

Folkestone Town Council

MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Thursday, 9 January 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Christine Dickinson, Charles Bain Smith, Nicola Keen, Kieran Leigh, Adrian Lockwood, Bridget Chapman, Jane Darling, Connor McConville, Liz McShane, Laura Davison, Peter Gane, Tim Prater, Jackie Meade, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker, Roger West.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Lucy McGirr.

IN ATTENDANCE: Toni Brenchley (Town Clerk)
Roland Domingo (Finance Officer and Deputy Town Clerk)
Jennifer Griffin (Administration Officer)
Ian Bishop (Town Sergeant)

No questions were received.

2132. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Lucy McGirr.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillor Lucy McGirr.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F: 17, Ag:0, Ab: 0

2133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2134. MINUTES

Council was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14 November 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 14 November 2024 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F: 17, Ag: 0, Ab:0

2135. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor gave a brief overview of activities in relation to the Mayoralty since the last Full Council Meeting.

2136. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council was asked to receive Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on the 31 October 2024 and 28 November 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings of 31 October 2024 and 28 November 2024 be received.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Cristine Dickinson
Voting: F: 17, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2137. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Council was asked to receive the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 17 October 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting of 17 October 2024 be received.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded: Councillor Liz McShane
Voting: F: 17, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2138. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillors noted the resolutions.

- i) **Finance and General Purposes Committee**
Noted

2139. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2025-26

Council was asked to approve the schedule of provisional meeting dates for 2025/26.

RESOLVED: That the schedule of provisional meeting dates for 2025/26 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor Laura Davison
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F: 17, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2140. VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT

Council was asked to adopt the revised 'Value For Money Statement'.

RESOLVED: That the revised 'Value For Money Statement' be adopted.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane
Voting: F: 17, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2141. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Approval was sought from Council to progress with a Neighbourhood Plan for Folkestone.

RESOLVED: To approve the Town Clerk to progress with a Neighbourhood Plan for Folkestone. The first stage being to submit an application to Folkestone & Hythe District Council for the neighbourhood area to be designated by providing the following information:

- a) a map identifying the area to which the area application relates;**
- b) a statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area; and**
- c) a statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Act (as amended).**

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor Laura Davison
Voting: F: 17, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2142. FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2025/26

To review **Report C/25/376** which concludes the budget making process for the Town Council's precept requirements for 2025/26 and to approve the proposed budget of £1,082,720 and decide the precept for 2025/26.

RESOLVED: To accept the recommendations in report C/25/376 and to approve the Budget and Precept 2025/26 of £1,082,720 (an increase of 8.21%).

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade
Voting: F: 16, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

Council noted their thanks to the Finance Officer for the hard work undertaken in compiling the budget.

2143. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

Councillor Jane Darling gave a Report 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 Etaples/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.

Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly and Jackie Meade gave an update on the newly formed Nepalese/Folkestone Twinning Association.

2144. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 13 March 2025 at 7pm – Ordinary Full Council Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7:31 pm.

.....Town Mayor