

## **Folkestone Town Meeting**

**MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 6.30 p.m.**

**TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly (from 6.35 p.m.), Ann Berry, Paul Bingham, Peter Gane, Dylan Jeffrey, Nicola Keen, Mary Lawes, Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Tim Prater, Belinda Walker, and Roger West.

**ABSENT:** Councillors Dan Brook, David Horton and Richard Wallace (the Mayor advised she had received Councillor Wallace's apologies)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Jennifer Childs - Town Clerk  
Phil Cross – Finance Officer

### **1876. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Jonathan Graham, Ray Field and Michelle Keutenius.

### **1877. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **1878. MINUTES**

The Council was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and to ask the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F:11, Ag:0, Ab:0

### **1879. INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Councillors considered and noted the Internal Auditor's Report.

### **1880. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

Councillors considered the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement. The Chairman of the meeting and the Town Clerk preceded to sign the document.

**RESOLVED: To approve the Statement of Internal Control for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 22 and for the Chairman and Town Clerk to sign.**

Proposed: Councillor Ann Berry

Seconded: Councillor Paul Bingham

Voting: F:11, Ag:0, Ab:0

**1881. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22**

Councillors considered the Annual Governance Statement and proposed that the following boxes be ticked:

Boxes 1 to 8: 'Yes'

Box 9: 'N/A'

**RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 and for the Chairman and Town Clerk to sign.**

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded: Councillor Paul Bingham

Voting: F:11, Ag:0, Ab:0

**1882. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN 2021/22**

Councillors approved the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22, the Annual Return for 2021/22 (Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2022) and the supporting Bank Reconciliation. The Chairman of the meeting preceded to sign the document.

**RESOLVED: To approve the Statement of Accounts and Annual Return 2021/22 and for the Chairman to sign.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F:11, Ag:0, Ab:0

6.35pm Councillor Akuffo-Kelly arrived at this juncture.

**1883. PERIOD OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS**

The dates set for the period of exercise of public rights are 1 July 2022 to 11 August 2022, during which time members of the public may inspect accounting records by prior arrangement.

**1884. ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

Councillors considered and noted the 2021/22 Annual Report.

**1885. COUNCILLOR QUESTION**

Councillor Lawes reported that people are having great difficulty contacting their GP Surgeries to arrange appointments. When they do get through, some are so frustrated and angry that they abuse the staff. This is not acceptable but understandable. Elderly people have been finding it particularly hard to get in touch as most only use phones and have been suffering in silence. Councillor Lawes asked whether the Council could help the GP's by publicising the issues and communicating more, as the wall of silence leads to mistrust and bad feeling, which is not helpful.

Councillor Lawes asked that the Council consider writing to all GP Surgeries in the Folkestone area, asking:

What are the difficulties they are experiencing with their practices?

Why are they not open fully and dealing with their patients face to face?

Is there a time scale when things will go back to normal?

If the situation and constraints remain, can they at least improve their contact and communication for patients to enable them to get in touch?

**RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk writes to local GP surgeries, Damian Collins MP, Councillors Rolfe & Hollingsby at Folkestone & Hythe District Council.**

Proposed: Councillor Mary Lawes

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

Voting: F:12, Ag:0, Ab:0

**1886. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 at 7.00 p.m. – Ordinary Full Council Meeting

**The meeting concluded at 6.45 pm.**

.....Town Mayor