

**Swanley Town Council**  
Civic Centre, St Marys Road, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7BU  
Tel: 01322 665855  
[www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

**FULL COUNCIL 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
APPROVED**

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

Policy & Finance – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Development Control – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Development Control – 5<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 –	Mayor of Greenwich guided tour of the Cutty Sark and Painted Hall in the Royal Naval College.
10 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 -	Opening of Swanley Business Expo with Sir Michael Fallon
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 -	Dartford Science and Technology College Volunteer celebration evening
14 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 -	South and South East In Bloom presentation and awards ceremony
14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 -	Verrieres-le Buisson Forum des Associations
16 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 -	Wrestling Extravaganza Fundraising event – Alexandra Suite
21 <sup>st</sup> September 2018 -	Home-Start AGM
22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2018 -	Swanley RFC first match of the season
23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018 -	Lord Lieutenant’s Drumhead Service First World War Centenary Commemoration event
24 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 -	Lord Lieutenant’s Awards Evening – Salomons Estate
26 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 -	Attendance at funeral service for Roy Percival, former councillor and Mayor of Swanley
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2018 -	Cheque presentation to Swanley RFC, Council Chamber
2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2018 -	Mayor of Ashford’s charity guided tour of Great Dixter Gardens
<b>Forthcoming Events</b>	
20 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 -	Mayor of Swanley’s Charity Ball in aid of “We are Beams” – Alexandra Suite

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – 7<sup>th</sup> 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