



FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Date of Publication: 5 November 2020

AGENDA

Meeting: **Folkestone Town Council**
Date: **12 November 2020**
Time: **6.30 p.m.**
Place: **Virtual Zoom Meeting [Link](#)**

To: **Town Councillors**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of the Folkestone Town Council on the date and at the time and place shown above to transact the business shown on the agenda below. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

Any member who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to give notice prior to the meeting to the Town Mayor or Town Clerk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Childs'.

J Childs
Town Clerk

Prayers

Presentation - Ewan Green, FHDC Place Plan

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive and approve any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of either personal or prejudicial interest that Members may wish to make.

3. MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on 10th September 2020 and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Up to 15 minutes shall be allowed for written public questions from registered electors to be put to the Council in accordance with the Council's approved Standing Orders.

5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES

(items in bold italic have been brought forward for debate, remaining items to be noted)

i. Planning Committee – 2020/21

It was resolved that Councillor David Horton be appointed Chairman and Councillor Jonathan Graham be appointed Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

ii. Community Services Committee – 2020/21

It was resolved that Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly be appointed Chairman and Councillor Paul Bingham be appointed Vice Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

iii. Finance and General Purposes Committee – 2020/21

It was resolved that Councillor Nicola Keen be appointed Chairman and Councillor Jackie Meade be appointed Vice Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

At the F&GP meeting on the 22nd October 2020 at minute 1364. REPLACEMENT OF CIVIC VEHICLE – APRIL 2021 it was

RESOLVED: That Report F/20/273 be received but for the Town Clerk to revisit the options to include an all-electric model; a British manufactured model; no civic vehicle (i.e. Mayor's use of taxis and the Town Sergeant to use his own vehicle for Council duties).

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Dylan Jeffrey

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

Outlined below are options that meet this requirement and previous environmental resolutions:

Option	Vehicle	Costs	Comments
1	Nissan Leaf Hatchback 110kW Acenta 40kWh 5dr Auto [6.6kwCh]	£8,163 ex VAT for a 3yr 6k pa lease Estimated charging costs £1,170	British manufactured All-electric model Boot Capacity 435L Zero CO2 g/km 168 miles on a 7.5 hour full charge
2	Vauxhall corsa-e electric hatchback 100kW SE Nav 50kWh 5dr Auto [11kWCh]	£11,131 ex VAT for a 3yr 6k pa lease Estimated charging costs £1,170	British manufactured All-electric model Boot Capacity 390L Zero CO2 g/km 209 miles on a 7.5 hour full charge
3	Kia Niro 5 Door Hybrid	£10,100 ex VAT for a 3yr 6k pa lease Estimated fuel cost £1,350	Hybrid rather than diesel/all electric 119 - CO2 g/km 54 mpg Boot Capacity 382L

4	No Civic Vehicle	4,000m/pa Estimated taxi fare costs over 3 years £6,510	Mayor's use of taxis for approx. 350 civic events and engagements per annum. Taxi initial charge for first mile ranges from £3.80 to £6.20 depending on the time of day with subsequent miles ranging from £1.60 to £2.80 E.g. Folkestone to Ashford (24 miles) at night = £50 each way in a taxi. 350 events per annum of 10 miles at £4.20/1 st m + £1.60/m. Alternatively the Mayor could use their own personal vehicle and claim Casual User Mileage circa 52.2p per mile. E.g. Folkestone to Ashford (24 miles) £12.50 each way for a self-drive. <i>NB. the Mayoral chain would not be available for events as the Town Sergeant would not be present, this would save on resource costs but would mean the Mayor would attend events in Badge.</i>
		2,000 m/pa Estimated essential user costs over 3 years £5,400	Town Sergeant not prepared to use his own vehicle for Council duties as his allotment/handyman duties require moving tools, equipment, supplies etc that he could not accommodate in his vehicle. But for comparison, the approx. cost over 3 years would be £5,400 based on an annual essential driver allowance to cover wear and tear of circa £965 together with mileage costs of circa 40.9p per mile.

It was resolved that Councillor Roger West be appointed Chairman and Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly be appointed Vice Chairman of the Grants Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

v. Personnel Sub-Committee - 2020/21

It was resolved that Councillor Nicola Keen be appointed Chairman and Councillor Mary Lawes be appointed Vice Chairman of the Personnel Sub-Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

7. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

That the Terms of Reference for all committees remain unchanged.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

- a) Councillor David Horton would like to move a motion to abolish the Grants Committee following the expenditure of the 20/21 grants budget and replace it with a Councillor Community Grant Scheme from 2021/22. It is proposed that:

- the current Town Grant budget be reduced to £34,200 and that the funds be divided equally between the town councillors i.e. £1900 each.
- applicants would be able to make a maximum of two applications a year but the total award to any applicant via any combination of grants or funding would not exceed £2,500 per financial year.
- the Councillor Community Grant budget must be spent within the financial year and not rolled over.

As, Folkestone Town Council is governed by s.101 of the Local Government Act 1972, which states that if the Council does not exercise a function itself it can only be delegated to a Committee, a Sub-Committee, or Officer as individual Councillors have no statutory authority to make a decision the Councillor Community Grants would need to be approved by the Town Clerk.

- b) Councillor David Horton would like to move a motion to meet the fifth requirement to achieve 'Plastic Free Folkestone' status.

Further to minute 1048 of the Community Services Committee of 4th June 2019 where it was resolved that the Council pledges to become a 'single-use plastic free' Council and adopt the Plastic Free Communities Toolkit and minute 1121 of the Community Services Committee of 25th August 2020 where it was resolved to adopt an Environment Working Group and for Belinda Walker to champion Plastic Free Folkestone.

