

With the exception of any decisions which are indicated as being urgent, the decisions of the Committee are subject to the decision review process. Broadly those decisions will only become effective three working days after they are published unless 14 Councillors have indicated that they require the decision to be reviewed.

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CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 28th March, 2019 at 7.00 pm in The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Canterbury

Present: Councillor Fitter-Harding (Chairman)
Councillor R Thomas
Councillor A Baker
Councillor Doyle
Councillor Fisher
Councillor Metcalfe
Councillor I Stockley
Councillor J Stockley
Councillor I Thomas
Councillor Waters

In attendance Councillor N Baker*
Councillor Dixey*

Officers: Harriet Baillie - Project Officer (Transportation & Environment)
Ian Brown - Director of Development
Peter Riley - Strategic Property Manager
Maria Short - Democratic Services Officer

(*present for part of the meeting)

787 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

788 SUBSTITUTE COUNCILLORS

There were no substitute Councillors.

789 DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS

The following declarations were made:

- Councillor I Thomas made a voluntary declaration that he was a County Councillor and that he was also a member of the Whitstable Harbour Board in

relation to item 8. He also made a voluntary declaration on behalf of the Conservative members of the committee that the Canterbury Conservative Association owned a property in Hawks lane in relation to item 6.

- Councillor R Thomas made a voluntary declaration that he was a County Councillor.
- The Chairman made a voluntary announcement that he was also the Chairman of the Sustainable Transportation Forum in relation to item 7.

790 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 24 JANUARY 2019**

The Committee agreed that the minutes were a true record by general assent.

791 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was one public speaker registered for the meeting that would be heard prior to the consideration of the relevant item (number 6).

792 **ST MARGARET'S ST PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS**

The following member of the public spoke prior to the consideration of the item:

- Cllr Michael Dixey

The Project Officer introduced the report which detailed the background to the proposed improvements in St Margaret's Street and sought authority to implement the changes.

The Committee discussed the proposals and asked questions. The Project Officer gave points of clarification where necessary. Points including the following were made:

1. The proposed improvement scheme would be beneficial to the area and it was encouraging to see that amendments to the initial scheme had been made following the consultation.
2. Concerns were raised regarding car access to the hotel development. It was confirmed that the retractable bollards at the Watling Street junction of St Margaret's Street, would be sufficiently set back to allow vehicle drop offs to the hotel although there would still be a short walk to the entrance, and the retractable bollards would be able to be lowered outside of the pedestrian zone times for drop offs directly outside the hotel.
3. There would be rear access but it would only be for service vehicles.
4. There was a comment in appendix 3 from a disabled user group regarding the use of cobbles being difficult for people with disabilities, however it was confirmed that this comment was in relation to other areas of the city centre.
5. It was hoped that these improvements would lead to other investments to public realm improvements throughout the rest of the district.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the section 278 agreement be made for the works on the highway and that the extension to the pedestrian zone be implemented as per the officer's report.

RESOLVED:

- a) That a section 278 agreement be made for the developer funded works on the highway as shown on the plan in appendix 1.
- b) That the extension to the pedestrian zone be implemented in St Margaret's Street between Hawk's Lane and Watling Street.

Reason for the decision: The improvements would be funded by section 106 contributions and bringing this section of St Margaret's Street within the pedestrian zone will improve the environment for pedestrians in this busy shopping area.

Record of the vote:

For the proposal: Councillors A Baker, Doyle, Fisher, Fitter-Harding, Metcalfe, I Stockley, J Stockley, I Thomas, R Thomas and Waters (10)

Against the proposal: none

Abstained from voting: none

793 **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FORUM**

The Chairman introduced the notes of the Sustainable Transport Forum explaining that he was also the chairman of that Forum.

The Chairman and Project Officer gave points of clarification for the Committee.

The Committee made comments and asked for points of clarification. Matters including the following were covered:

1. Concerns were raised regarding electric charging points outside terraced properties and the impact this would have on wheelchair and mobility scooter users on the pavements. It was confirmed that this had made siting the electric charging points difficult due to pavement widths, however the charging points would only be sited where there would be enough space for disabled users to pass.
2. An update was requested regarding enabling the enforcement officers to tackle anti idling and when the car free day would take place. It was confirmed that the Council was working with the enforcement team to enable the enforcement of anti-idling. With regards to the car free day, the next council sustainable transport group would need to work with the Communications Team to find and promote a suitable day that would not coincide with the arrival of students into the city.
3. A request for an update on whether 'hopper' buses would be increased between the train stations and bus station, capable of passing through the Westgate Towers and if they would be electric rather than diesel. It was confirmed that Stagecoach were looking into the increase to the service however they would not be able to travel through the Westgate Towers due to their size. However, Stagecoach were investigating what infrastructure would be required in order to enable the use of electric buses.
4. An update was requested on the bike hire scheme and it was confirmed that the provider the council had been in discussions with had taken on providing a scheme in Birmingham which was taking priority as it was a larger scale than the scheme proposed in Canterbury. However the Council were open to other bike hire operators and had been in discussion with other Local Authorities to ascertain how they were operating bike hire schemes.
5. A question was raised regarding whether there would be scope to enable less polluting taxi vehicles by installing electric vehicle charging points in the best pitch spots throughout the district. It was confirmed that this would need to be investigated and may affect other teams, such as licensing, within the Council.

6. Concerns were raised regarding the current condition of the surface on the Crab & Winkle Line cycle route and it was confirmed that the Kent County Council's Highways Team rather than the Public Rights of Way Team that were investigating the matter.

The minutes were noted by the Committee by general assent.

794 **WHITSTABLE OYSTER FISHERY COMPANY, EAST QUAY - REQUEST FOR LEASE EXTENSION**

The Strategic Property Manager introduced the report which detailed the background of the current lease and the proposed terms of the lease extension contained within the confidential annex.

The Committee discussed the proposals and asked questions. The Strategic Property Manager gave points of clarification where necessary. Points including the following were made:

1. Concerns were raised that certain elements contained within the report had not been considered by the Whitstable Harbour Board and that the Council should ensure that the site is not extended by way of a condition. It was advised that Officers wouldn't recommend adding prescriptive conditions and that the terms of the lease were a matter for the Committee rather than the Harbour Board.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the lease for the Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company be extended.

RESOLVED: That the lease be extended on the terms set out in the confidential annex at this time.

Reason for decision: The grant of the lease would be consistent with the policies set out in the Strategic Plan i.e. as industrial use and both harbour beneficial and dependent.

Record of the vote:

For the proposal: Councillors A Baker, Doyle, Fisher, Fitter-Harding, Metcalfe, I Stockley, J Stockley, I Thomas, R Thomas and Waters (10)

Against the proposal: none

Abstained from voting: none

795 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Provisionally 7pm on Thursday, 23 May 2019 for a special meeting and 7pm on Thursday, 27 June 2019 for the next ordinary meeting. Both meetings will be held at The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Canterbury, CT1 2DB.

796 **ANY URGENT BUSINESS TO BE DEALT WITH IN PUBLIC**

Committee members noted that this meeting would be the last meeting attended by Ian Brown, Director of Development, prior to his retirement and congratulated him on his years of service and the work he had done for the district.

797 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

798 **ANNEX EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION: WHITSTABLE OYSTER FISHERY COMPANY, EAST QUAY - REQUEST FOR LEASE EXTENSION**

The Committee did not discuss the information contained within the annex exempt from publication.

799 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS WHICH FALLS UNDER THE EXEMPT PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 OR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 OR BOTH**

There was no other urgent business which falls under the exempt provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or both.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.34 pm