

Folkestone Town Meeting

MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Thursday, 16th March 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Ann Berry, Peter Gane, Dylan Jeffrey, Nicola Keen, Mary Lawes, Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Tim Prater, Richard Wallace and Roger West.

ABSENT: Councillors Jonathan Graham and David Horton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Phil Cross – Finance Officer
Georgina Wilson – Executive Assistant

1918. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Paul Bingham (away), Belinda Walker (away) and Ray Field (work).

RESOLVED: To approve apologies from Councillor Paul Bingham, Belinda Walker and Ray Field.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

Voted: F:10, Ag:0, Ab:0

1919. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1920. MINUTES

The Council was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 11th January 2023 and to ask the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11th January 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Mary Lawes

Seconded: Councillor Ann Berry

Voting: F:10, Ag:0, Ab:0

1921. TOWN GRANT APPLICATIONS

Councillors invited applicants to the dais to answer questions and give further information on their grant applications. Applicants were then thanked for attending and informed that a decision would be made later in the meeting in private.

1922. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions were received.

1923. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on a busy few months since the last meeting and thanked the organisers of these events as well as the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Walker, for her support in attending events on her behalf.

1924. TOWN MAYOR'S AWARDS

The Town Mayor reported on the recipients of the recent Town Mayor's Awards 2023. The following recipients had been invited to the Town Hall for an afternoon tea and presentation of their certificates:

- Ann-Charlotte Jonsson for her tireless work and dedication to the 'Bayle in Bloom' campaign each year.
- Chris McNeilly for his charitable efforts raising funds for ABF the Soldiers' Charity by providing musical support to local events and commemorations.
- Francene Thompson for the voluntary work undertaken in supporting the Community Fridge.
- The volunteers at Folkestone Methodist Church for the support provided for the civic events and many other community groups within Folkestone."

1925. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee's meeting of 26th January 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Richard Wallace

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F:10, Ag:0, Ab:0

1926. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting of 15th December 2022 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes

Voting: F:10, Ag:0, Ab:0

1927. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting of 6th October 2022 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Ann Berry

Voting: F:10, Ag:0, Ab:0

1928. MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting of 9th June 2022 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Richard Wallace

Voting: F:10, Ag:0, Ab:0

1929. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RISK ASSESSMENT AND INSURANCE REVIEW

The Committee considered the Governance and Accountability Risk Assessment and Insurance Review. It was suggested that Item 7 should specifically mention the new play park equipment.

RESOLVED: To receive and note report C/23/333, to approve and adopt the Governance and Accountability Risk Assessment 2023/24 with the addition of the new play park equipment and to approve the Insurance Review.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Connor McConville

Voting: F:10, Ag:0, Ab:0

1930. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

RESOLVED: To receive and note report C/23/334 and to adopt the Investment Policy for 2023/24.

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded: Councillor Connor McConville

Voting: F:10, Ag:0, Ab:0

Councillors thanked the Finance Officer for all his work, especially in the last year in the absence of the Town Clerk. The Town Council has been fortunate to have such a dedicated Finance Officer and sent best wishes for the future.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The press and public are to be excluded for the remainder of this meeting under Section 1, sub-section 2, of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Ann Berry
Voting: F:10, Ag:0, Ab:0

1931. TOWN GRANT SCORES

RESOLVED: To approve all awards as set out in the exempt list.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade
Voting: F:10, Ag:0, Ab:0

1932. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Annual Statutory Meeting – Tuesday, 16th May 2023
Annual Town Assembly – Tuesday, 23rd May 2023

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm.

.....Town Mayor