

Deal Town Council
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The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Town Hall
on 14th April 2010. Theme, 'Links with the Voluntary and community Sector'.

Present:

Cllr B Gardner

Cllr W Elliott

Cllr B Bano

Cllr Mrs M Burnham

Cllr Mrs K Blackburn

Cllr J Trickey

Cllr Mrs C Sticker

Cllr P Acarnley

Cllr T Bond

Cllr D Gore

Officers:

Lin Dykes, Town Clerk

Tony Higgins, Town Sergeant

Lorna Crow, Deputy Town Clerk

Joanne Pitcher, Mayor's Secretary

Natalie Barnes, Clerical Officer

70 members of the public were also present.

1.	Chairman's opening remarks. Cllr Gardner called the meeting to order at 7.15pm and read out the fire safety instructions. A welcome was given to everyone present and an acknowledgement made on the increase in numbers of attendees – single figures in the previous 2 years but a packed Chamber on this occasion.
2.	Apologies for absence: Cllr B Grivell, Cllr A Friend (away) and Cllr B Henderson (work).
3.	The minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on 14th April 2009. It was proposed to approve the minutes subject to an amendment to the second to last line of para 7 which should be amended to read, "Cllr Bond expressed concern at the reduction of sites and the implications of Health and Safety legislation". (P) WE (S) MB. All agreed.
4.	Chairman's Report: Cllr Gardner reminded those present that political statements would not be allowed now that a general election had been called and requested that everyone respect that directive. Cllr Gardner also outlined all the changes in personnel since the last meeting. Having suffered such bad publicity 1 year ago with the publication of the Audit Report Cllr Gardner conveyed his congratulations to the Town Clerk and the new team for what they had achieved since then.
5.	Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector: (i) The Town Clerk welcomed everyone to the Town Hall and then outlined the support that Deal Town Council could provide to the sector i.e. grant funding of up to £2,000 from eligible organisations, free use of the Town Hall facilities for up to 5 registered charities each year and support from individual councillors through networking, contacts or letters of support for projects if appropriate. The Town Clerk encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to

	<p>introduce themselves to the Councillors and Town Council staff present during the time available for networking.</p> <p>(ii) Sue Beer and Jane Meehan from CaseKent outlined the support they could give to local organisations through funding support, training, advocacy, the over 50s Directory and Compact support.</p> <p>(iii) Bridget Owen from the Dover District Volunteer Centre offered support to organisations including advising on good practice when working with volunteers, using their database to advertise volunteering opportunities and their status as the only Deal based CRB umbrella organisation.</p>
6.	<p>Feedback from previous recipients of Deal Town Council grants. Representatives from the following organisations then took the opportunity to present details of how they had used any awards made by Deal Town Council, to thank the Council for their support and to advise of what their organisation did for the community:</p> <p>Kent County Scout Council Citizens Advice Bureau (Dover District) Deal Museum Trust Deal, Walmer and Kingsdown Regatta Association 4th Deal Beechwood Scout Group Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men The Royal Marines Association Deal and Walmer Chamber of trade Veterans Association of Deal Deal Memorial Bandstand Trust Try Angle Awards Deal Maritime and Local History Museum Carers Support Dover District and Thanet Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Astor Community Theatre North Deal Community Project 2235 Squadron Air Cadets Deal Festival of Music and the Arts Dossett Court Association Deal and Walmer Allotments Association.</p>
7.	<p>Presentation of cheques from the Mayor's Charity Fund. Cllr Gardner briefly explained how the money for this charity fund was raised and advised that he was keen that the funds should go to local organisations working in our community. Presentations were made to:</p> <p>A.C.E. The Salvation Army Friends of Deal Hospital Deal Centre for the Retired Downs Sailing Club (Junior Section).</p>
8.	<p>Open session for questions or comments relating to the above agenda items. A question was asked on why so many charity shops were allowed to open in the town and whether or not the numbers could be limited. Cllr Gardner expressed his own opinion that these may be preferable to empty shops at a time when landlords were having problems finding tenants. No other Councillors had any further to comments to make on the issue. There</p>

	were no further questions.
9.	Open session for questions or comments on any issues of interest. Cllr Gardner reminded those present that this was the meeting for the Deal electorate to raise any issues of their choosing. There were no questions or comments from members of the public.
10.	Chairman's closing remarks. Cllr Gardner thanked everyone for coming along and confirmed how pleasing it was to see a packed Town Hall. Cllr Gardner commented on how impressed he had been with the amount of support and help available for the community that was provided by the voluntary sector, and how his eyes had been opened to this during his 2 years as Mayor. Cllr Gardner hoped that people would leave the meeting recognising that Deal Town Council was also dedicated to helping the community as well, and that a meeting like this would go some way to strengthening community links. As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm. Light refreshments were then served and the rest of the evening was an opportunity to chat informally with Councillors and to network with the representatives from the various organisations.
	Date of next Annual Town Meeting: 13th April 2011.
	Lin Dykes Town Clerk 19th April 2010.

