MINUTES OF THE MARGATE CHARTER TRUSTEES HELD

11TH SEPTEMBER 2023

**PRESENT**: Cllr Rob Yates (chair) Cllr John Edwards, Cllr Heather Keen, Cllr Harry Scobie,

Cllr Marc Rattigan, Cllr Barry Manners, Cllr Katie Pope, Cllr Alan Currie, Cllr Martin Boyd.

Also Present: Ingrid Spencer, Clerk

**MINUTE 18** **Apologies**:

Cllr John Worrow, Cllr John Dennis, Cllr Ruth Duckworth, Cllr Helen Whitehead, Cllr Leo Britcher, Cllr Jack Packman

**No Apologies:**

Cllr Cedric Towning, Cllr Ellysa D’Abbro.

**MINUTE 19** **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Marc Rattigan declared an interest in the Premises Report

**MINUTE 20 Minutes of Meetings held 26th June 2023 and Extraordinary Meeting of 17th July 2023.**

The minutes of the meetings held 26ht June and 17th July 2023 (previously circulated) were accepted.

Proposed: Cllr Harry Scobie

Seconded: Cllr Alan Currie

Passed nem con

**MINUTE 21 Mayor’s Report**

1. The Mayor reported on a successful Community Awards held in August, and an interesting Princes’ Trust event. The Mayor attended the Margate School graduation ceremony on Saturday where 13 students graduated.
2. A condition survey commissioned by TDC of the Old Town Hall will be completed in the very near future. There is a possibility of the CT’s moving back into the OTH. The Mayor will bring the matter back to the CT’s, possibly by the next meeting.
3. Mama to mama are looking to co-host a fund-raising event in the new year with the CT’s. Cllr Keen asked whether the other Thanet Towns should be approached to contribute. It was agreed they should be approached. The Mayor agreed to forward the power point presentation on the work of mama to mama to all CT’s.
4. The presentation to Arnold Schwartzman of Honorary Freeman of Margate has all been organised and the invitations sent. The Mayor and mace-bearer will be in ceremonial attire but Charter Trustees do not have to robed.
5. A request to make past Mayor Roy Ovenden a Burgess of Margate has been received from past Mayor Gordon Burley. A discussion on granting awards was inconclusive and any decision was deferred until next February.
6. A request to take over both the museum and OTH to house a collection of taxidermy had been received. The report was noted. It was agreed the report would be circulated to all CT’s.
7. The CT’s had been asked to support a proposal for 2 loading bays at Sandpiper Court. Cllr Rob Yates, as ward councillor, agreed to take the matter up with the JTB.
8. The Mayor gave an update on the CGR. The boundary update should be completed by next February following which TDC will carry out a CGR.
9. The Mayor gave a brief update on the Margate Town Deal Board. The board is being amalgamated with the Levelling Up fund and Ramsgate Town Deal to form a ‘mega’ board. The Leader of TDC, Cllr Rick Everitt will be on the board and there is a position for a Charter Trustee. The Mayor agreed to circulate information to all CT’s and either bring to the next scheduled meeting on 6th November, or, if the new board is due to meet before that date, to call and Extraordinary meeting to choose a representative.

**MINUTE 22 Office and Finance Report**

1. The cash book and trial balance (previously circulated) were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Marc Rattigan

Seconded: Cllr Heather Keen

Passed nem con

1. Insurance. A request for information on the valuation and storage of the regalia has been received. Whilst two or the three questions could be answered, the safe storage was dependant on the safe/vault position
2. A £15k budget had been approved to upgrade the vault on the ground floor of the Media Centre to store the regalia. A quote of £10225 + VAT to refurbish the vault door and to install a new high security safe within the vault was approved. The safe could be removed to new premises in the event of the CT’s moving.
3. Cllr Marc Rattigan left the meeting whilst premises matters were discussed. After 20 months the lift is now working although it is illegal to travel in the lift until a maintenance contract is in place. In September 2022, the Charter Trustees approved the inspection and subsequent replacement of the fire extinguishers throughout the main body of the building. Due to uncertainty of tenure at the time, no contract for inspection/maintenance had been taken out. The CT’s agreed the equipment should be checked.

Cllr Marc Rattigan returned to the meeting.

1. The flagpole is due for it’s maintenance and this year there are a number of items need replacing. The total cost exceed the budget figure and it was approved monies should be vired over from another cost centre.
2. The Clerk updated the CT’s on a potentially serious VAT situation that could adversely affect both the Mayor’s funds receipts and the Blessing of the Seas. A case could be argued for the BOS as it is not a Charter Trustee fund-raising event but a Civic event which could classified as part of the CT’s business. The Clerk would report back.
3. The Clerk raised the problems experienced with TDC in respect of three areas; the difficulty in obtaining a printing account with TDC; paying for suspension of parking bays when TDC does not enforce the suspension thereby wasting public money, and the difficulty in recovering the deposit of £250 paid for events as no information is provided by TDC on how to make application. The Mayor stated he had discussed this latter point with TDC finance.
4. It was agreed Saunders should be asked to re-connect the power supply to the access box on the OTH to enable a Christmas Tree and the tree lights to be switched on for Christmas. The Mayor updated the CT’s on a Xmas event that Wildes would be holding in the Old Town which would be held on the same day that Cllr Packman would holding an event in Cecil Square.

**MINUTE 23 Mayor’s Fund Applications.**

The balance on the Mayor’s Fund stands as just over £600.

1. East Kent Football (previously circulated) request £500. Approved
2. The Perfect Place to Eat (previously circulated) request £500. The CT’s would like to support this application when funds permit.
3. Rotary Club art for all 2024. Request £500. The CT’s supported this application last year. They will give consideration to supporting when funds permit
4. Lucy Gray. Has been informed that having received £500 in October 2022, no further funding would be considered until after October 2023. She has requested that her application be again tabled after that date.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.30pm.