



## Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of

Westgate-On Sea

on Wednesday 17th April 2019

Held at

Westgate Community Centre, Lymington Road,  
Westgate-On-Sea, Kent CT8 8ES

Present	Cllrs Pennington (Chairperson), Cornford, Micallef, Nightingale, O'Connor, Page (Vice-chairperson), H Scott, M Scott	
Also in attendance	Mrs Gill Gray (Town Clerk), Theo Loyla and residents.	
2659	<b>Chairperson's Welcome</b> The Chairperson opened the meeting and gave the usual "housekeeping" instructions. The Chairperson advised that any recording or filming of the meeting should be declared. Theo Loyla was the compere for the meeting.	
2660	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b> There were apologies from Cllr King, Cllr Rolfe and Cllr Messenger (TDC).	
2661	<b>Minutes</b> It was proposed by Cllr O'Connor and seconded by Cllr Micallef and <b>RESOLVED</b> : that the minutes of the third assembly of the Westgate on Sea Town Meeting held on 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2018 were a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
2662	<b>Chairperson's Report</b> The Chairperson, Cllr Pennington reported on the Town Council achievements during the last year:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra bins installed around the Town.</li> <li>• Contact with Network Rail and Southeastern has resulted in refurbishment works and the replacement of one of the footbridges scheduled in the coming months.</li> <li>• Speedwatch initiative has been implemented. We now have a digital speed indicator to warn drivers of their speed.</li> <li>• Working with other organisations and groups staging successful events which bring visitors to the town and strengthen our community, like the Christmas Market and the Pancake Races. The Heritage Centre has played a key role in all the</li> </ul>	


	<p>events to commemorate the end of the First World War, and which continues to play an important part in the life of the town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress on transferring assets such as the Lymington Recreation Ground, together with the changing rooms, and the shelters on the seafront has been delayed but does continue.</li> <li>• The canopies over the shops in Station Road, an application for Government funds was refused at the end of last year and the Town Council hope to put forward a revised application in the coming months.</li> <li>• Town Council have managed, with help and support in the community, to get proposals to charge for parking in the main shopping area postponed but the Town Council shall need to remain vigilant to prevent them being revived.</li> <li>• Attending the planning inspectorate hearings on the draft local development plan.</li> <li>• Cllr Pennington added that going forward, preparations are well underway for two major events this coming year, namely Westgate in Bloom and Westgate Day.</li> <li>• Each of the Town Councillors is concentrating particularly on specific activities and Cllr Pennington thanked all of them for their efforts.</li> <li>• Thanks also to the Town Clerk and her assistant as well as the part-time cleansing team.</li> <li>• The Town Council kept the Precept increase to 1.8%.</li> </ul>	
2663	<p><b>Small Grants Scheme Recipients</b></p> <p>The following community organisations received assistance from the Small Grants Scheme during the financial year 1.04.18 to 31.03.19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanet Big Sing Community Choir</li> <li>• Westgate on Sea Lighting Committee</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Westgate Rainbows</li> <li>• Westgate on Sea Allotments Association</li> <li>• YouCan</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Westgate on Sea Scout Group</li> </ul> <p>The following community organisations attended the meeting to give thanks and explain how the funding had benefitted the community group or organisation</p> <p>Thanet Big Sing Community Choir – the funding was used to contribute to the costs of the venue and equipment for a Summer Concert for the Town, it was</p>	

	<p>well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by the community and visitors as well as the Choir.</p> <p>Westgate on Sea Lighting Committee – the funding was used to contribute to the costs of the two stages, Christmas tree and lights for the Westgate Christmas Lights Switch On.</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Westgate Rainbows – the funding was used to provide a badge book for each child as a resource for the new Rainbows programme</p> <p>Westgate on Sea Allotments Association – the funding was used to fund the materials for a new community shop that needed replacement, this has helped to promote community spirit on the allotment gardens site.</p> <p>YouCan sent apologies</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Westgate on Sea Scout Group – the funding was used to purchase a traditional canvas patrol tent to enable the whole group to go away.</p>	
2664	<p><b>Town Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Cornford – reported on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Participating in the Speedwatch initiative</b></li> <li>• <b>Chairing the HR Committee and the challenges that arise</b></li> <li>• <b>The review and additional policies that have been implemented this year, for example Volunteer Policy</b></li> <li>• <b>The cultural and valued change that has resulted in a united passion for the Town.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Cllr Micallef – reported on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Instigation and facilitation of the meetings with Network Rail and SE Rail to secure the improvements works scheduled for the train station to be carried out in 3 phases</b></li> <li>• <b>Responsible for the initial strategy for Westgate in Bloom 3-year plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Launched the Terracycle recycling scheme at the Town Council</b></li> <li>• <b>Commenced the production of knitted poppies ready for the next Remembrance Day display</b></li> <li>• <b>Liaised with Visit Thanet to raise the profile of the Town</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Cllr Nightingale – reported on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chairing the Events and Tourism Committee and holding community events such as the Beacon Lighting event and stewarding for the Pancake Races.</b></li> <li>• <b>Contacting Stagecoach to query services for</b></li> </ul>	

