

Folkestone Town Council

MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Thursday, 19 September 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly (Chair), Bridget Chapman, Jane Darling, Christine Dickinson, Nicola Keen, Kieran Leigh, Adrian Lockwood, Connor McConville, Lucy McGirr, Jackie Meade, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker, Roger West.

ABSENT: Councillor Charles Bain Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: Roland Domingo – Finance Officer and Deputy Clerk
Liz Timmins – Communities and Grants Officer
Jennifer Griffin – Administration Officer
Ian Bishop - Town Sergeant

No questions were received.

2102. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Laura Davison, Liz McShane, Tim Prater and Peter Gane.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Laura Davison, Liz McShane, Tim Prater and Peter Gane.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bridget Chapman declared a personal interest in the grant application received from Community Art Kent CIC.

2104. MINUTES

The Council was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the AGAR Council Meeting held on 13 June 2024 and to ask the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13 June 2024 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2105. TOWN GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Mayor invited the applicants to carry out a presentation and answer questions from Councillors.

It was discussed that as the total grant request exceeded the total grant amount available, Councillors should discuss awarding 50% of the requested amount to each application.

RESOLVED: For Councillors to discuss awarding each application 50% of the requested amount, with any deviation from a member to make a proposal on the amount to be awarded.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Church Street Project to be awarded a town grant of £1,000.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Autism Help to be awarded a town grant of £450.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Canterbury Archaeological Trust to be awarded a town grant of £1,250.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Bayle Residents Association to be awarded a town grant of £375.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Folkestone & Hythe Orchestral Society to be awarded a town grant of £450.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: South Kent Mind to be awarded a town grant of £1,000.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: The Autism Apprentice CIC to be awarded a town grant of £1,500.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Folkey Birth Club CIC to be awarded a town grant of £625.

Proposed: Councillor Bridget Chapman
Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Folkestone Invicta Football Club to be awarded a town grant of £1,875.

Proposed: Councillor Bridget Chapman
Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Touchbase Care to be awarded a town grant of £1,200.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Community Art Kent CIC to be awarded a town grant of £1,250.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

RESOLVED: Folkestone Gospel Singers to be awarded a town grant of £425.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Youth Festival of Remembrance to be awarded a town grant of £1,875.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: The Fourth Wall to be awarded a town grant of £1,250.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Folkestone Festivals to be awarded a town grant of £1,250.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Folkestone Women's Forum to be awarded a town grant of £750.

Proposed: Councillor Bridget Chapman
Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Thrive by the Sea CIC to be awarded a town grant of £1,160.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: Folkestone Documentary Festival to be awarded a town grant of £1,875.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

- ii) The Council was asked to consider reinstating the Grants Committee that was disbanded in November 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Grants Committee be reinstated this year.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West
Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

It was also discussed that all Councillors be made members of the Grants Committee.

RESOLVED: That all Councillors be made members of the Grants Committee.

Proposed: Councillor Kieran Leigh
Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2106. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Full Council was asked to receive and endorse the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee minutes held on the 29 February 2024, 28 March 2024, 25 April 2024, 30 May 2024, 27 June 2024 and 25 July 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 29 February 2024, 28 March 2024, 25 April 2024, 30 May 2024, 27 June 2024 and 25 July 2024 be received.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Bridget Chapman
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2107. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Full Council was asked to receive and endorse the Minutes and recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings held on the 15 February 2024, 18 April 2024 and 13 June 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings of 15 February 2024, 18 April 2024 and 13 June 2024 be received.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2108. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Full Council was asked to receive and endorse the Minutes and recommendations of the Community Services Committee meetings held on the 6 February 2024 and 2 April 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings of 6 February 2024 and 2 April 2024 be received.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West
Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2109. MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Full Council was asked to receive and endorse the Minutes and recommendations of the Climate and Environment Committee meetings held on the 6 February 2024 and 2 April 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meetings of 6 February 2024 and 2 April 2024 be received.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2110. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillors noted the resolutions.

- i) **Climate and Environment Committee – 4 June 2024**
Noted
- ii) **Community Services Committee – 11 June 2024**
Noted
- iii) **Finance and General Purposes Committee – 22 August 2024**
Noted

2111. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Council was asked to approve the amended Terms of Reference of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: That the amended Terms of Reference be revoked following the reinstatement of the Grants Committee.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2112. OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council received verbal reports from Councillors as Council representatives on the following outside bodies:

- i) Councillor Jane Darling gave a brief update on Kent Association of Local Councils.

Councillor Roger West gave a brief update on John Bowley & Sherwood Almshouses Charity.

Councillor Adrian Lockwood gave a brief update on the Folkestone Twinning Association.

Councillor Belinda Walker gave a brief update on the Cinque Ports.

Councillor Roger West gave a brief update on the Folkestone Municipal Charity.

Councillor Belinda Walker gave a brief update on Folke About Town.

- ii) Folkestone Municipal Charity requested for Councillor Belinda Walker to remain on the Folkestone Municipal Charity as an additional Council

representative.

RESOLVED: For Councillor Belinda Walker to be included on the Folkestone Municipal Charity as an additional Council representative.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2113. KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS' UPDATES

The Council noted the written report received from Kent County Councillor Dylan Jeffrey, providing an update in relation to Kent County Council activities.

2114. POLICIES & STATEMENTS

The Council was asked to approve the updated Health and Safety policy and Statement on Managing Performance of the Council as a Corporate Body.

RESOLVED: That the updated Health and Safety policy and Statement on Managing Performance of the Council as a Corporate Body be approved and adopted, with the following amendment; that the meeting of the Planning Committee be changed from three weeks to every month and receive a Weekly List for applications due to close before the next meeting convenes.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Bridget Chapman

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2115. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

- i) Councillor John Renshaw moved a motion for Council to express their willingness to engage in any discussions, events and actions to facilitate the future reopening and/or improvement of the Sports Centre.

The Council was asked if they would be interested in sending a comment with regards to the nomination of Folkestone Sports Centre as an Asset of Community Value.

RESOLVED: That Councillors John Renshaw and Adrian Lockwood work with Folkestone Town Council officers to formulate a comment to Folkestone & Hythe District Council with regards to the nomination of the Folkestone Sports Centre as an Asset of Community Value.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

- ii) Councillor John Renshaw moved a motion that the Town Council investigate carrying out independent monitoring of the water quality on Folkestone's beaches (Sunny Sands and the Mermaid beach).

RESOLVED: That the Climate & Environment Committee further discuss the independent monitoring of the water quality on Folkestone's beaches Meeting (Sunny Sands and the Mermaid beach).

Proposed: Councillor Jane Darling
Seconded: Councillor Bridget Chapman
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2116. DATE OF THE NEXT MEEETING

14 November 2024 at 7pm – Ordinary Full Council Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9:16pm.

.....Town Mayor