of Deal and Sandwich. The strategy would be formally launched on 2 April 2020 at Dover Castle.

The district would also be hosting the 149th Open Golf Championship in July 2020 and in excess of 200,000 golfing enthusiasts were expected to visit the district over the course of the event. These would be actively targeted with the intention of them returning again as future visitors.

The Council was working on a new website which would also be launched on 2 April, 2020 which would use the latest techniques, be inter active and, enable prospective visitors to digitally visit and see some of the iconic landscape and heritage sites in real time. It would also provide a platform for businesses.

The new District’s Local Plan would also play a key part in ensuring the Tourism Strategy’s success through encouraging investment in the sector. The Council had seen an increase in enquiries from potential investors, in particular in hotel and hospitality. There was private sector interest in building a cable car in Dover which would stretch from the sea front and town centre to the Castle which would have a significant impact in respect of the destination development plan of Dover Town. Locally, strategic decisions by Shepherd Neame to upgrade their facilities throughout the District, and the building of a further Travelodge in the District had been made.

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

59 URGENT BUSINESS TIME

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

The meeting ended at 7.28 pm