

## Sevenoaks Town Council

### Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 Council Chambers, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available to view on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/pD1dNkdcQ6U>

**Meeting Commenced: 7.43 p.m.**

**Meeting Concluded: 8.15 p.m.**

Cllr Rachel Parry, <b>Mayor</b>	Present	Cllr Claire Shea, <b>Deputy Mayor</b>	Present
Cllr Libby Ancrum	Present	Cllr Keith Bonin	Present
Cllr Nicholas Busvine	Apologies	Cllr Sue Camp	Apologies
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Present	Cllr Tony Clayton	Remote attendance
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Present	Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter	Present
Cllr Roderick Hogarth	Present	Cllr Lise Michaelides	Present
Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Absent	Cllr Richard Parry	Present
Cllr Robert Piper	Apologies	Cllr Simon Raikes	Apologies

**In Attendance:** Town Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer, Planning Committee Clerk

*Prior to the commencement of the Meeting the Town Clerk shared with Councillors the draft presentation for Sevenoaks in Bloom.*

#### **Representations received from Members of the Public:**

Cllr Richard Streatfeild, Kent County Councillor for Sevenoaks, provided the following brief update:

The most pertinent issue for the town council is the current situation with the buses.

*Bus use has not recovered from the pandemic, which makes many of the services uneconomic to run. The bus companies had some reserves from the pandemic grants to tide them over but unless service use reaches pre pandemic levels soon that money will have been exhausted by Christmas. Then at the start of July Kent put through the 2.2m cut of the supported services. The companies had issued 70 day notices on various services including school services in the middle of May to hedge against having to run loss making services for the whole of the academic year. They had hoped and expected KCC to retender most of the services. That has not happened. KCC and the bus companies are trying to work out how to replace the lost services.*

*I received twice as many letters as I have ever received before in a single week.*

*Other important decisions have included – on Adult Social Care a dynamic procurement proposal to save £1m. - the first meeting to reorganise Adult Social Care as it becomes one system with the health Service. It means that fewer separate services will coexist in the district. There will be a one stop shop where residents can access all services. It comes with an £8.4m saving so we will see how it works in practice in the months ahead*

*We are in the middle of another covid spike and that is having an impact on work force across the economy but especially in pinch points in health and social care and therefore on waiting lists into and out of hospitals.*

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*We had full council last week which took reports on the Local Transport Plan, The Ofsted inspection of children's services and the end of year performance report. The County's performance in the SEND education, still at red risk, stands in strong contrast to KCC children's services which are now rated outstanding by OFSTED.*

*Since we last met, I have also been elected on to the District Council. I join Cllrs McArthur and Mr and Mrs Cole in as those who represent District Wards and County Divisions. I hope that being a double hatter will bring mutual benefit. I will be on the development control committee at SDC.*

*Last week I had a Sevenoaks resident who goes to Judd School with me all week for work experience. I attended my first meeting as a trustee of West Heath School which was recently rated by Ofsted as outstanding. Lady Boswells School was also rated outstanding by OFSTED. These are great achievements by those institutions because the new OFSTED framework is delivering about half as many outstanding awards as it used to.*

*Since we last met, I've had meetings to further refine the 20mph scheme and active travel schemes for Sevenoaks.*

**230. Apologies for Absence** as shown at the beginning of the Minutes.

**231. Requests for Dispensations:** none received.

**232. Declarations of Interest:** none received.

**233. Minutes of the Meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

It was noted that the Civility & Respect Pledge Certificate had been received and was duly signed by the Mayor. It was also noted that the Town Clerk presented at a national NALC conference in the previous week relating to the launch of the Civility & Respect project.

**RESOLVED:** to accept and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 as a true record.

**234. Minutes of Committees**

Council was asked to consider and adopt the Minutes of Committees as follows.

**234.1 Planning Committee**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 as true records.

**234.2 Finance & General Purposes Committee**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 as a true record.

**234.3 Community Infrastructure Committee**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Community Infrastructure Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 as a true record.

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### 234.4 Youth Services Committee

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Services Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 as a true record.

### 234.5 Open Spaces and Leisure Committee

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces and Leisure Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 as a true record.

### 235. Annual Return for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

The Town Council received and noted the following minute of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and considered the recommendation to Council therein.

#### **128.4 Annual Return for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

*The Committee reviewed and confirmed the Accounting Statements 2021/22 and the supporting papers to be submitted to the External Auditors.*

*RESOLVED:*

- 1) That the Accounting Statements 2021/22, signed by the Responsible Finance Officer, be approved and signed by the Chairman of the Committee.*
- 2) That the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22, including the Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, and supporting papers for submission to the External Auditors, be RECOMMENDED to full Council for adoption; and*
- 3) That the approved accounts be made available for public inspection for 30 working days, from 9<sup>th</sup> June to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022*

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22, including the Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, and supporting papers for submission to the External Auditors, be approved and adopted

### 236. Mayor's Engagements

**RESOLVED:** To note and accept the reports relating to Mayoral activities:

- a) the functions attended by the Mayor or her representative to June 2022
- b) the forthcoming Civic Events being organised by the Mayor during 2022/23

### 237. Press Release

No Press Release to be issued.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting.

Signed .....

Mayor

Dated .....