

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, 10th May 2022 at 7 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Ann Berry, Paul Bingham, Danny Brook, Peter Gane, Michelle Keutenius, Jonathan Graham, Nicola Keen, Mary Lawes, Jackie Meade, Connor McConville, Tim Prater, Belinda Walker, Richard Wallace and Roger West.

In attendance: Jennifer Childs (Town Clerk)

Councillor Michelle Keutenius, the retiring Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the 19th 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 for a second year due to the disruptions of covid during her first. Councillor Michelle Keutenius thanked Councillors and the Town Clerk and her officers for all their support during her terms of office.

Prayers

Prayers were led by Father Mark.

1852. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR 2022/23 AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Mayor, Cllr Michelle Keutenius, called upon Town Councillors to submit their nominations for the election of the Town Mayor of Folkestone for the 2022/23 municipal year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Nicola Keen be appointed Town Mayor for Folkestone Town Council 2022/23 until the next Annual Meeting and the acceptance of office by her successor.

Proposed: Councillor Ann Berry
Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes
Voting: F: 12, Ag: 1, Ab: 2

Councillor Nicola Keen signed and dated the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Town Clerk.

Councillor Ann Berry spoke in support of his nomination of the Town Mayor and Councillor Mary Lawes spoke as seconder to the motion.

The Town Mayor reported that her charities for the year would be Folkestone Rescue and two Folkestone Youth Projects.

The newly elected Town Mayor, Councillor Nicola Keen, then thanked Councillors and the Town Clerk for their kind words of support and moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Town Mayor, Cllr Michelle Keutenius and presented her with a gift from Councillors.

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

Councillor Michelle Keutenius was then presented with her Past Mayor's Badge.

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

1853. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR 2022/23 AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

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

RESOLVED: That Councillor Belinda Walker be appointed Deputy Town Mayor for Folkestone Town Council 2022/23 until immediately after the election of a Town Mayor at the next Annual Meeting of Folkestone Town Council.

Proposed: Councillor Michelle Keutenius
Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Voting: F: 14, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

The Town Mayor congratulated Councillor Belinda Walker 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 Michelle Keutenius spoke in support of their nomination of the Deputy Town Mayor; Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly also spoke in support of the motion.

1854. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received for Councillors David Horton, Dylan Jeffrey and Ray Field.

1855. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

1856. APPOINTMENT OF:

a) TOWN MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Town Mayor announced the appointment of Father Mark of St Peters Church as her Chaplain for the ensuing year.

b) CONSORT

The Town Mayor confirmed the appointment of Dominic Langley as her Consort for the ensuing year.

c) CADET

The Town Mayor announced the appointment of Lance Corporal Reilly Fleming as her Cadet for the ensuing year.

1857. MINUTES

The Full Council was asked to receive the Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 17th March 2022 and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 17th March 2022 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Jonathan Graham

Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes

Voting: F: 15, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1858. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons	2 June 2022
William Harvey Sunday	12 June 2022
Normandy Veterans Day	6 June 2022
Armed Forces Day (Folkestone)	25 June 2022
Town Sunday	26 June 2022
Blessing of the Fisheries	26 June 2022
Canada Day	1 July 2022
VJ Day	15 August 2022
Battle of Britain Day	15 September 2022
Dedication of Garden of Remembrance	6 November 2022
Remembrance Sunday	13 November 2022
Machine Gun Corps	11 November 2022
Holocaust Memorial Day	27 January 2023

The events were noted.

1859. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES & SUB COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: To approve the appointments to Committees and Sub Committees schedule for 2022/23.

Proposed: Councillor Michelle Keutenius

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Graham

Voting: F: 15, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1860. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2022/23

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be appointed as representative for KALC for the ensuing year.

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

RESOLVED: That Councillors Paul Bingham, Richard Wallace and Roger West be appointed as representative for the John Bowley and Sherwood Almshouses for the ensuing year.

- iii. Municipal Charities (four Councillors and Mayor)

RESOLVED: That Councillors Ann Berry, Paul Bingham, Dylan Jeffrey, Roger West and Nicola Keen be appointed as representative for the Municipal Charities for the ensuing year.

- iv. Folkestone Town Team (two Councillors)

RESOLVED: That Councillors Nicola Keen and Mary Lawes be appointed as representative for the Folkestone Town Team for the ensuing year.

- vi. Folkestone Twinning Association (one Councillor)

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

- vii. Folkestone CLLD (Mayor)

RESOLVED: That Councillor Ann Berry be appointed as representative for the Folkestone CLLD for the ensuing year.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F: 15, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1861. APPOINTMENT OF CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

To authorise the signatories on cheque 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 Paul Bingham

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

Voting: F: 15, 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.

1862. POLICY REVIEW

In line with NALC guidance, Council's policies require re-adoption annually. No changes are recommended at this time.

RESOLVED: To re-adopt the Council's policies for 2022/23 including the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Graham

Voting: F: 15, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1863. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23

The Schedule of Meetings was noted.

1864 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

17th May 2022 – Annual Assembly

The meeting ended at 19.45pm

.....Town Mayor