**MINUTES OF THE CHARTER TRUSTEE MEETING**

**HELD 18TH NOVEMBER 2024**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Jack Packman; Cllr Katie Pope; Cllr Harry Scobie: Cllr Heather Keen: Cllr Marc Rattigan; Cllr John Edwards: Cllr Rob Yates: Cllr Leo Britcher; Cllr Alan Currie.

**MINUTE 12 APOLOGIES** Received from Cllr Helen Whitehead and Cllr Martin Boyd

**NO APOLOGIES** Cllr Ruth Duckworth., Cllr Elysa D’Abbro: Cllr John Denis: Cllr Barry Manners: Cllr Cedric Towning: Cllr John Worrow.

**MINUTE 13 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Rob Yates declared an interest in Item 6; Cllr Harry Scobie in application from 1st Garlinge Scouts; Cllr Marc Rattigan application from Dreamland Trust.

**MINUTE 14 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 16TH SEPTEMBER & MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the 16th September were approved

Proposed Acceptance: Cllr Harry Scobie

Seconded: Cllr Marc Rattigan

Passed nem con

**MINUTE 15 MAYOR’S REPORT**

1. The updated engagement list had been sent to members.

The Mayor stated he has been very busy, attending more local events.

1. The Installation of the Lord Warden took place on 29th October and was attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr’s Keen and Edwards and the Hon Town Clerk, as witnesses. Guests included The Mayoress, Burgess & Mrs Mick Tomlinson, Burgess Iris Johnston, The Deputy Town Mayoress and Mrs Caroline Friday. The Lord Warden visited Margate the following day as was given a conducted tour of the Turner Contemporary, followed by lunch at the Collina, and a fascinating visit to the Crab Museum.
2. The Cadet banner has been received and a Blessing will be arranged at St John’s church. All Charter Trustees will be invited.
3. The Mayor has been notified that TDC intends launching the Margate Town Council CGR on 29th April 2025. The process is anticipated to take eight months with an interim Town Council being formed on 1st April 2026. The Mayor will request TDC put this date in writing. Members are keen to capitalise on the earlier petition and the 1800 TDC verified voters. All social media forms should be utilised to aid the promotion of the CGR. The Charter Trustees have the email addresses of all on the e-petition for contact.
4. Cllr Rob Yates gave an update on the Margate Town Deal projects; Harold Road Garage site ; the Creative Land Trust which has received £6m from the Town Deal to develop the site. Theatre Royal was unsuccessful in its Heritage Lottery Bid and has submitted a National Lottery bid. Walpole Bay tidal pool – the lift repair is going well; The Skatepark, TDC will project manage. The CT’s suggested banners should be placed at the skatepark announcing exciting news in the near future. The Winter Gardens, Cllr Yates could not expand but there should be an announcement in the next few weeks. Levelling Up fund. The Margate Digital EK College sited in the former M & S building is due to open in September 2025. The date of the next board meeting is 13th December.
5. Pedestrianisation of the High Street should be investigated with gates at top and bottom of the High Street.
6. There will be a lot happening in Margate on 30th November: Tracey Emin has an event; Roxy has stalls in the Old Town; Christmas trees along the top of the High Street and one in the Piazza. And there will be a major event at the top of the High Street and the Centre with performers, bands, mummy Christmas, and stalls. Time 11.00am to 5.00pm

**MINUTE 16 OFFICE & FINANCE REPORT**

1. The Cash Book and Trial Balance (Previously circulated) were approved

Proposed acceptance: Cllr Leo Britcher

Seconded: Cllr Marc Rattigan

Passed nem con

ii. Interim Auditor’s Report, previously circulated.

Cllr John Edwards raised the auditor’s comment on p4 of the report in respect of minuting the annual precept. The Clerk was able to prove that under minute 33 of the 22nd January 2024, the precept figure had been properly recorded.

Cllr Edwards also drew attention to the auditor’s comments on page 3 of the report, final paragraph, regarding authorisation of payments. The Clerk updated the Charter Trustees on the conversation held with the auditor who recommended that a list of payments be produced which would require signing-off by (the Deputy Mayor) and a copy of the list kept. Similarly, the bank reconciliation should be signed off the same way.

The Clerk to contact the auditor in respect of the precept.

Cllr Keen, raised the matter of investing part of the Reserves in an interest bearing account. Whilst enquiries had been made earlier, the interest rates available were paltry. The Clerk agreed to research accounts again.

iii. An updated schedule of variances was produced. There has been expenditure incurred outside of the budget process but the Charter Trustees are on track to remain within the set budget figure.

Cllr Harry Scobie requested that, given the distinct possibility of a Town Council for Margate, in order to avoid a massive increase in year one of said Council, that in the budget for 2025-2026, figures showing a precept rise of 5%, 10% and 15% increase should be made available in January 2025. Given that the precept figure for the current year is £11.15 per annum, a 10% rise would take this to £12.30 *per annum.*

iv. A present the CT’s pension scheme with Kent Pension Fund does not have any members in the scheme. The Clerk requested a revised actuarial quote for the CT’s new employee but this would cost £900. The option would be to continue paying the 29.8% set at the last valuation. A new valuation across the scheme would be due to take effect in 2027.

The Charter Trustees requested a quote for exiting the scheme.

v. The Charter Trustees’ approval was sought to include ‘Cinque Port Coronation Baron’ Cllr Heather Keen, on our Honours Board. Approved.

vi. Approval was sought for the annual Xmas honorarium payment to Lola Christopher who cleans our offices and assist on Remembrance Sunday. Approved.

1. Consideration should be given to recording future Mayoresses.

**MINUTE 17 ACCOMMODATION**

TDC has requested a meeting with the Mayor and Clerk, with Andreea Plant, Bob Porter, Natalie Beldin regarding the possible return of the Charter Trustees to the Old Town Hall. They intend sharing the latest information on the required works and the outcome of surveys. The Charter Trustees have been asked to make a decision as soon as possible but it was agreed that without the above information, no decision could be made. It was suggested that the Creative Land Trust may be interested in the property.

**MINUTE 18 APPLICATIONS TO THE MAYOR’S FUND**

Currently £3331 in the fund.

1. Community Kindness Thanet (the Mayor declared an interest) Approved £500
2. Margate Radio Not Approved
3. Age Uk More information required
4. 1st Garlinge Scouts. The Mayor to contact Cllr Ruth Duckworth as this is council property.
5. 2nd RAMS scout group Approved £500
6. Police Panto Not Approved
7. Dreamland Heritage Trust Not Approved
8. PEJ Not Approved
9. Margate Sea Cadets Approved £500
10. Stak Life Approved £250

Cllr Rattigan offered to match fund the Charter Trustee’s grant

1. Charlie Social Approved £500
2. Community Creative Studios Approved £500
3. Oasis Not Approved

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.00pm.

London Tavern for next meeting