**MINUTES OF THE CHARTER TRUSTEE MEETING**

**HELD MONDAY 30TH JANUARY 2023 7.00PM**

PRESENT: Cllr Heather Keen (Chair) Cllr Rob Yates, Cllr Mick Tomlinson, Cllr Harry Scobie, Cllr Alan Currie, Cllr David Wallin, Cllr Kerry Boyd.

MINUTE 21: APOLOGIES

Cllr Candy Gregory, Cllr Horace Shrubb, Cllr Helen Whitehead, Cllr Ruth Duckworth

NO APOLOGIES

Cllr Ash Ashbee, Cllr John Dennis, Cllr Pauline Farrance, Cllr Charlie Leys, Cllr Linda Potts, Cllr Cedric Towning

MINUTE 22 DECLARAION OF INTEREST - None Received

MINUTE 23 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held 17th October were approved, including the confidential minutes. Proposed: Cllr Scobie

Seconded: Cllr Wallins, Passed nem con

The notes of the meeting held 28th November (inquorate) were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Tomlinson

Seconded: Cllr Scobie Passed nem con

MINUTE 24 MAYOR’S REPORT

The Mayor gave an update on the Old Town Hall and Media Centre. Thanet District Council are keen to have vacant possession of the OTH as soon as possible and quotes have been received covering costs of removal and storage. The large table in the committee room has asbestos which, whatever happens to the table, will have to be safely and legally removed and disposal.

Unsuitable alternatives to the Media Centre have been unofficially offered to the Charter Trustees and the Mayor reminded members that any accommodation had to be accepted by the CT’s as suitable for their needs. The current landlord is happy with the continued occupation of the CT’s in the Media Centre and the CT’s are settled. The CT’s will need to remove the regalia from the OTH into a vault/strong room suitable and accepted by the insurance company. The Media Centre has a strong room and the CT’s have a rough figure for replacing the door and making the room fit for purpose. However, until and unless TDC give the CT’s security of tenure for the foreseeable future, the Ct’s cannot make further progress.

It was agreed that, given the urgency of the situation, decisions on the move of chattels etc from the OTH should be delegated to the Executive.

Margate Town Council; a further push to gain the 200 or so ‘cushion’ of signatures required for the petition would be made in February.

The Green Canopy. It has been agreed that Prunus Padua would be the tree of choice, being approved by both the RHS as drought resistant and TDC, with the exception of the Green Banks site where a Quercus Ilex would be planted. Planting to take place first week in March. Nigel England had been approached for a quote to provide plaques.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Shrubb for his efforts in raising funds for the Mayor’s Charity. The Mayor had attended the opening of Kicks and believes it would be a suitable venue for a Sea Shanty night with the Snottledogs – possibly sometime in March.

Cllr Shrubb is planning a Karaoke and Curry night.

The Kings Coronation. The Mayor asked for ideas for the coronation, suggestions to date a laser light show – maybe working with Dreamland. Whatever is planned, notification will need to be to TDC by mid-February at the latest. Cllr Tomlinson suggested badges for each school child in the 7 Margate wards.

1. The guidelines for Mayor’s Cadet were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Scobie,

Seconded: Cllr Yates Passed nem con

1. Amendments to the Mayoral Protocol were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Tomlinson

Seconded: Cllr Scobie Passed nem con

1. Amendment to the Mayor’s Fund Application form was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Tomlinson

Seconded: Cllr Scobie Passed nem con

Proposed Exclusion of the Public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings)Act 1960

The Mayor gave an update on the on-going staffing situation and the budget implications.

Moved re-admittance of the public.

MINUTE 25 FINANCE & OFFICE REPORT

1. The Cash Book covering the period October 22- to 27th January 2023 (previously circulated) and the Trial Balance to 31st December 2022 (previously circulated), were approved and accepted.

Proposed: Cllr Yates

Seconded: Cllr Scobie Passed nem com

1. The Variances and anticipated outrun (previously circulated) were accepted.
2. The Draft budget for 2023-24 (previously circulated)

Main differences on previous years’ budget were discussed:

Inclusion of a Chauffeurs Travel/Subsistence cost centre budget of £2000

The Mayor’s allowance was halved in the previous year and after tax generates an allowance of approx. £420pm. This has to cover not only the Mayor’s costs but those of the Mayoress/Consort *and* the driver and mileage if using the chauffeurs’ car. Under the previous allowance this was possible but not under the reduced allowance.

National Historical Celebrations; 50% of the costs had been ring-fenced from Reserves and 50% in the budget.

An amount for a replacement Town Sergeants uniform has been included.

An increase to the rent budget for the Media Centre has been included given the increase in power costs. An email and phone call to TDC regarding the rent had gone unanswered.

The estimated figures for removal and storage of artefacts from the OTH had been superseded by information received just before the meeting. The costs being far higher than anticipated, the Clerk was charged with obtaining other quotes and Cllr Scobie provided a contact.

The Clerk was requested to amend the budget to reflect the changes and to utilise Reserves in support of the budget in order to limit the increase in the Precept to 5-6%. The Clerk agreed to undertake the changes and would notify the CT’s of the outcome the following day, The required precept had to be notified to TDC by 31st January.

Proposed Acceptance: Cllr Rob Yates

Seconded: Cllr Mick Tomlinson

Passes nem com

1. The Risk Assessments for 2022-23 were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Tomlinson

Seconded: Cllr Wallins Passed nem com

MINUTE 25 APPPLICATIONS TO THE MAYOR’S FUND

None applications had been received and the CT’s considered each one:

Margate Boxers Approved Request for £400

101 Social Approved Request for £500

Dane Park Bowls Approved Request for £500

NBE Fitness Require further details.

Rotary Ask for match funding from other Thanet Towns - earmark £500.

POW/Susan Crothers Refused

Wilderness to Wonderland £100

Oasis £100

Clayspace Refused.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.30pm