

Folkestone Town Council

MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Thursday, 11th January 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Laura Davison, Peter Gane, Nicola Keen, Kieran Leigh, Adrian Lockwood, Connor McConville, Liz McShane, Jackie Meade, Tim Prater, John Renshaw and Belinda Walker.

ABSENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: Toni Brenchley – Town Clerk, Georgina Wilson – Corporate Support Officer, Liz Timmins – Communities and Grants Officer, Roland Domingo – Finance Officer and Ian Bishop - Town Sergeant.

No questions were received.

2018. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Christine Dickinson, Roger West, Lucy McGirr, Charles Bain Smith, Jane Darling and Bridget Chapman.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Christine Dickinson, Roger West, Lucy McGirr, Charles Bain Smith, Jane Darling and Bridget Chapman.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Renshaw

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

2019. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

2020. MINUTES

The Council was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16th November 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 16th November 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

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

2021. TOWN GRANT APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: To transfer £10,000 from the General Reserve to the Town Grants Reserve increasing funds available for this meeting and the March Council meeting to a total of £12,986.40. Funds would come from investment income (of which £15,000 had been budgeted for but it is expected that we will receive £30,000). With the caveat that no applicant at this meeting, and the March meeting, would receive more than 50% of the amount requested. Any funds remaining after the March meeting would go back into General Reserve. This would mean there would not be a Town Grant Reserve after May 2024.

Proposed: Councillor Conner McConville

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

The Mayor invited applicants to speak and answer questions on their grant applications and informed them that due to budgetary constraints they would only receive up to a maximum of 50% of the requested grant. When the applicants are informed of the outcome of this meeting, they will be given further information on other funding sources that may be available such as District and County Grants etc.

There were discussions around whether the Ward Grant balances can be rolled over to the next year, this is still the procedure apart from in an election year.

RESOLVED: To award Cheriton Bowls Club £200 towards purchasing a new mower due to the amount they have received through Ward Councillor grants.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Laura Davison

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

RESOLVED: To award Playground Proms £937.50, which is three quarters of the requested amount, as three out of the four schools they will be visiting are in Folkestone, and then 50% of that due to budget constraints.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh

Voting: F: 8, Ag: 4, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: To not award the Yarp Festival a grant but to offer a room within the Town Hall for free, for one of the film showings.

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

PROPOSED: To not award Channel Rotary a grant.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood

Voting: F: 3, Ag: 9, Ab: 0

This motion was lost.

RESOLVED: To award Channel Rotary a grant of £500 for the Channel Triathlon.

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Voting: F: 10, Ag: 1, Ab: 1

RESOLVED: To award Folkestone Rescue £1,250, which is 50% of the amount requested, to invite them back to the March Council meeting to reapply for further funding and to advise them to approach Ward Councillors for grants also.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood

Voting: F: 10, Ag: 0, Ab: 2

RESOLVED: To not award Target Ovarian Cancer a grant, but to ask them to come back to us with information on the specific benefits this project would bring to the residents of Folkestone.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

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

RESOLVED: To award Fourth Wall £1,006.14 which is 50% of the amount requested.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Laura Davison

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

RESOLVED: To award Music and Arts for the Shepway Community £1,250 which is 50% of the amount requested and to invite them back to reapply at the March Council meeting for further funding if available.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood

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

A total of £5,143 was awarded for Town Grants.

2022. MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on a busy few months over the Christmas period

which included attending various Carol Services, including the Mayors own Carol Service of Year Six children. The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending the Folkestone Christmas Light Switch On event on her behalf as the Mayor was attending a funeral.

The Mayor also reported on the new appointments of Toni Brenchley as Town Clerk, Roland Domingo as Deputy Clerk and Georgina Wilson as Corporate Support Officer with a vacancy for an Administrative Assistant which is currently being advertised.

The Holocaust Service is being held on 26th January at 10.45am at the Holy Trinity Church, all Councillors are welcome to attend. The Mayor will also be attending the funeral of William Brown at St Eanswythe Church on 13th January, again all Councillors are welcome to attend to show their support for the family of William Brown.

2023. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Proposed: Councillor Laura Davison

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Renshaw

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

2024. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 19th October and 30th November 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

2025. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillors noted the resolutions.

2026. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2024/25

RESOLVED: To approve the schedule of meetings 2024/25.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Renshaw

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

2027. GRANTS SCHEME REVIEW

RESOLVED: To accept the recommendations in report C/24/351 and to look at amending the scoring system to give the exact amount of money to correspond with the percentage awarded, for instance if

the score is 85%, the applicant would receive that percentage of the grant requested.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

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

2028. CCTV POLICY

RESOLVED: To accept the CCTV Policy.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

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

Cllr Kieran Leigh had briefly left the Chamber when this vote was taken.

2029. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

RESOLVED: To accept the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Connor McConville

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

2030. COUNCILLOR TRAINING POLICY

RESOLVED: To accept the Councillor Training Policy.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Renshaw

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

2031. QUALITY COUNCIL SCHEME

RESOLVED: To go forward with applying to NALC confirming that Council meets the criteria outlined for Quality Gold Award.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

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

2032. MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME FOR TOWN AND PARISHES

RESOLVED: To thank the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel for their offer, but Councillors do not wish to change the current arrangements with regards to Members Allowance.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Keiran Leigh

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

2033. FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2024/25

RESOLVED: To accept the recommendations in report C/24/352, Budget and Precept 2024/25, to increase the budget by 5%, but once the tax base increase is taken into account, this will be an increase of 2.61% for the residents of Folkestone.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Tim Prater

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

2034. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

14th March 2024 at 7.00 p.m. – Ordinary Full Council Meeting

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

.....Town Mayor