
ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Virtual Meeting held via Skype on Tuesday, 20 July 2021 from 7.00 pm - 7.47 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Steve Davey, Alastair Gould, Ann Hampshire, Nicholas Hampshire, Carole Jackson (Vice-Chairman), Elliott Jayes, Lee McCall, Pete Neal, Ken Pugh, Ken Rowles (Chairman), David Simmons, Sarah Stephen and Corrie Woodford.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Martyn Cassell, David Clifford, Janet Dart, Philippa Davies, Zach Evans, Charlotte Hudson and Larissa Reed.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Cameron Beart, Roger Clark, Mike Dendor, Tim Gibson, Angela Harrison, Ken Ingleton, Hannah Perkin, Julian Saunders, Roger Truelove and Tim Valentine.

160 INTRODUCTION

The PA to the Council Leader/Cabinet welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that Councillor Alastair Gould had replaced Councillor Tim Valentine and Councillor Lee McCall had replaced Councillor Benjamin Martin on the Committee.

161 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members agreed to nominate Councillor Ken Rowles to be elected as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2021/22, to be confirmed at the next in person meeting.

162 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Members agreed to nominate Councillor Carole Jackson to be elected as Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2021/22, to be confirmed at the next in-person meeting.

163 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Simmons declared a non-pecuniary interest in the League of Friends, Faversham Cottage Hospital and Community Health Centres of which he was Chairman of the Trustees.

164 PURPOSE AND ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Head of Policy, Communications & Customer Services gave a brief overview of the role and purpose of the Cabinet Advisory Committees (CACs). He referred to the Member briefing session on the committee system delivered in June 2021 and said that the advisory committees could be seen as a precursor to the committee system, but could also be seen as more specialised versions of the old Policy, Development and Review Committee (PDRC).

The Chief Executive said Members would be aware that the Portfolios had changed, and as such the information on the agenda was out of date.

The Head of Environment and Leisure acknowledged that there was not an Environment update on the agenda but said there were a number of projects coming up which potentially would come to this Committee. These included the Burial Regulations Review; the renewal of the Waste Contract; the Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan; and the new Grounds Maintenance Contract.

165 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing introduced the Plan and said that it was about the wider health and wellbeing of residents rather than the health service. She went through the update in detail and in particular mentioned that tackling obesity was a priority, mental health and wellbeing had come to the fore since the start of the pandemic and she stressed the importance of recognising that not all disabilities were visible.

The newly appointed Health and Wellbeing Officer said that the paper reflected what had happened since he had started work at the Council. He reported that dementia friendly training was now available for all frontline staff. He referred the Committee to the questions posed at the end of the paper and hoped they would help tackle issues in a short time frame.

Members raised comments which are summarised below:

- It was important for the Committee to understand the structure of the health service;
- there was a historic issue of the divide between Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey and Faversham East and Faversham could feel neglected;
- as many services as possible should be brought into the three community hospitals in the Borough;
- a meeting should be held with the Oasis Academy to talk about the excellent work they did at the Dementia Café;
- active travel should be embedded at an early stage;
- the University of the Third Age and the Eat Smart, Move More were useful programmes to promote;
- suggested promoting the healthy eating community chef at Sheppey Matters; and
- should look at how to tackle smoking outside schools and hospitals along with anti-idling and engaging with young children could influence the behaviour of parents.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel