

FULL COUNCIL 3rd October 2018
7:30PM THE CIVIC CENTRE

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Cllr Dyball, Leader Cllr Morris, Cllr Ball, Cllr C Barnes, Cllr J Barnes, Cllr P Darrington, Cllr Halford, Cllr Horwood, Cllr Searles, Cllr Southern, Cllr Willingale

Officers: CEO Steve Nash,
Democratic Services Officer Barbara Playfoot

The Mayor announced that she has the pleasure in presenting a certificate to Keith Wood a regular 'Every Step Counts' participant who has trained as a Volunteer Health Walk Leader. He also volunteers picking up litter from the perimeter of Swanley Park and the recreation ground, to which he was given a round of applause.

Public Session

A resident from Archer Way asked why the Sevenoaks SUNS were claiming they had had secured the Olympic site for their new basketball venue.

The CEO responded the Sevenoaks SUNS is an agenda item to be discussed at the meeting planned for the 17th October 2018

A resident from Archer Way read out a statement regarding the U&I redevelopment of Swanley Centre and asked why SDC were unable to appeal and the democratic process had failed.

The Mayor said that she would bring Mayor's communication forward so she could read out a statement supported by all Town Councillors
At this point Cllr Morris left the Chamber

Mayor's Statement

Swanley Town Council is disappointed to hear the announcement that Sevenoaks District Council will no longer contest the appeal against developers U&I for their 11 storey and several 7 storey buildings for the town centre. Swanley Town Councillors, and

Swanley's Sevenoaks District Councillors, have always fought against this planning application; but it would appear this was always going to be a David and Goliath battle against this large development.

The Town Council has always strongly supported the principle of the regeneration of Swanley Town Centre, however our concern remains that this represents an over-development of our town, with several inappropriate high rise buildings and the lack of suitable infrastructure to support it. We held a public meeting in 2017 with over 150 people present to discuss U&I's plans, where town

councillors unanimously agreed to recommend an objection to Sevenoaks District Council. Swanley's District Councillors then took the matter to the planning committee at Sevenoaks, where they also secured a refusal from other Sevenoaks District Councillors present.

We understand, however, that U&I subsequently challenged the refusal through a public planning inquiry, a rarer but lengthy and costly 'court style' process, which involves expert witnesses testifying about the refusal, and requiring the District Council to secure its own expert witnesses to back up the refusal position. In preparation for that hearing, over the past year Sevenoaks District Council sought expert planning and legal advice about its prospect of winning the challenge, which regrettably deemed the chances of winning incredibly slim. Had they lost, they could be responsible for paying all costs for the appeal incurred by both parties, which we understand would have been an extraordinary sum, funded wholly by the local taxpayer.

It is worth noting that Swanley Town Council and Swanley's District Councillors fought off U&I's original application in 2016, which included a 13 storey building with even fewer car parking spaces. We do not believe that U&I intend to re-visit that original proposal, and therefore we are pleased that this scheme is at least not going forward.

Swanley Town Council remains strongly committed to fighting against the hundreds of homes proposed off Beechenlea Lane and at the rear of Lullingstone Avenue in Sevenoaks District Council's draft Local Plan, as well as opposing other inappropriate sites in and near the town. We hope to know the results of Sevenoaks District Council's consultation in November, but will continue to oppose inappropriate development in all forms as and when they come forward.

The Mayor suggested that the CEO arrange a meeting with the local MP, Sir Michael Fallon and a Senior Planning Officer from Sevenoaks District Council to discuss options
The CEO agreed to do this.

10551 To receive Apologies for Absence

Cllr L Gaire, Cllr S Gaire, Cllr Hogg, Cllr Komolafe, Cllr Scott

10552 To receive Declarations of Interest

None

**10553 To approve as correct the Minutes of the Meeting held on
Wednesday 5th September 2018
APPROVED**

**10554 To receive Minutes of Committees and approve recommendations
contained therein:**

Policy & Finance – 18th July 2018

Development Control – 18th July 2018

Development Control – 5th September 2018

APPROVED

10555 COUNCILLOR ABSENCE

To approve a leave of absence for Councillor Shanker Gaire

RESOLVED – Councillor Shanker Gaire is permitted a 6 months leave of absence

10556 NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL COMMITTEE

To approve councillors to deputise for Cllr Gaire

RESOLVED – Cllr V Southern is to deputise for Cllr Gaire on the Personnel committee

10557 EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

To note the Report and make comments

Cllr Southern said that the most important comment is that there were no comments. He also wanted to congratulate those officers involved on a good job which was agreed by all.

External Auditors report noted

10558 WW1 SOLDIER SILHOUETTE

To receive a verbal report from the CEO see Annex A

The CEO reported that to mark the Centenary of WW1, 112 steel silhouettes would be mounted around the wall of ASDA representing the Swanley residents that lost their lives during WW1. Each one will have a name plate giving their Rank, Name, Regiment, Date/Year of Birth and Date of Death. It is proposed that the unveiling will take place on the 11th November and that TV and press have been invited to attend, also ASDA will be promoting the event. The CEO was congratulated on bringing this project forward.

Mayors Communication

To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may desire to lay before the Council (Councillors are reminded that no decision making may take place as a result of this item)

9 th September 2018 –	Mayor of Greenwich guided tour of the Cutty Sark and Painted Hall in the Royal Naval College.
10 th September 2018 -	Opening of Swanley Business Expo with Sir Michael Fallon
12 th September 2018 -	Dartford Science and Technology College Volunteer celebration evening
14 th September 2018 -	South and South East In Bloom presentation and awards ceremony
14 th – 16 th September 2018 -	Verrieres-le Buisson Forum des Associations
16 th September 2018 -	Wrestling Extravaganza Fundraising event – Alexandra Suite
21 st September 2018 -	Home-Start AGM
22 nd September 2018 -	Swanley RFC first match of the season
23 rd September 2018 -	Lord Lieutenant’s Drumhead Service First World War Centenary Commemoration event
24 th September 2018 -	Lord Lieutenant’s Awards Evening – Salomons Estate
26 th September 2018 -	Attendance at funeral service for Roy Percival, former councillor and Mayor of Swanley
1 st October 2018 -	Cheque presentation to Swanley RFC, Council Chamber
2 nd October 2018 -	Mayor of Ashford’s charity guided tour of Great Dixter Gardens

Forthcoming Events

20 th October 2018 -	Mayor of Swanley’s Charity Ball in aid of “We are Beams” – Alexandra Suite
---------------------------------	--

2nd November 2018 -

Bonfire Night and Fireworks – Swanley Recreation
Ground – Children’s activities from 5pm, Fireworks
7.30pm

Report from County and District Councillors

(Councillors are reminded that no decision making may take place as a result of this item)

Cllr Horwood reported that there was increasing concern regarding the privately owned garage area adjacent to Azalea Drive. There had been reports of homeless people living in the garages, drug use and anti-social behaviour. He went on to say that the Police were making additional patrols to the area and that SDC were dealing with the situation.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It is recommended that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10559 RESTRUCTURING NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

To consider recommendations in the report outlining changes to the structure of the town council and changes in responsibilities of staff (Confidential Report E)

APPROVED

Date of next meeting – 7th November 2018

Meeting closed at 21.00

Council Members:

Mayor Cllr L Dyball
Leader Cllr R Morris
Cllr L Ball
Cllr C Barnes
Cllr J Barnes
Cllr P Darrington
Cllr L Gaire
Cllr S Gaire

Cllr J Halford
Cllr M Hogg
Cllr M Horwood
Cllr E Komolafe
Cllr N Scott
Cllr V Southern
Cllr T Searles
Cllr H Willingale