

Folkestone Town Council

MINUTES of the Annual Assembly of the Town Meeting for the Parish and Town of Folkestone held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Tuesday, 16th May 2023 at 7 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Jane Darling, Peter Gane, Kieran Leigh, Adrian Lockwood, Nicola Keen, Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Lucy McGirr, Tim Prater, Belinda Walker, Roger West.

In attendance: Steve Nash (Town Clerk)

Councillor Nicola Keen, the retiring Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the 20th Annual Meeting of the Folkestone Town Council and gave a summary of her year as Mayor, she felt very honoured and privileged to have been given the opportunity to be Mayor. Councillor Nicola Keen thanked Councillors and the Acting Town Clerk and officers for all their support during her term of office as well as the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Belinda Walker for her support during the year and Cllr Jackie Meade for her support. Cllr Keen presented Mrs Ann Berry with flowers for all her hard work since the Town Council was first set up. Cllr Keen also presented gifts to the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Belinda Walker and Cllr Jackie Meade.

Prayers

Prayers were led by Cllr Jackie Meade.

1933. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR 2023/24 AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Mayor, Cllr Nicola Keen, called upon Town Councillors to submit their nominations for the election of the Town Mayor of Folkestone for the 2023/24 municipal year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Belinda Walker be appointed Town Mayor for Folkestone Town Council 2023/24 until the next Annual Meeting and the acceptance of office by her successor.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Voting: F: 11, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

Councillor Belinda Walker signed and dated the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Town Clerk.

Councillor Nicola Keen spoke in support of her nomination of the Town Mayor and Councillor Lucy McGirr spoke as seconder to the motion.

The Town Mayor reported that her charities for the year would be the Rainbow Centre, AGE UK Marigold Centre and Folkestone Spectrum Arts.

The newly elected Town Mayor, Councillor Belinda Walker, then thanked Councillors for their kind words of support and moved a vote of thanks to the

retiring Town Mayor.

Councillor Lucy McGirr seconded the vote of thanks to the outgoing Town Mayor and Consort and gave a speech on their achievements over the year.

Councillor Nicola Keen was then presented with her Past Mayor's Badge.

Mr Dominic Langley was then presented with his past Consort lapel badge and thanked for the support he had given to the Mayor.

1934. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR 2023/24 AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Mayor, Councillor Walker, called upon Town Councillors to submit their nominations for the election of the Deputy Town Mayor of Folkestone.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly be appointed Deputy Town Mayor for Folkestone Town Council 2023/24 until immediately after the election of a Town Mayor at the next Annual Meeting of Folkestone Town Council.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade
Voting: F: 11, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

The Town Mayor congratulated Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly who signed and dated the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Town Clerk, she then thanked Town Councillors and the Town Clerk for their support and kind words.

Councillor Nicola Keen spoke in support of her nomination of the Deputy Town Mayor; Councillor Jackie Meade also spoke in support of the motion.

1935. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received for Councillors Chapman, Dickinson, Renshaw and Bain Smith due to pre-booked holidays and Cllr McShane due to work commitments.

RESOLVED: To accept these apologies and extend the time for Cllr Dickinson to sign the Declaration of Acceptance by two weeks.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Voting: F:12, Ag:0, Ab:0

1936. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

1937. APPOINTMENT OF:

a) TOWN MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Town Mayor announced the appointment of Revd Dr John Walker as her

Chaplain for the ensuing year.

b) CONSORT

The Town Mayor will have a small group of Councillors to act as her Consort over the year.

c) CADET

The Town Mayor announced the appointment of Able Cadet Ilya Ovsyannikov from Folkestone and Hythe Sea Cadets as her Cadet for the ensuing year.

1938. MINUTES

The Full Council was asked to receive the Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 16th March 2023 and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 16th March 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1939. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Councillors were requested to note the following dates for forthcoming Civic Events.

William Harvey Sunday	4 June 2023
Normandy Veterans Day	6 June 2023
Armed Forces Day (Folkestone)	25 June 2023
Canada Day	30 June 2023
Town Sunday	2 July 2023
VJ Day	15 August 2023
Battle of Britain Day	15 September 2023
Dedication of Garden of Remembrance	5 November 2023
Machine Gun Corps	11 November 2023
Remembrance Sunday	12 November 2023
Holocaust Memorial Day	26 January 2024

The events were noted.

1940. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES & SUB COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: To defer the appointment of Councillors to the Grievance Panel to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: To approve the appointments to Committees and Sub Committees schedule for 2023/24.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1941. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2023/24

The Town Council was asked to appoint Councillors to the following outside bodies.

- i. Kent Association of Local Councils (two Councillors)

RESOLVED: That Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly and Jane Darling be appointed as representative for KALC for the ensuing year.

- ii. Trustees for the John Bowley and Sherwood Almshouses (three Councillors)

RESOLVED: To appoint the existing representatives, as per the request from the Trustees of John Bowley and Sherwood Almshouses of Cllr Roger West, Mr Paul Bingham and Mr Richard Wallace.

- iii. Municipal Charities (four Councillors and Mayor)

RESOLVED: That Councillors Belinda Walker, Adrian Lockwood, Lucy McGirr, Nicola Keen and one more to be appointed at a future Council meeting, be appointed as representative for the Municipal Charities for the ensuing year.

- iv. Folkestone Twinning Association (one Councillor)

RESOLVED: That Councillor Adrian Lockwood be appointed as representative for the Folkestone Twinning Association for the ensuing year.

- v. Folkestone Community Led Local Development (Mayor)

RESOLVED: That Councillor Belinda Walker be appointed as representative for the Folkestone CLLD for the ensuing year.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West
Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane
Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1942. APPOINTMENT OF BANK SIGNATORIES

To authorise the signatories on bank payments as follows:

- Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and serving Past Mayor
- Chairman and Vice Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee
- Chairman and Vice Chairman of Planning Committee
- Chairman and Vice Chairman of Community Services Committee

- Chairman and Vice Chairman of Climate and Environment Committee

RESOLVED: That the above Councillors be authorised as cheque signatories.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Alan Lockwood

Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

It would be necessary to continue with the current signatories on the mandate until Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen were appointed and the bank has made the necessary changes.

1943. POLICY REVIEW

In line with NALC (National Association of Local Councils) guidance, Council's policies require re-adoption annually. No changes are recommended at this time however Cllr McConville requested that the Standing Orders are reviewed over the coming year.

RESOLVED: To re-adopt the Council's policies for 2023/24 including the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Proposed: Councillor Laura Davison

Seconded: Councillor Connor McConville

Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1944. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

The Schedule of Meetings was noted.

1945 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

23rd May 2023 – Annual Assembly

15th June 2023 – AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return)

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

.....Town Mayor