

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall,
1 – 2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, CT20 1DY on Tuesday, 14 April 2026 at
7.00pm.**

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

In Attendance: Toni Brenchley – Town Clerk

Absent: Councillor Bridget Chapman

1361. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

1362. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1363. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 10 February 2026 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 10 February 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

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

1364. COMMUNITY SERVICES – KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS REPORT CS/26/414

Report CS/26/414 presented the Council's performance against the agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the reporting year, in accordance with the Four-Year Plan.

The Committee was asked to receive the report and consider the recommendations set out within it.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To receive and note report CS/26/414**
- ii) **To approve the recommended amendments to the existing KPIs.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1365. CIL CONSULTATION

An update was provided to the Committee regarding the research conducted by the Town Clerk and Communities & Events Officer in respect of ascertaining costs, required resource, land ownership, responsibility and viability of potential projects.

A report will be submitted to the newly combined Community, Climate & Environment Committee on 9 June 2026.

1366. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CS/26/417

The Committee was asked to receive and note Report CS/26/417.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To receive and note report CS/26/417**
- 2) **To agree that Folkestone Town Council will release £5300 from the Museum Reserve to complete the radon remediation project.**

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1367. ARMED FORCES DAY WITH AIR DISPLAYS 2026

The Committee were updated in respect of developing arrangements for this year's event.

1368. FOLKESTONE TOWN CENTRE AND CHERITON CHRISTMAS LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS

The Committee received an update on the current Christmas lighting assets and installations in Folkestone Town Centre and Cheriton, including the

associated essential tree works being undertaken by Kent County Council (KCC).

Members were advised that KCC have determined that, prior to these works, all Christmas lights installed on KCC-owned trees will be required to be removed. Furthermore, KCC have confirmed that, moving forward, any lights installed on their trees will need to be removed and reinstalled annually prior to the Christmas period.

The Committee expressed disappointment at KCC's sudden decision, particularly given that the lights had been left in situ for a number of consecutive years to avoid the significant costs associated with repeated removal and replacement.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To request £10,000 from reserves to fund the following:**
 - i. **10 trees – Permanent removal of unsalvageable lights**
 - ii. **24 trees - Careful removal of lights, which will not be reinstalled in the current locations, but which may be reused elsewhere where feasible.**
 - iii. **6 trees in the precinct area – Careful removal of lights, with the intention that these will be reinstalled annually in future.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:1

1369. AGE FRIENDLY TOWNS

The Committee was briefed on the concept of an 'Age Friendly Town', including the general principles and aims underpinning the initiative.

Members were informed that further information and details of any potential projects or opportunities arising from this work will be reported to the Committee at a future meeting.

1370. YOUTH PROJECTS

Due to the underwhelming uptake of the Kwik Cricket and Councillor Cup Football Tournament, Officers have explored other activities that may appeal to the youth of Folkestone.

Two projects have been identified for further development:

- Chess introduction: The local Junior Chess club has expressed an interest in introducing more young people to chess, the potential for Folkestone to host a junior chess competition in the future.

- Folkestone archaeology: Officers propose engaging an outside body to host outdoor workshops and introduce schools to the world of archaeology and local history.

RESOLVED:

- i. To proceed with the Chess Introduction project.
- ii. To proceed with the Folkestone Archaeology project.
- iii. That Officers approach local schools once more regarding participation in the Councillor Cup Football Tournament.
- iv. That Councillors explore the possibility of a competition inviting local schools to develop ideas to regenerate the high street with proposals to be reported back to the Committee

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
 Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
 Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1371. SCALE OF FEES

The Committee was asked to review and determine whether to approve the revised scale of fees.

RESOLVED: To approve the revised Scale of Fees

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
 Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
 Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1372. DEFIBRILLATORS & BLEED KITS

An update was provided to the Committee on the Council-managed defibrillators and bleed kits located across Folkestone, including their current status, maintenance arrangements and any actions required.

1373. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Community, Climate & Environment Committee - Tuesday 9 June 2026 at **7pm**

The meeting concluded at 7.55pm

Chair.....

Date.....