

---

## SITTINGBOURNE AREA COMMITTEE

---

**MINUTES** of the Virtual Meeting held Via Skype on Tuesday, 9 March 2021 from 7.00 pm - 8.22 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Derek Carnell (Vice-Chairman), Simon Clark, Steve Davey (Chairman), Mike Dendor, Tim Gibson, James Hall, Ann Hampshire, Ken Rowles, Roger Truelove, Ghlin Whelan and Tony Winckless.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Martyn Cassell, Janet Dart, Jo Millard and Larissa Reed.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillors Cameron Beart, Roger Clark, Ken Ingleton, Denise Knights, Peter Marchington, Lee McCall and Pete Neal.

### 514 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ken Rowles declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Swale Media Arts Centre.

Councillor Mike Dendor declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Kemsley Community Centre of which he was a Trustee.

Councillors Derek Carnell, Steve Davey, Mike Dendor and Tony Winckless declared a non-pecuniary interest in Milton Creek Country Park of which they were Trustees.

### 515 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 December 2020 (Minute Nos. 316 – 326) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 516 **MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING**

Members noted the progress on actions.

The Chairman referred to Brown tourism signs and said that the audit went beyond the Sittingbourne area and should be part of a wider project including trunk roads.

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Economy and Property, the Chairman noted that the North West development had gone through Planning and included a provision of a site for a school. However, the building of the school was the responsibility of Kent County Council (KCC).

The Chairman referred to the Sittingbourne town centre regeneration scheme update paper recently considered by the Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman agreed to follow up on a matter raised by a Member regarding an issue with Virgin Fibre Optic.

The Chairman noted that the Mill Skatepark was now in the hands of Brogdale Community Interest Company (CIC) who were looking at ways to improve the

entrance. A Member spoke about the rubble at the entrance which needed removing, the Chairman agreed to take this up with the Cabinet Member.

The Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure gave an update on the Tennis Courts at Milton Recreation Ground. Further to discussions with the two Ward Members and the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, it had been agreed to look at all matters relating to the sports court. Previously it had been run by the Fitness Club and all switches were located in their premises. Officers and Members were looking at taking back control of operation and maintenance and making it a multi-sports centre. The following works needed to take place before this could happen:

- Electrical works to move the switches out of the Fitness Club - £4,000.00;
- patch repairs and colour coating to the surfacing - £30,000.00;
- upgrading lighting to LED - £26,000.00; and
- security gate - £5,000.00.

Different options on funding the project were discussed.

The Chairman had spoken to Richard Emmett (Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne) about the bomb shelter which could be made into a tourist attraction and a meeting would be set-up to discuss further with Councillor Simon Clark.

The Chairman updated on two projects to improve the lighting in the Milton Regis area:

- Court Hall – KCC would only fit lights free of charge if an accident had taken place, otherwise the cost would be £2,500.00. As this was a listed building, permission was required. This was an ongoing project; and
- library – ownership around the building needed to be explored, a further update to be brought back to a later meeting.

## **517 PUBLIC FORUM**

No issues were raised.

## **518 CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

The Chairman explained that as the Committee had not previously allocated any of the 2020-21 funding, there was £44,000.00 available to allocate.

A Member spoke in support of allocating funding to the Swale Media Arts Centre to carry out internal and external works to No 34 High Street, Sittingbourne.

Louise Funnell spoke on behalf of Brogdale CIC on their request for funding to provide signage, picnic benches and a refuse bin at the Mill Skatepark.

Elizabeth Fuller spoke on behalf of Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway and set-out their request for funding to provide additional signage to direct visitors from the

Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway carpark to the station, which would also show the disabled access.

David Gawler spoke on behalf of the Kemsley Community Centre Trust and explained the need to replace two sets of fire exit doors and one entrance door.

A Member spoke on behalf of Flowers in Bloom to fit flower beds in various open spaces in Murston Ward.

Mark Allinson spoke on behalf of the Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum Trust who were seeking funding to improve the infrastructure and provide a proper installation of electrical cables via an underground tunnel.

The Chairman advised that he had received a late application for equipment for the sailing barge Raybel being restored at Lloyd Wharf.

Members discussed all the applications for funding set-out in the report along with the late application for the Raybel and the project raised under Matters Arising for the Tennis Courts at Milton Recreation Ground.

Councillor Roger Truelove proposed and Councillor Tim Gibson seconded a proposal that the following funding be allocated to each project:

Swale Media Arts Centre, improvements to 34 High Street, Sittingbourne - £7,000;  
Brogdale CIC, signage, benches and a bin - £2,330.26;  
Milton Creek Country Park Trust, various additions to the park - £8,313.00;  
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway, signage - £870.74;  
Kemsley Community Centre Trust, replacement doors - £10,555.56;  
Flowers in Bloom, flower beds in Murston Ward - £4,000.00;  
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum Trust – electrical tunnel - £4,537.20;  
The Raybel, equipment - £4,000.00; and  
Tennis Courts at Milton Recreation Ground, electrical work - £2,393.24.

On being put to the vote the proposal was agreed by Members.

***Resolved:***

***(1) That the £44,000.00 funding be awarded to projects in the following proportions:***

***(a) Swale Media Arts Centre, improvements to 34 High Street, Sittingbourne - £7,000;***

***(b) Brogdale CIC, signage, benches and a bin - £2,330.26;***

***(c) Milton Creek Country Park Trust, various additions to the park - £8,313.00;***

***(d) Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway, signage - £870.74;***

***(e) Kemsley Community Centre Trust, replacement doors - £10,555.56;***

***(f) Flowers in Bloom, flower beds in Murston Ward - £4,000.00;***

***(g) Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum Trust – electrical tunnel - £4,537.20;***

***(h) The Raybel, equipment - £4,000.00; and***

***(i) Tennis Courts at Milton Recreation Ground, electrical work - £2,393.24.***

**519 LOCAL ISSUES**

No issues were raised.

**520 NOMINATION FOR AREA COMMITTEE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

It was agreed that Councillor Derek Carnell would sit on the Area Committee Working Group.

Two nominations were put forward for the second position, Councillor Mike Dendor and Councillor Ken Rowles. On being put to a vote it was agreed that Councillor Ken Rowles would sit on the Working Group.

***Resolved:***

***(1) That Councillor Derek Carnell and Councillor Ken Rowles to sit on the Area Committee Working Group.***

**521 MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE BY CABINET**

No issues were raised.

**522 MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET BY COMMITTEE**

A Member raised concerns about the difficulties residents and Councillors experienced when trying to navigate the Swale Borough Council website. Some items appeared to be 'buried' and took a number of steps to find. It was agreed that the Chairman would refer this matter to Cabinet.

The Chairman understood that an App was going to be made available to give information on how to dispose of different waste items. The Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure advised that the Waste Wizard was already available on the Swale website but the creation of an App was still being investigated.

Chairman

Copies of this document are available on the Council website <http://www.swale.gov.uk/dso/>. If you would like hard copies or alternative versions (i.e. large print, audio, different language) we will do our best to accommodate your request please contact Swale Borough Council at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or telephone the Customer Service Centre 01795 417850.

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