

Folkestone Town Council

MINUTES of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Folkestone Town Council held virtually on Thursday, 18th March 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: Jennifer Childs (Town Clerk), Georgina Wilson – Executive Assistant and Toni Brenchley - Assistant Clerk.

Prayers.

1758. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

1759. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Ann Berry, Peter Gane, Michelle Keutenius, Jonathan Graham, Ray Field, Nicola Keen, Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Tim Prater, Richard Wallace and Roger West declared personal interests in item 1768.

1760. MINUTES

Council was asked:

1. To receive the Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 14th January 2021 and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 14th January 2021 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West
Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade
Voting: F:16, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2. To receive the Minutes of the ultimate Grants Committee Meeting held on 21st January 2021 and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the ultimate Grants Committee Meeting held on 21st January 2021 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West
Seconded: Councillor David Horton
Voting: F:16, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

3. To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of the 11th December 2019 & 9th January, 12th March and 8th October 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee be received enbloc.

Proposed: Councillor David Horton
Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade
Voting: F:16, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

4. To receive the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings of the 9th December 2019 & 20th February, 20th August and 17th December 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee be received enbloc.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Connor McConville
Voting: F:16, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

5. To receive the Minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings of the 19th November 2019 & 4th February, 25th August and 19th November 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Services Committee be received enbloc.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Seconded: Councillor Paul Bingham
Voting: F:16, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

18.35pm Councillor Peter Gane arrived at this juncture.

6. To receive the Minutes of the Grants Committee meetings of the 7th November 2019 and 24th September 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Grants Committee be received enbloc.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West
Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Voting: F:17, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1761. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions were received.

1762. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported on attending several events including:

Holocaust Memorial Day
HMS Kent Affiliates Virtual Event
Dover Virtual Fair Trade Event

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

1763. TOWN MAYOR'S AWARDS

The Town Mayor showed her appreciation to members of the community who have done something particularly noteworthy within her municipal year.

The following recipients will receive a certificate and gift from the Town Mayor:

Francis Bond - in recognition of your hard work and relentless dedication in supporting projects to preserve the heritage of our town's fishing industry.

Alan Taylor - in recognition of your hard work and relentless dedication in supporting projects to preserve the heritage of our town's fishing industry.

John Gale - in recognition of your hard work and relentless dedication in supporting projects to preserve the heritage of our town's fishing industry.

Bob Hyslop - in recognition of your long term commitment as a Tree Warden for the Town of Folkestone.

Ricky McNeice - in recognition of your hard work and dedication to the continued success of the Folkestone & Hythe Sea Cadets & Royal Marine Detachment.

Jacqueline Nazer - in recognition of your dedicated work improving the lives of those living in your community.

Streetz to Streetz (Jane King and Jackie Gamble) - in recognition of your hard work raising funds for local homeless projects and providing free meals throughout our community.

1764. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

- i. At the Grants Committee meeting held remotely by Zoom on 21st January 2021, it was resolved at minute 145 that Report G/21/278 be received, noted and the new policy documents and forms approved; and that the Grant Committee recommends Full Council adopt the new policy documents and forms effective 1st April 2021.

It was proposed to amend the limit for grant applications to £5,000 per annum.

Proposed: Councillor Dylan Jeffrey

Seconded: Councillor Ann Berry
Voting: F:11, Ag: 4, Ab: 2

RESOLVED: To adopt the new Grant policy documents and forms effective 1st April 2021.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade
Voting: F:3, Ag: 4, Ab: 10

The amendment falls as the substantive motion was lost.

- ii. At the Community Services Committee meeting held remotely by Zoom on 2nd February 2021, it was resolved at minute 1143 that Report CS/21/280 be received and noted; and to recommend to Full Council that the revised Committee Structures together with associated Terms of Reference, Schedule of Dates and Budget Allocations be implemented for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: To adopt the revised Committee Structures together with associated Terms of Reference, Schedule of Dates and Budget Allocations for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Voting: F:12, Ag: 4, Ab: 1

- iii. Planning application comments submitted to the District Council under the Town Clerks Scheme of Delegation since the last report to committee were noted.

1765. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

In line with section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003, Report C/21/284 reviewed the Council's Treasury Management Policy for 2021/22.

RESOLVED: To amend the Treasury Management Policy to include the following:

- 2iv. **The Council will not knowingly invest directly in businesses whose activities and practices pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the Council's mission and values. This would include, avoiding investment in institutions with material links to:**
- Human rights abuse (eg child labour, political oppression, modern slavery)
 - Environmentally harmful activities (eg fossil fuels, pollution, destruction of habitat)
 - Socially harmful activities (eg tobacco, gambling, production of armaments)

- 2v. The Council will if possible provide information on the ethical ratings schemes of its investments. The council will use The Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS), which is a global leader in the provision of environmental, social, governance research for responsible investors.
3. Council does not use external advisers to offer information, advice or assistance relating to investments, nor does it regard there as being a need for its staff to be trained in investment management given the nature of its investments but will rely on information which is publicly available. Investments shall be decided and placed by the Responsible Financial Officer having used due diligence and consultation with the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
8. Officers and Councillors responsible for Treasury Management will receive training as offered by the National Association of Local Councils and other appropriate bodies.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Graham
Voting: F:16, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

RESOLVED: To approve report C/21/284 and adopt the Investment Policy for the financial year of 2021/22.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade
Voting: F:15, Ag: 0, Ab: 2

1766. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RISK ASSESSMENT AND INSURANCE REVIEW

Report C/21/285 presents the annual business risk assessment and review of the current insurance arrangements for the Council's approval.

RESOLVED: That the Governance and Accountability Risk Assessment and Insurance Review be noted and approved.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes
Voting: F:17, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1767. TOWN MAYOR ELECT 2021/22

Town Councillors are requested to select the Town Mayor Elect for the ensuing municipal year 2021/22.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Michelle Keutenius be Town Mayor Elect for the ensuing municipal year 2021/22.

Proposed: Councillor David Horton

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Graham
Voting: F:13, Ag: 0, Ab: 4

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The press and public are to be excluded for the remainder of the meeting under Section 1, sub-section 2, of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West
Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Graham
Voting: F:17, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1768. CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Citizenship Awards Panel convened on 22nd February 2021 to discuss nominations. An affirmative resolution by 80% of councillors present is required to confer an award.

RESOLVED: That nominee one receive a For Merit Award.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes
Voting: F:17, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

The motion was carried as 80% of councillors present voted in favour.

RESOLVED: That nominee two receive a For Merit Award.

Proposed: Councillor Belinda Walker
Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen
Voting: F:12, Ag: 0, Ab: 5

The motion fell as 80% of councillors present did not vote in favour.

1769. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Annual Town Assembly - Thursday, 25th March 2021
Annual Statutory Meeting – Tuesday, 11 May 2021 (provisional)

The meeting ended at 19.45 pm

.....Town Mayor

..... Date

