

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall,
1 – 2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, CT20 1DY on Tuesday, 10 February 2026 at
7.00pm.**

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

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

Absent: Councillors Bridget Chapman and Jane Darling

1349. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

1350. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1351. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 14 October 2025 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 14 October 2025 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

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

1352. ARMED FORCES DAY FOLKESTONE – 2026

The Communities and Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of developing plans for Armed Forces Day.

1353. DRAFT COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

The Town Clerk updated the Committee and asked that it review and comment on the draft Community Resilience Plan. The Plan will aim to support and signpost members of the community to help them prepare for and respond to emergencies at a local level by identifying volunteers, resources and vulnerable areas and members of the community.

The Climate & Environment Committee will also be consulted for comments prior to the production of a final plan.

1354. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CS/26/410

The Committee was asked to receive and note Report CS/26/410.

RESOLVED: To receive and note report CS/26/410 and that a vote of thanks to the Museum staff be recorded.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:0

1356. FTC VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICE/TOURISM AND MUSEUM RETAIL OFFER

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of FTC's current Visitor Information Service and the development of its retail offer.

1356. THE LEAS TOWN TRAIL HERITAGE BOARD

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of the current status relating to the replacement of The Leas Town Trail heritage noticeboard.

1357. PEACE MEMORIAL

Further to a meeting with CJ Russell (President – The Royal Federation of Belgian Veterans) the Communities & Events Officer and Cllr Lucy McGirr updated the Committee in respect of costs, required resources and viability of the suggested project. Further to outcomes of this research, The Royal Federation of Belgian Veterans will be contacted inviting it to apply for a Town Grant for the organisation to deliver this project should it wish to do so.

1358. CIL CONSULTATION

The Committee's views were sought on how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding should be allocated, now that the public consultation inviting residents, community groups and local businesses has concluded.

RESOLVED:

i) That the Town Clerk and Communities & Events Officer undertake further research to ascertain costs, required resource, land ownership, responsibility and viability of the following projects:

- Installation of a MUGA at Coniston Road Play Park

Installation of new equipment suitable for older youths at Naseby Avenue Play Park

Installation of equipment designed and suitable for those with disabilities and accessibility difficulties

- Installation of a shelter for sea swimmers at Mermaid Beach
- Provision of cycle hoops and storage to secure bicycles at top of Sandgate Road, outside Chaos Cards on Sandgate Road and on Cheriton Place
- Installation of specialist beach wheelchairs at the Sunny Sands

ii) Prepare a consolidated report combining the research outcomes with the results of follow-up actions for the projects resolved by the Community Services Committee and the Climate & Environment Committee to be progressed. The report is to be included on the agenda for the next Community Services Committee meeting on 14 April 2026 for Members' review and determination on how to proceed with a final review by the newly combined Community, Climate & Environment Committee.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:0

1359. ARMED FORCES COVENANT UPDATE

As the lead officer for the Armed Forces Covenant, the Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of actions required to develop an application for submission to achieve an upgrade from Bronze Award to the Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award.

The Committee were asked to nominate a Folkestone Town Councillor for the role of Armed Forces Champion.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Belinda Walker be nominated for the role of Armed Forces Champion.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F:3, Ag:0, Ab:1

1360. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Chair.....

Date.....

DRAFT