Requirement No. 5 is the Local Governance Objective and requires Council to pass a resolution supporting the plastic free journey, committing it to taking action itself and supporting plastic-free initiatives within its catchment by pledging to:

- lead by example and remove single-use plastic items from its premises and operations.

- encourage plastic-free initiatives in the area, promoting the campaign and supporting events.
- name a representative of the council to sit on the Plastic Free Community Steering Group.

- c) Councillor David Horton would like to move a motion to determine the terms of office of substitute members to a committee whose role is to replace the ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary member has confirmed to the Town Clerk that they are unable to attend in line with Standing Order 4v.

It is proposed that if a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting, a duly appointed named substitute member shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at the meeting provided that:-

- no member shall act as a substitute for more than one member at any meeting;
- the Town Clerk is notified of the name of the original member and the duly appointed substitute member 7 clear days before the meeting;
- the substitution shall be reported formally at the meeting and recorded in the Minutes;
- the attendance of the substitute member shall apply for the whole of the meeting in question.

- d) Councillor Michelle Keutenius would like to move a motion that Council:

- works proactively with local agencies, charities and community groups supporting those facing homelessness,
- prioritises grant funding in support of organisations working with those facing and living with homelessness,
- provides useful links for those wishing to access support in order to prevent homelessness by utilising channels on our website and social media communications.

Because over the past few years homelessness has become an ever growing concern and crisis for residents of Folkestone and the lack of affordable/accessible housing for people is untenable and with the rise of economic insecurity during and following the Covid-19 Pandemic this may make the situation more pronounced.

- e) Councillor Michelle Keutenius would like to move a motion that Council notes that it has an obligation of responsibility in line with its community cohesion duty to both welcome those seeking safety in our town and to engage our community as a whole in a humane and positive manner, in line with the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and commits to:

- expressing our friendship to those seeking refuge as we have done over many generations,

- prioritising funding allocations to support community cohesion,
- working in partnership with other community organisations, agencies and authorities to ensure appropriate measures of support for our community as a whole,
- providing useful links and information to help understand the legal position and formal processes relating to Asylum by utilising channels on our website and social media communications.

- f) Councillor Richard Wallace would like to move a motion that Council adds to its Historical Town Trail heritage boards by revisiting the boards that didn't get completed in the first development phase and creating a new board close to the Royal Victoria Hospital that highlights the life of Walter Tull and stories of the hospital. Historians and Designers are already onboard. A budget of £6,000 per board is required for design, manufacture and installation.

9. FREE HALF TERM PACKED LUNCHES

At very short notice the Mayor supported by members ward grants offered free packed lunches for Folkestone children over the October half term holiday to ensure no child went hungry due to a change of circumstances caused by the coronavirus pandemic, however, this is an ongoing concern to members and residents and therefore Council is asked to consider the best way to support its residents moving forward.

10. TOWN CLERKS UPDATE

National Lockdown

Small Parks

White Cliffs Community Rail Partnership

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

14th January 2021 6.30pm (precept)

Folkestone Town Council

MINUTES of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Folkestone Town Council held virtually on Thursday, 10th September 2020 at 6 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ann Berry, Paul Bingham, Peter Gane, Michelle Keutenius, Jonathan Graham, David Horton, Ray Field, Dylan Jeffrey, Mary Lawes, Jackie Meade, Tim Prater, Belinda Walker, Richard Wallace and Roger West.

ABSENT: Councillor Nicola Keen

In attendance: Jennifer Childs (Town Clerk) and Georgina Wilson (Executive Assistant).

Prayers where led by Rev Bob Weldon.

1731. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies where approved for:

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly - bereavement

Councillor Connor McConville - ill health

Councillor Nicola Keen was absent but advised after the meeting she had connection problems as zoom was diverting to another meeting.

1732. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

1733. MINUTES

Council was asked to receive the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 23rd July 2020 and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council meeting held on 23rd July 2020 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Jonathan Graham

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F: 14, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1734. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In accordance with standing order no.3 written public questions received by the Town Clerk not less than seven clear days (excluding weekends and public holidays) before the meeting will be put to the Council.

Q1: Council received a request from a resident in the Bayle for additional CCTV at the Parade and the Bayle Steps due to ongoing antisocial behaviour.

RESOLVED: That an annual report be prepared for Finance & General Purposes to consider additional CCTV.

Proposed: Councillor Dylan Jeffrey
 Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane
 Voting: F: 14, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

Q2: A resident of No.1 The Leas has advised residents are having ongoing issues due to noise and vibration from Tru-Gym.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should respond and advise that the question should be referred to the Environmental Health Department at Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

Q3. A resident has asked whether an Aire could be established in Folkestone to accommodate motorhomes and help year-round tourism.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should respond and advise that the question should be referred to Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

1735. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor advised that during the first few months into her term as office a lot of events had been cancelled due to the pandemic, however she had managed to participate in:

- a zoom meeting with the Air Ambulance
- the Redeemed Christian Church of God Folkestone (Inspiration House)
- the Big Sleep Out

The Town Mayor gave thanks to all the contractors, staff and Councillors who worked to ensure that all these significant events went ahead in these challenging times.

1736. TOWN CLERKS REPORT

Council considered Report C/20/272 which provided an update on services being actioned under the Town Clerk's scheme of delegation.

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt Report C/20/272.

Proposed: Councillor Paul Bingham
 Seconded: Councillor Roger West
 Voting: F: 14, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1737. RESERVES POLICY

Council considered the Reserves Policy.

RESOLVED: That the Reserves Policy be adopted

Proposed: Councillor Paul Bingham
 Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade
 Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

Councillor Belinda Walker lost connection.

1738. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS
Thursday, 12th November 2020 at 6.30pm

The meeting ended at 6.20pm

.....Town Mayor