

# **TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, 30th October, 2018**

At the meeting of the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council held at Civic Suite, Gibson Building, Kings Hill, West Malling on Tuesday, 30th October, 2018

**Present:** Her Worship the Mayor (Councillor Mrs P A Bates), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs J A Anderson), Cllr O C Baldock, Cllr M A C Balfour, Cllr Mrs S Bell, Cllr R P Betts, Cllr T Bishop, Cllr P F Bolt, Cllr J L Botten, Cllr Mrs B A Brown, Cllr T I B Cannon, Cllr D J Cure, Cllr R W Dalton, Cllr D A S Davis, Cllr M O Davis, Cllr Mrs T Dean, Cllr B T M Elks, Cllr Mrs M F Heslop, Cllr N J Heslop, Cllr S R J Jessel, Cllr D Keeley, Cllr D Keers, Cllr Mrs F A Kemp, Cllr R D Lancaster, Cllr D Lettington, Cllr Mrs S L Luck, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr P J Montague, Cllr Mrs A S Oakley, Cllr L J O'Toole, Cllr M Parry-Waller, Cllr S C Perry, Cllr H S Rogers, Cllr R V Roud, Cllr Miss J L Sergison, Cllr T B Shaw, Cllr Miss S O Shrubsole, Cllr A K Sullivan, Cllr M Taylor, Cllr Miss G E Thomas, Cllr F G Tombolis and Cllr T C Walker

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs S M Barker, M C Base, V M C Branson, M A Coffin, S M Hammond, M R Rhodes, C P Smith, Ms S V Spence and B W Walker

### **PART 1 - PUBLIC**

#### **C 18/67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

#### **C 18/68 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 31 July 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

#### **C 18/69 MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the proceedings of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 12 September 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**C 18/70 MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the proceedings of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 18 September 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**C 18/71 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that since the July meeting, she had visited many school fetes, plays and award presentations. Some memorable events included the Tonbridge Lions Diabetes Screening, Ightham Mote's Garden Party, the World War 1 event at Tonbridge Castle, TPS Global Logistics presentation of the Queen's Award and the Dragon Boat Race. She had also attended Kings Hill Rotary Club's Charity Beer, Cider and Music Festival, Liberty Property Trust's Heritage Open Day at the Control Tower, the launch of Music@Malling, the Young Cricket Leaders presentation at Lords Cricket Ground and a Trafalgar Day event at Wouldham School.

The Mayor commented on the successful Local Schools Debate in the Council Chamber on 12 October, involving 51 children. Future mayoral events included the Charity Night at the Oast Theatre on 22 January and the Quiz at Hadlow College on 9 February 2019.

The Mayor was then presented with a copy of the New Testament and Psalms by Mr Peter Turner of Gideons International.

**C 18/72 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 5.6**

No questions were received from members of the public pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 5.6.

**C 18/73 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 5.5**

No questions were received from Members pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 5.5.

**C 18/74 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Before updating Members on a range of activities since the July Council meeting, the Leader took the opportunity to welcome Steve and Carol Humphrey as observers of the proceedings prior to the former Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health receiving a presentation by the Mayor on behalf of the Council in recognition of his service.

Financial matters

The Leader referred to the previous day's Budget Statement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in which there were a number of tax and

spending announcements of relevance to local government. While the exact timing of the local government settlement was not clear, it appeared likely that the government would confirm the intention of the consultation on negative revenue support grant, in itself a temporary piece of good news for the Council. However, the future for New Homes Bonus was unknown together with the outcome of the Spending Review next year and Fairer Funding Review.

The Leader said that Members would be aware that the Kent and Medway authorities had been successful in bidding for the pilot of the business rates retention for 2018/19. The package available was divided two ways: one was a financial sustainability fund and for this authority should amount to a sum of around £800,000 as a one-off payment by the end of the fiscal year. This did not count towards the savings target but would provide an opportunity to invest.

The second pot was a Housing and Commercial Growth Fund to support investment in local economic initiatives. Kent Leaders had agreed that the funding would be distributed across Kent and Medway via three clusters: West Kent, North Kent (including Maidstone) and East Kent with Kent County Council being part of each cluster group.

The initial projection was that the West Kent cluster would receive funding in the region of £1,055,000. Based on current projections, this had now been revised upwards to circa £1,520,000 subject to ongoing performance in 2018/19. However, a final sum could not be confirmed until the end of the fiscal year.

