

MINUTES

of

The Annual Town Meeting
of New Romney Town Council
held in the Assembly Rooms, Church Approach, New Romney
on Thursday 30th May 2019 commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful The Mayor

Councillor P D Thomas

Town Ward

Councillors: Rev Cn S McLachlan, Mrs B Lonbay Kapoor, J Phipps, J Rivers, A Rodriguez and D Wimble

Coast Ward

Councillors: P Coe, M Hardy, Miss J M Hiscock, Mrs P Metcalfe, Miss W Nevard, J D Picco, P D Thomas, R Tillson

In Attendance:

No Council Officers in attendance

Minutes of meeting taken by Janet Thomas

Members of the Public, including Recipients of Awards approx. 45

WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated the Council is currently operating with restricted Council Officers. He thanked Sue Hall and Councillors for covering the office.

The Mayor stated the meeting would take a new format in response to recent comments from the public.

Reference St Nicholas Church – Reverend John Richardson
There has been vandalism and theft from wall boxes in the church this week. Part of the church had been set on fire. While investigations are taking place the church will remain closed in the daytime, apart from planned services.

The Mayor asked all present to keep the meeting respectful.

PRAYERS

Reverend John Richardson opened the proceedings with prayers.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from:
Councillor Mrs P Rolfe for personal reasons: and
Kent County Councillor A Hills who was attending another
meeting.

It was:

PROPOSED BY: Sue Davies
SECONDED BY: Ellan Crooks

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the reasons for absence, as detailed above, be received and noted.

Councillors introduced themselves in turn.

2. MINUTES

It was

PROPOSED BY: Carolyn Wood-Brignall
SECONDED BY: Pam Meller

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 23rd April 2018 be received and approved.

Councillors M Hardy, Mrs B Lonbay Kapoor, Miss W Nevard and D Wimble abstained from voting as they had not been present at the meeting.

3. TO RECEIVE PRESENTATIONS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Mayor then invited representatives of local Community Groups to update Councillors and members of the public about their activities.

Organisations represented:

Rolfe Lane Residents Association	Patricia Rayner
Old School Trust	Pat Goodsell
New Romney Football Club	Tony Hunter
Annual Lantern Parade	Caroline Wire
Fifth Continent	Dawn Apcar

Janet Thomas, 1st New Romney Scout Group, then updated and thanked the whole community on the amazing success of the inter-generational, living history - Centenary Poppy Commemoration Project.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

A copy of the Annual Report had been previously circulated to Councillors and made available to members of the public at the meeting.

The Mayor apologised that it had not been possible to place the Annual Report on the Town Council website ahead of the Annual Town Meeting this year. This would be addressed for the next Annual Report.

The Mayor reported on the progress of the Community Hall and Sports Pavilion. The Contract had been approved on 28th March 2019; the Planning Application submitted and awaiting approval. The Costings were explained and the provision to cover these costs outlined.

Cllr Picco stated the costs included renovation of Seashells Nursery.

Cllr Lonbay Kapoor asked about the Timeline for Building. It was expected the new facility would be available for community use in 2021.

Attention drawn to the New Romney Socio Economic Plan, a 5 year rolling area plan, very comprehensive and user friendly.

A question was asked, by a member of the public, about the Barrier on the Coastal Car Park. It was reported that New Romney Town Council had sent a letter to Folkestone and Hythe District Council re position; restricted access and British Standards Compliance. The Mayor was meeting with Andy Blaszkowicz, - Assistant Director – Environment and Corporate Assets, on 18th June to understand concerns and resolve issues.

Policy and Plan Review Document – Planning Inspector, identified no provision has been made within the Folkestone/Hythe area for Traveller Sites and it does need to be included.

New Romney Town Council was asked if there are plans to limit access to St Martin's Field for Travellers. It was responded that

the Council recognised the Field is an asset to the Town and was currently working to resolve this issue.

A member of the public made a request to clarify the £4000 cost of maintaining St Martin's Field. The Mayor explained Councillors are Trustees of St Martin's Field, costs cover maintenance, pollarding trees and replacing bins.

A question was asked, by a member of the public, about the replacement of the bench which had been set on fire on St Martin's Field. There had been a crowd funding campaign and the Mayor agreed to contact those involved to clarify the situation.

A resident stated physical barriers were not always the best way to prevent incursions. It was stated Document – Additional PSVOs - August 2019 was the legal route for managing Traveller Incursions.

A resident asked if the Town Council had any plans to limit access to the area. The Mayor replied there would be a working group researching the most effective method.

There were no further questions arising.

5. REPORT OF KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Having received apologies from Kent County Councillor A Hills, there was no written report. The Mayor stated a comprehensive report had been received from Councillor Hills on a monthly basis.

6. REPORT OF FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(i) Councillor D Wimble

Councillor D Wimble's report was duly received and noted by those present.

(ii) Councillor P Rolfe

A report had not been received from Councillor Rolfe

7. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LIBRARIAN

A report had not been received from the Community Development Librarian.

8. REPORT OF THE KENT POLICE

A report had not been received from the Kent Police.

9. WRITTEN NOTICE OF RESOLUTIONS

- (i) That (i) New Romney Town Council should fund the supply, installation and on-cost in re-emptying of Dog Waste Bins outside Fairfield Road Recreation Ground in (a) Rolfe Lane and (b) Ashford Road.
That (ii) New Romney Town Council, with the help of its residents, identify strategic locations around the Town where litter bins should be provided for the benefit of residents and visitors to help keep the environment clear of litter and dog waste and to approach the District Council to request that bins be provided in these strategic locations and waste deposited in such bins be collected and disposed of by the District Council.***

***Proposed by Rolfe Lane Residents Association
Presented by Councillor John Rivers***

Councillor Picco stated this would be a matter for the Amenities Committee.

A discussion outlined various viewpoints including the need to educate people to place litter in bins; strategic areas where bins are needed and some councils encouraging people to take responsibility for litter by removing bins.

Resolution Part (i) – 18 residents in favour

Resolution Part (ii) – 22 residents in favour

- (ii) That New Romney Town Council does not purchase and install surveillance and audio equipment in the Council Chamber.***

Proposed by Councillor Wendy Nevard

A discussion noted several reasons for and against supporting the resolution. The cost of installation was mentioned; aspects of Health and Safety considered and the level of scrutiny at meetings.

A vote was taken among councillors – Not in favour of the resolution – 8

10. PRIDE OF NEW ROMNEY AWARDS

The winners of this year's Awards, who had been selected from all nominations received, were announced at the

meeting and received their respective Awards from the present Mayor. The winners were:

Eric Brown – Litter Picking Watch, Romney Marsh for outstanding service to the Community by an individual.

The 1st New Romney Scout Group for service to the Community by a local organisation.

Evan Maguire, A Star in Heaven, for outstanding bravery shown by a young person. Collected by his parents Phil and Rebecca Maguire.

The 'Mayoral Star' award winner, personally chosen by the Mayor, was presented to Charlie Davies - Littlestone Lifeboat Operations Manager and crew member for 46 years.

THANKS

The Mayor thanked everyone present for attending.

The meeting then concluded at 9.40pm

NB Copies of all reports and documents referred to within these Minutes are available for perusal by members of the Council and the public on request to the Town Clerk at the Town Hall

Minutes prepared by Janet Thomas