

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held at Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Monday 19 January 2009 at 9.10 pm following a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs P C Walshe –Town Mayor

Cllr P Allen	Cllr A Eyre
Cllr J G Brigden	Cllr R Hogarth
Cllr S Camp	Cllr J F London
Cllr J M Canet	Cllr R Parry
Cllr A C Clayton	Cllr R L Piper
Cllr Mrs M E Crabtree	Cllr S Raikes

(13)

In Attendance

Responsible Finance Officer
Committee Clerk
Press – 1

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs Dawson, Short and Towell

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs M Canet, as a member of the public, asked the Town Council to write to South Eastern Trains on behalf of rail travellers in Sevenoaks, protesting over the 8% fare rise at a time when seating capacities have been reduced by 12%. Mrs Canet said no reasonable explanation had been given for paying more for a worse service.

Councillors agreed with Mrs Canet's comments and offered to provide times of trains when reduced seating capacities were being applied.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to South Eastern Trains expressing the Town Council's dissatisfaction and concern over seating reduction and asking when it was intended to restore the service.

52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following disclosures of interest from Members in respect of items of business included on the agenda were received:-

Cllr Clayton declared a prejudicial interest in matters concerning South Eastern Railways as a season ticket holder and left the room during discussion of these matters.

Cllrs Brigden and Piper being Members of Sevenoaks District Council stated that they would reconsider matters to be discussed at this meeting at District level, taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at Sevenoaks District Council.

Cllr London declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Kent Police Authority, Kent County Council and Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Authority. He further declared an interest in any matters relating to the Stag: Community Arts Centre.

Cllr Parry declared a personal interest in all agenda items concerning Kent County Council.

Cllr Raikes declared a personal interest in any matters relating to South Eastern Railways and The Stag: Community Arts Centre.

53 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Sevenoaks Town Council held on 1 and 22 December 2008 were received and adopted.

54 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 8 and 22 December 2008 were received and adopted.

55 OPEN SPACES & LEISURE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces and Leisure Committee held on 8 December 2008 were received and adopted.

56 PRECEPT

On the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was RESOLVED that the precept for the financial year 2009/10 be £700,000 and that the Capital Programme for 2009/10 be approved. It was confirmed that the Council's contribution to the operating costs of the Stag complex would be met from revenue and capital reserves.

57 STAG: COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

It was RESOLVED that the Shadow Trustees of the Stag: Community Arts Centre be recognised as a Committee of the Town Council until such time as it becomes a registered charity and to delegate authority for it to operate within the Business Plan previously agreed by the Town Council.

58 TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

A note of the functions attended by the Town Mayor or her representative for November and December 2008 was received and noted subject to amendment. The Mayor offered her thanks to the Deputy Mayor and other councillors who had represented the Town Council when she was unable to attend.

59 CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

It was RESOLVED that :

- i) Cllr Andrew Eyre be appointed Chairman of Trustees for the Stag: Community Arts Centre.
- ii) Cllr Paul Allen be appointed Vice Chairman of Trustees for the Stag: Community Arts Centre.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED that :

- i) Cllr Simon Raikes be appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee.
- ii) Cllr Richard Parry be appointed Chairman of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee.
- iii) Cllr Paul Allen be appointed Chairman of the Personnel Committee.
- iv) Cllr Mrs Ann Dawson be appointed Vice Chairman of the Personnel Committee.

60 **PRESS RELEASE**

It was considered that the setting of the Town Council Precept would be appropriate for a press release and that a copy of the press release be circulated to all members of the Town Council.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

TOWN MAYOR