Members were advised that the Kent Leaders had also agreed that the West Kent Partnership would receive and administer funding for the West Kent cluster. The outcome was that a number of projects would be supported across West Kent such as provision of support and advice to smaller businesses wishing to grow and expand.

Each West Kent authority additionally had its own allocation and, on the advice of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, it had been agreed to support a number of initiatives across the Borough. These included a grant scheme of up to £5,000 to independent shopkeepers to help renovate and improve their shop fronts, support for pop-up shops and creative start-ups and a Tourism Promotion Campaign for Malling, working with Visit Kent to develop a campaign to promote the tourism offer in the Malling area. At its next meeting, the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board would consider the arrangements for the Commercial Frontages Grant Scheme.

As reported to the Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board, the Kent and Medway Councils had made a bid for the second pilot of the Business Rate Retention in 2019/20. This time it was for 75% retention so the sums involved would be scaled down but the outcome of the bidding process was awaited.

### Local Plan

The Leader mentioned that the Local Plan was now out to consultation through the Regulation 19 process, the purpose of which was to inform

the Inspector at the Local Inquiry to be held next year. The consultation period had been extended by a week to 19 November having considered the request for an extension including from Parish Councils. The volume of work associated with the regulation 19 exercise was significant for the whole team and the Leader wished to place on record his appreciation for their professionalism in managing the exercise.

#### Waste Services Contract

Reference was made to the award of an eight-year contract for a new recycling and waste collection and street cleansing service to Urbaser Ltd. The Leader indicated that the new contract would begin on 1 March 2019 and realise an improved recycling service for the residents as well as enhanced street cleansing services. The Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board would give further consideration to the roll-out of the new service, including how best to get information to residents, at its meeting the following Monday.

#### Property management

The Leader was pleased to advise Members that the proposed sale of the Teen & Twenty site to Assura and the Tonbridge Medical Group was imminent. Work was expected to commence on site next month for the construction of a new state of the art medical centre by March 2020.

The six temporary accommodation flats purchased in Tonbridge town centre now had their first residents, giving the Borough Council the option for providing such accommodation. Preventing homelessness was an objective that officers worked very hard to achieve.

#### M26

The Leader reported that today he joined the leaders of Kent County Council, Sevenoaks District Council and the MPs for Sevenoaks and Tonbridge and Malling in making representations to the roads minister about the Highways England proposal for using the M26 to stack lorries if and when the channel ports were closed after Brexit. The meeting was helpful if not robust and the discussions with the representatives were ongoing.

#### New Director

The Leader was pleased to advise that an offer had been made for the appointment of a new Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health and the Chief Executive would make a formal announcement once the appointment had been confirmed.

#### Voluntary groups

The Leader indicated that the contribution of the various voluntary groups within the Borough was worthy of celebration. In that spirit, he was pleased to attend a recent celebration of volunteering held in the Borough and present certificates to a number of particularly dedicated volunteers. There were, he said, many unsung folk within the local communities who, day in, day out, played their part without fanfare or glory.

### Remembrance

Finally and by no means least, the Leader referred to the approach of Remembrance Sunday, this year being particularly significant as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War One was marked.

The Mayor would be attending services in Tonbridge and West Malling, the Deputy Mayor those in Aylesford and Kings Hill and Councillor Luker was representing the Mayor at a service to be held in Snodland. There were other services throughout the Borough that individual Members would attend. The Chief Executive and Leader would be attending services in Tonbridge and Aylesford and the Director of Finance and Transformation at West Malling.

In addition to the Remembrance Services taking place across the Borough, there would be the lighting of a beacon at Tonbridge Castle at 7pm.

#### **C 18/75      GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR GAMBLING**

Item LA 18/103 referred from Licensing and Appeals Committee minutes of 2 October 2018

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendations at Minute LA 18/103 be approved.

#### **C 18/76      REVISED STATUTORY INVESTMENT GUIDANCE AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL CODES OF PRACTICE**

Item CB 18/59 referred from Cabinet minutes of 10 October 2018

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendations at Minute CB 18/59 be approved.

#### **C 18/77      TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE AND MID-YEAR REVIEW 2018/19**

Item CB 18/60 referred from Cabinet minutes of 10 October 2018

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendations at Minute CB 18/60 be approved.

#### **C 18/78      SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

**RESOLVED:** That authority be given for the Common Seal of the Council to be affixed to any instrument to give effect to a decision of the Council incorporated into these Minutes and proceedings.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm