



**Minutes of the Full Council of
Westgate-on-Sea Town Council held in Town Council Office
78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RF
on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7.00pm**

Present	Cllrs Donaldson (Chair), D'Abbro (part to 7.20 pm - unwell), King, Scott, Thomason (part from 7.50 pm) and Wallin	
Also, in attendance	Trish Hamilton (Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and 14 residents.	
2024/FC/14	<p>Emergency Evacuation Procedure</p> <p>RESOLVED with the Chair advising the meeting of the evacuation procedures to follow in the event of an emergency.</p>	
2024/FC/15	<p>To receive and accept apologies and reasons for absence.</p> <p>RESOLVED with apologies and reasons accepted from Cllrs Thomason (who will arrive late due to work commitments) Fenning and Mulyina (both absent due to work commitments) and Veck (Vice-Chair) (absent as recovering from a minor operation). Jason Gordon (Kent Community Warden) also sent apologies as he has flu and is mindful of safeguarding others.</p>	
2024/FC/16	<p>Members' Declarations of Interest</p> <p>RESOLVED with no interests declared.</p>	
2024/FC/17	<p>Minutes</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Wallin, seconded by Cllr King, carried, and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council held on 23rd January 2024 be signed and approved as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
2024/FC/18	<p>TO CONSIDER UPDATES FROM PARTNERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY</p> <p>(i) COMMUNITY WARDEN JASON GORDON AND POLICE CONSTABLE STEVE ENGLAND to report on issues affecting Westgate-on-Sea.</p> <p>(ii) COUNTY AND THANET DISTRICT WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: Kent County Council (KCC) and / or Thanet District Councillors (TDC) to report on issues affecting Westgate-on-Sea.</p> <p>RESOLVED with no reports available due to the Community Warden's flu and Kent Police shift requirements noting both parties continue to work very hard on issues affecting the community.</p>	
2024/FC/19	<p>COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: Westgate-on-Sea Town Councillors to report on any matters dealt with since last meeting, if appropriate.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Donaldson (Chair) updated the Council on issues related to the Dane Valley Depot which is alleged to have reached its capacity of 60 tonnes. This means it is not licenced at present to take green waste from WoS TC as a third party. To resolve the current problem, Mike Wiseman (Westgate Lovelies) has helped remove the waste (with WoS TC thanks). Cllr Donaldson will be attending Thanet District Council's Budget Meeting this week to ensure that residents of WoS TC's needs are met. Cllr Donaldson has also written the first paper towards the acquisition of the Community Centre. An impasse regarding the lease needs addressing by WoS TC and TDC.</p> <p>Cllr King shared concerns about anti-social parking on dropped kerbs which hinders disabled access. He would like to see a list of all the drop kerbs in WoS collated and a discussion ensuing on how to educate the public and / or enforce. Cllr King asked for the TDC Officer's details to invite them to visit and see the problem for themselves.</p> <p>Cllr Scott explained his absence from meetings [work career progression]. Cllr. Scott continues to work hard as a Thanet District Councillor on matters brought to his attention by residents. Some of the current issues he is working on include flying tipping at Station Road, beach huts etc. He reminded all present that the parking review ends on 3rd March 2024, [Westgate-on-Sea currently has one-hour free parking] advising that it was essential people commented. Cllr. Scott is also trying to resolve the lack of lighting at Elm Grove</p> <p>Cllr Wallin remains concerned about the lack of lighting at Elm Grove and associated safety concerns. He felt Kent Police and Kent Highways needed to be alerted as to the poor condition of the dangerous road. Cllr Wallin also shared Roger Gayles MP's opposition to development on farmland. Cllr Wallin will oversee the flag raising on St. David's Day (1st March), St. Patrick's Day (17th March) and St. George's Day (23rd April).</p> <p>RESOLVED with the reports noted.</p>	
2024/FC/20	<p>FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE: To note the contents of the Council's Precept Return.</p> <p>RESOLVED with the information noted on what was described as a "Progressive Budget" by Cllr. King due to the Council's commitment to supporting the acquisition of the Community Centre and the Library, and allocating £10k towards the Children's Play Area and Adult Exercise Project.</p> <p>To explain the Precept, based on the tax base of 2554.50 the Town Council Precept Requirement for the financial year 2024 / 2025 will be £209,213.55 resulting in a Council Tax Charge of £81.90 in total for the year or £1.58 per week for Westgate-on-Sea Ratepayers.</p>	
2024/FC/21	<p>WESTGATE AND GARLINGE ACTION GROUP AGAINST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (WAGAGAHD): Members to update WAGAGAHD / Public on the outcome of the commissioning and procurement process and subsequent appointment of a Property Development Consultant.</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED with the Council confirming that after interviewing three, Alison Eardley MSC in Urban and Rural Planning with Distinction, BSc (Hons), AssocRTPI was chosen as the Town Council's Property Development Consultant.</p>	
2024/FC/22	<p>TO CONSIDER UPDATE ON THE WORK OF WESTGATE LOVELIES led by Mr Mike Wiseman (10 minutes includes Members' questions)</p> <p>RESOLVED with the report noted. Copies are available from Mr Wiseman and through the Council. The Town Council placed its thanks on public record to Mr Wiseman and the Westgate Lovelies Team for the obvious hard work and commitment to preserving and improving Westgate-on-Sea.</p>	
2024/FC/23	<p>TO CONSIDER UPDATE ON THE WORK OF BETHANYS SANDWICH BAR AND CAFÉ' IN THE COMMUNITY led by [owners] Clare and Steven Barnes (10 minutes includes Members' questions)</p> <p>RESOLVED with the item deferred due to family illness preventing the speakers from attending.</p>	
2024/FC/24	<p>PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK: The meeting will be adjourned for a maximum of 15 minutes to allow for member of the public from Westgate-on-Sea to speak and address the Council. The public right to speak includes non-residents with Westgate-on-Sea residents having priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about sustainable drainage systems which were answered through the Chair. • Westgate-on-Sea is classified as a flood risk area. This matter of public importance will be looked in more detail at by the Town Council going forward. <p>RESOLVED with the representations and actions noted.</p>	
2024/FC/25	<p>CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AND OUTDOOR ADULT EXERCISE GYM: To agree action plan to progress the Children's Play Area and Adult Exercise Gym in Westgate-on-Sea.</p> <p>RESOLVED with Cllr Veck's (Vice-Chair) work on the Business Plan noted. To progress this, Cllr. Donaldson (Chair) will meet with Thanet District Council this week. Commissioning and procurement will follow alongside the required consultation. A discussion on whether this could be done more cheaply in -house ensued alongside information sharing on the pros and cons of Survey Monkey.</p>	
2024/FC/26	<p>GOVERNANCE AND LEGALITIES: To share Notice of Election and direct interested parties to the Nomination Papers for the current Vacancy of Westgate-on-Sea Town Councillor.</p> <p>RESOLVED with the information noted.</p>	
2024/FC/27	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7 pm</p>	

2024/FC/28	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</p> <p>It was moved by Cllr Wallin, seconded by Cllr Donaldson, carried, and RESOLVED that the Council pass a resolution to exclude the Press and Public from the remainder of the meeting pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, during consideration of the following items:</p> <p>(i) To consider legal advice It was moved by Cllr. Donaldson, seconded by Cllr. Veck, carried and RESOLVED that the advice be noted and decisions arising agreed.</p> <p>(ii) To consider operational matters and administration It was moved by Cllr. Donaldson, seconded by Cllr. Veck, carried and RESOLVED that the Town Clerk’s update be noted.</p> <p>(iii) To consider tenders to improve IT and Communications systems where it was moved by Cllr. Donaldson, seconded by Cllr. Thomason, carried and RESOLVED to agree a contract with the chosen provider under the terms specified.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed to the public at 8.15 pm. Meeting ended at 9.50 pm.</p>	

Signed..... Dated.....
Chair of the Council