	<p>the Town.</p> <p><b>Cllr O'Connor – reported on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Successfully worked with the Town Clerk on implementing new finance software RBS Rialtas.</b></li> <li>• <b>Assisted and participated in the protests against the housing development proposed for Westgate</b></li> <li>• <b>Steward for the Town Council events</b></li> <li>• <b>Undertook Defib/CPR training</b></li> <li>• <b>Involved in the Saturday Surgeries that the Town Council has provided for the community</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Cllr Page – reported on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Member of F &amp; GP Committee and HR Committee.</b></li> <li>• <b>Volunteered for Speedwatch initiative</b></li> <li>• <b>Protested against the housing development and the proposed parking charges in the Town</b></li> <li>• <b>Instigated the idea for projects from the local schools and care homes for the Westgate Day event</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Cllr H Scott – reported on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provided the report and comments for the Town Council response on the Local Plan.</b></li> <li>• <b>Involved in the Saturday Surgeries that are provided by the Town Council</b></li> <li>• <b>Update on the Westgate Neighbourhood Plan</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Cllr M Scott - reported on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The additional noticeboard is now available on Lymington Road</b></li> <li>• <b>The Town Council meetings are now recorded on video</b></li> <li>• <b>The Saturday Surgeries were instigated and are now successfully being held each month at the Westgate library</b></li> <li>• <b>The Speedwatch initiative has now launched and there are volunteers being recruited to support and sustain the project</b></li> </ul>	
2665	<p><b>Public Discussion Forum</b></p> <p>The compere invited questions from the local community:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Speeding vehicles are a problem on Lymington Road, can this be added to the Speedwatch scheme and could sleeping policemen be incorporated to assist with the issues?</b></li> <li>• <b>The Speedwatch scheme operates directed by</b></li> </ul>	

	<p><b>Kent Police and Thanet Speedwatch; each road proposed has to have safety checks undertaken by the governing authorities. It is not always possible to include all roads, but the Town Council can process any requests to get a decision. Any proposed highway schemes have to be approved by KCC and funding sourced for each one.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an ongoing problem with anti-social behaviour in parts of the Town, can this be tackled?</li> <li>• <b>All instances of anti-social behaviour should be reported via 101 or emailed to Community Support Unit. The more evidence of incidents will add weight and provide an overview of any patterns developing in the community. You can also raise local issues with the Community Warden and PCSO.</b></li> <li>• The recently planted trees on the Green on Lymington Road were mown by TDC, can you ensure that any future planting is protected?</li> <li>• <b>Thanet District Council apologised for the oversight and assured us that the open spaces team are committed to replacing the trees as soon as possible. The next tree planting session will include more markers to identify the saplings until they are established.</b></li> <li>• The newly formed Planning Committee was welcomed and will be important for the future, the Thanet Local Plan and Westgate Neighbourhood Plan will shape the developments permitted in the community.</li> <li>• <b>The Planning Committee will be meeting every month to provide consultee comments to TDC for the planning applications in Westgate.</b></li> <li>• The proposed Sensory Garden as part of the Westgate in Bloom project, how and when is that planned to be completed?</li> <li>• <b>The proposed Sensory Garden at the green next to the Community Centre on Lymington Road will be consulted upon and will need to be designed, it is scheduled to be commenced in 2 years.</b></li> <li>• The new bins are welcomed that the Town Council has provided, are there plans for others on the seafront?</li> </ul>	
--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There are no immediate plans for additional bins to be purchased and installed.</b></li> <li>• It was acknowledged that in future the Agenda will reflect that local residents are welcome to attend and will not be restricted to just electors of Westgate.</li> </ul> <p>The residents were invited to provide feedback at the meeting and the comments were collated and shared with Members.</p>	
2666	<b>Meeting continued with buffet and refreshments</b>	

Signed  .....

Chairperson of the Council

Dated 22nd April 2020 .....