**MINUTES OF THE CHARTER TRUSTEE MEETING HELD**

**26TH JUNE 2023**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Rob Yates (Chair)., Cllr John Edwards., Cllr Heather Keen., Cllr Martin Boyd.,

 Cllr Jack Packman., Cllr Leo Britcher.

**MINUTE 8 Apologies:**

 Cllr D’Abbro., Cllr Whitehead., Cllr Currie., Cllr Dennis., Cllr Worrow., Cllr Pope., Cllr Scobie.

 **No Apologies:**

 Cllr Marc Rattigan., Cllr Cedric Towning., Cllr Barry Manners., Cllr Ruth Duckworth

 Also in attendance: Clerk Ingrid Spencer

**MINUTE 9** **Declarations of Interest**

 None received

**MINUTE 10** **Minutes of meeting held 15th May 2023**

 The minutes of the meeting of 15th May (previously circulated) were accepted. There were no matters arising.

 Proposed acceptance: Cllr Britcher

 Seconded: Cllr J. Edwards

 Passed nem con

**MINUTE 11 Mayor’s Report**

 The Mayor’s video covering his first few weeks as Mayor has been posted on our face- book page and has been well received.

 Sundowners. Dan Thompson has some unusual prizes, and we have a selection of prizes in the office for the raffle.

 Margate Mayor’s Community Award. A date of 19th August has been agreed with the Sunken Gardens Society to hold the first of what is hoped will become an annual event**.** Clayspace will be making the awards. It is hoped Rotary will give us loan of its Marquee; security and ist Aid provision will be required as will portaloos and bins. TDC seem amenable to reducing the usual 14 week consultation period especially as no road closures etc will be necessary.

 To fund this event, it was proposed that £2,00 be vired from the coronation budget under- spend.

 Proposed virement Cllr Heather Keen

 Seconded: Cllr Leo Britcher

 Passed nem con.

 Safe/Vault

 On Friday 30th, an engineer will be visiting the premises to advise on options available to the Charter Trustees to safeguard the chains and mace in the absence of access to the vault in the OTH.

 Restoration/Conservation of the Charter

 The Mayor and Clerk will attend Lovelys on Thursday to discuss how to conserve and hopefully display the Charter discovered in the loft in the OTH. It is in a sorry state and falls within the remit of the Charter Trustees to arrange for its restoration, without affecting its integrity.

 Map of Thanet

 The Mayor has viewed a large A2 size map of Thanet which he would like to purchase and display (possibly in the Mayor’s Parlour). Cost £12. The Charter Trustees approved.

 Mayoress Chain

 The Mayoress’s chain is now ’full’, ie, there is no space to add any further names. The options are to cease recording the Mayoress, to add additional links (15ct gold) or to look at alternative ways of recording mayoress/consorts. Agreed there should be ongoing discussions to decide the way forward.

 Art Venue

 It was agreed Louise Fitzjohn of East Kent Artists Open Houses should be invited to the Mayor’s Parlour to see whether it be suitable to host the above in October.

 Honours Boards

 Finally, the honours boards have been collected for updating and should be returned to the office in the near future.

**MINUTE 12 Community Governance Review**

 The Mayor had worked with the team in the electoral department to verify the signatures collected in support of a CGR. Some 1600 valid (out of 2300) signatures had been verified. Following discussion with N. Hughes at TDC, the Leader of the Council’s approval for TDC to carry out a CGR was sought. The number of signatures adds weight and gives optimism for public engagement in the process this time round. The proposal was discussed at last weeks’ cabinet and a report will go to full council in October. However, a Boundary review is overdue and should be completed within the next twelve months with a CGR following on from the review outcome. This could result in a Town Council for Margate being formed on 1st April 2025. The existing Charter Trustees would become the first Councillors for the new Town Council as elections would take place inline with the District Council cycle ie 2027.

**MINUTE 13** **Sea Front Lighting**

 The Mayor met with Saunders to discuss alternatives to the red, white and blue lights installed for the Queens Jubilee. Comments had been received regarding an increase in feelings of safety due to the enhanced level of brightness whilst the festoon lights were up, although there had been some negative comments stating the lights were too bright. During discussion, it was agreed to trial two alternatives: 18w lamps around the Piazza whilst replacing the R/W/B lamps along the sea front with 7.5watt LED lights; installing LED’s would save on running costs. Alternatively, all lamps could be replaced with 7.5 watt LEDs. TDC had been consulted and approved. The Mayor was keen to obtain public opinion on the options.

 The cost of replacing all with LED’s but increase the Piazza to 18watts would be £543.44 with £99.54 required per lamp holder to convert Pl Lamp to ES but only if required as most had already been replaced.

 Proposed acceptance: Cllr Martin Boyd

 Seconded Cllr Jack Packman

 Passed nem con.

**MINUTE 14 Staffing**

 The Mayor’s Chauffeur has resigned, and the position of Town Sergeant/Chauffeur has gone back out to advert. Position being advertised on Indeed.com; Total Jobs; Kent Jobs and Reed. The advert will also be posted on our face-book page and website.

 The Mayor is reviewing the Clerks’ temporary contract.

 The Mayor suggested meeting with the Past Mayor Cllr Heather Keen and Deputy Mayor Cllr John Edwards to discuss staffing.

 The Mayor asked if any CT knew of someone who would be interested in the TS/Chauffeur position to please let the office know.

**MINUTE 15 Office and Finance Report**

 The Cash book and trial balance to 31st May (previously circulated) were approved.

 Proposed acceptance;| Cllr Leo Britcher

 Seconded Cllr Jack Packman

 Passed nem con

**MINUTE 16 Approval of Executive Action**

 Two grants from the Mayor’s Charity Fund had been approved:

 £250 to NBE Fitness and

 £250 to Cliftonville Cultural Space

**MINUTE 17 Applications to the Mayor’s Charity Fund**

 Two applications had been received:

 Margate Black Pride requesting £500 (The total cost of the project) and

 Kitchen Social requesting £500. Kitchen Social had been awarded £500 on 22.10.22 and was not eligible to apply for further grant aid for 12 months.

 As our funds are very low with just £50 in the account, the Charter Trustees agreed to pre- approve £250 to Margate Black Pride.

The Mayor reminded CT’s of the importance that at least 11 Charter Trustees attend the extraordinary meeting on 17th July to discuss creating a freeman of Margate.

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