

## Folkestone Town Council

**MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm.**

**TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Laura Davison, Christine Dickinson, Peter Gane, Nicola Keen, Kieran Leigh, Adrian Lockwood, Connor McConville, Lucy McGirr, Jackie Meade, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker and Roger West.

**ABSENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Toni Brenchley – Town Clerk, Georgina Wilson – Corporate Support Officer and Jennifer Griffin – Admin Officer.

No questions were received.

### **2040. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bridget Chapman, Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Charles Bain Smith, Jane Darling, Liz McShane and Tim Prater.

**RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Chapman, Akuffo-Kelly, Bain Smith, Darling, McShane and Prater.**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West  
Seconded: Councillor Keiran Leigh  
Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

### **2041. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

### **2042. MINUTES**

The Council was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and to ask the Deputy Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw  
Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen  
Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

### **2043. TOWN GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**RESOLVED: To award all applicants 50% of the requested grants except Anna Braithwaite who should be advised to reapply in September depending on whether the project receives funding from the Arts Council.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville  
 Seconded: Councillor Keiran Leigh  
 Voting: F: 11, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

**RESOLVED: To award an additional £625 to Folkestone Rescue making a full award, an additional £750 to Strange Cargo and Folkestone Music Town making them both up to £2000, award MOLO an additional £350 making that a full award, leaving £267.76 remaining.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville  
 Seconded: Councillor Christine Dickinson  
 Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

Strange Cargo	Charivari 2024	£2,000.00
Folkestone First Timers CIC	First Timers Music Programme 2024	£1,250.00
Folkestone Music Town CIC	Music in May	£2,000.00
Music and Arts for the Shepway Community	Shepway Community Choirs	£375.00
Folkestone Rescue	Funding Towards a Beach Supervisor Role	£1,250.00
MOLO Czechs & Slovaks in Folkestone	MOLO 2024	£700.00
Anna Braithwaite	Green Woman	£0.00

#### **2044. WARD GRANTS**

**RESOLVED: To approve all Ward Grants as listed.**

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

#### **2045. TOWN MAYOR'S AWARDS**

Members of the Community who have done something particularly noteworthy during the municipal year 2023/24 have received the following Town Mayor's Awards:

- Prof Grenville Hancox MBE and Ian Gordon of The Bayle Music – Recognised for their ongoing contribution in bringing international musicians to the people of Folkestone.
- Tony Gilbert - Recognised for his many years of service to Folkestone by maintaining the cleanliness of the town and raising money for charity.
- Brian and Billie Hoyle – Recognised for their hard work and dedication in raising funds and supporting local projects.

- Charlotte East – Recognised for supporting individuals to integrate into Folkestone’s community through taking part in local projects.
- Marion Rietdijk-Bain Smith – Recognised for her dedication to raising money for local projects.
- Folkestone Rescue - Recognised for their continued service to Folkestone in keeping the beaches safe for local residents and visitors to Folkestone.

**2046. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee’s meetings of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw  
 Seconded: Councillor Christine Dickinson  
 Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**2047. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee’s meetings of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville  
 Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen  
 Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**2048. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Services Committee’s meetings of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West  
 Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr  
 Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**2049. MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee’s meetings of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr  
 Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw  
 Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**2050. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

**Finance and General Purposes – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Noted

**Community Services Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Noted

**Climate and Environment Committee - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Noted

**2051. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RISK ASSESSMENT AND INSURANCE REVIEW**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To receive and note report C/24/359**
- 2) To approve and adopt the Governance and Accountability Risk Assessment 2024/25**
- 3) To approve the Insurance Review and any recommended amendments to insurance cover.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

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

**2052. TRESURY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**RESOLVED: To receive and note Report C/24/360.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood

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

**2053. POLICY AND PROCEDURE REVIEWS**

Councilors were asked to adopt the following policies:

Co-Option Policy (*new*)

Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy (*Child Protection Policy replaced*)

Complaints Policy (*revised*)

**RESOLVED: To approve the Co-option Policy.**

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy.**

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the Complaints Policy.**

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

**2054. HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN**

**RESOLVED: To form a working group to liaise with local community groups and residents' groups.**

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

**RESOLVED: That the working group look at the Highway Improvement Action Plan in detail, with at least one Councillor from each Ward in attendance and to hold these outside of working hours.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood

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

#### **2055. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**RESOLVED: That Council resolves to positively engage with any and all discussions, events and actions surrounding the currently closed, Grace Hill Library. Grace Hill library is of vital importance to the people of Folkestone, most notably those in the Central, East and Harbour wards. These parts of Folkestone are some of the most deprived in Kent and the library should be there to provide a safe and warm space to relax, learn and access local services. This council believes that the reopening of the library in its original Grace Hill site is essential for the health and wellbeing of local residents. This council would wish to see the refurbishment and reopening of the Grace Hill Library. This council shall engage with, and formally respond to, any public consultation regarding the library and its future.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Laura Davidson

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

#### **2056. TOWN MAYOR ELECT 2023/24**

**RESOLVED: That the Town Mayor elect for 2024/25 is Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly.**

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Christine Dickinson

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

#### **2057. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Annual Statutory Meeting - Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Annual Town Assembly - Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.**

.....Town Mayor

DRAFT