

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, 1 – 2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, CT20 1DY on Tuesday, 15th October 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Jane Darling, Peter Gane, Lucy McGirr, Belinda Walker and Roger West (Chair)

Absent: Councillor Bridget Chapman

In attendance: Toni Brenchley – Town Clerk
Vicky Deakin - Communities & Events Officer

1282. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

1283. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1284. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 11th June 2024 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th June 2024 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:1

1285. ARMED FORCES DAY 2025 – REPORT CS/24/369

The Committee was asked to receive and note Report CS/24/369 and considered the recommendations within the Report.

RESOLVED: That a vote of thanks be recorded acknowledging the Community & Events Officer's organisation and delivery of 'Armed Forces & Community Fun Day – Folkestone 2024'.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

- i) To receive and note report CS/24/369 and agree the proposed event plan for 2025.
- ii) That due to the high costs and resource required to organise AFD on the scale of 2024, moving forward, FTC deliver this scale of event bi-annually with the next to be delivered in June 2026.
- iii) That FTC organise 'AFD2025 – Folkestone' by hosting a formal lunch for local serving personnel, veterans, cadets,

youth organisations and representatives from military charities.

- iv) That district military and civic dignitaries should be invited to the lunch at which acknowledgement and thanks will be expressed and publicised to all serving personnel past and present.
- v) That the Armed Forces Day budget for this event be £5,000 to be formally agreed for release at the CSC meeting in February 2025 subject to the Finance & General Purposes Committee approving the proposed 2025 / 26 budget at its meeting on 12th December 2024.

Proposed: Councillor Jane Darling
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1286. BUS SHELTER AND NOTICE BOARD AT LYNWOOD, FOLKESTONE

The Town Clerk received a request from a Town Councillor that FTC fund a bus shelter being installed at the bus stop opposite 111 Lynwood, Folkestone.

Further to the C & E Officer contacting Stagecoach requesting details of numbers of passengers that board and alight at this bus stop, FTC have been advised that only approximately 10 people a day use the route on which this bus stop is sited.

An additional request from a Town & District Councillor has been received for FTC to pursue the viability of a notice board being installed at this site however, currently, a response is awaited from F & HDC regarding this matter.

The C & E Officer has followed up on both suggestions with the landowners, F & HDC, and updated the committee accordingly at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- i) That given the reported low usage of the bus stop at Lynwood, FTC cease to pursue installing a bus shelter at this site.
- ii) That the C & E Officer email all Councillors asking if they can report back with suggestions of any bus stop sites in their respective Wards that are highly used and therefore potentially viable for bus shelters and once this information is received, the C & E Officer pursue the prospect to install with KCC, F & HDC and Stagecoach.

- iii) That the C & E Officer email all Councillors asking if they can report back with suggestions of any sites in their respective Wards that are potentially viable for a noticeboard (highly visible receiving high footfall) and once this information is received, the C & E Officer pursue the prospect to install with KCC and F & HDC. That Councillors are also asked to identify existing noticeboards belonging to schools, churches and other organisations in their Wards and approach the relevant person within the organisation to ascertain if they would be willing to permit FTC to promote specific events, projects and initiatives whilst offering the opportunity for cross promotion and their use of FTC noticeboards.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1287. FOLKESTONE AND CHERITON CHRISTMAS LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS AND SWITCH ON EVENTS (23rd AND 30th NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY)

The C & E Officer updated the committee regarding the Christmas lighting installations for Folkestone town centre and Cheriton High Street and developing plans and arrangements for the Christmas events including the Lions Club Santas Grotto to be hosted in the Town Hall on Saturday 7th December.

1288. UPDATED DISTRICT MAPS

F & HDC are currently aiming to update the maps of the district and provide accommodation providers and attractions these for free on a rip-off pad and publicise online. Members were presented with the first draft at the meeting.

FTC are working in partnership with F & HDC and the C & E Officer updated the committee in respect of tourism initiatives currently being developed as part of a tourism campaign which is directly in response to the priorities identified by the Folkestone & Hythe Tourism Board around encouraging more people in the shoulder season and capitalising on Folkestone's reputation as a relatively well-known destination.

The committee was asked if it wished to release any funding from the Tourism Budget to support the production of the map pads.

RESOLVED:

- i) That a copy of the first draft of the Folkestone map be sent to all Councillors to review asking that they feedback to the C & E Officer with any suggested amends and / or additions.
- ii) That this Item be returned to the Committee meeting in February once the final draft of the map has been produced by F & HDC for Members to review and consider if it wishes to support the production of maps with funding.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1289. BUDGET 2025/26 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS / CORPORATE PLAN

The Committee considered proposals for possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for community service projects and initiatives for next year.

Following the FTC Corporate Plan Public Consultation ending, and the review of Folkestone residents' comments by the Corporate Plan Working Group, members considered comments and areas highlighted from the consultation, whilst identifying potential growth items. The Town Clerk updated Members on the following Town Council services under this Committee's governance:

- Noticeboards – Investigate the potential to install new noticeboards at sites additional to the existing FTC noticeboard locations at Church Lane, Wood Avenue (O/S library), Wear Bay Road (parallel to Jock's Pitch) and Cheriton High Street (O/S library) .
- CCTV –
- Neighbourhood Plan – That the implications and requirements of developing a Neighbourhood Plan be pursued in 2025 including investigating the procedure to apply for available funding to produce and deliver the agreed objectives.

RESOLVED:

- i) That it is proposed the Christmas Lighting Budget is increased by £15,000 as a budget growth item for the Finance & General Purposes Committee to consider at its meeting on 12th December 2024.**
- ii) That it is proposed the Youth Facilities Budget is increased by £5,000 as a budget growth item for the Finance & General Purposes Committee to consider at its meeting on 12th December 2024.**
- iii) That it is proposed the Noticeboard Budget is increased by £5,000 as a budget growth item for the Finance & General Purposes Committee to consider at its meeting on 12th December 2024.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1290. SETTING UP A WARM WELCOME SPACE

The Committee's views were sought in respect of whether it wished Folkestone Town Council to pursue the potential and viability of organising

and delivering the Warm Welcome Space community service in the Town Hall / Museum.

RESOLVED: That the Communities & Events Officer in liaison with the Museum Curator, pursue the viability of providing this service at the Town Hall and report findings at the next Committee meeting when Members will review details and consider if it wishes to provide this service.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1291. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11th February 2025 at **7pm**

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm

Chair.....

Date.....