

## **Folkestone Town Council**

**MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Thursday, 14 November 2024 at 7.00 p.m.**

**TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Christine Dickinson, Nicola Keen, Kieran Leigh, Adrian Lockwood, Lucy McGirr, Laura Davison, Peter Gane, Tim Prater, Jackie Meade, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker (arrived 7:07pm), Roger West.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Bridget Chapman, Jane Darling, Connor McConville, Liz McShane.

**ABSENT:** Councillor Charles Bain Smith

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Toni Brenchley (Town Clerk)  
Jennifer Griffin (Administration Officer)  
Ian Bishop (Town Sergeant)

No questions were received.

### **2117. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bridget Chapman, Jane Darling, Connor McConville and Liz McShane.

**RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Bridget Chapman, Jane Darling, Connor McConville and Liz McShane.**

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

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

### **2118. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2119. MINUTES**

The Council was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19 September 2024 and to ask the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19 September 2024 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

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

## **2120. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor gave a brief overview of activities in relation to the Mayoralty since the last Full Council Meeting.

*Councillor Belinda Walker arrived at 7:07pm.*

## **2121. WARD GRANTS**

Due to the timescale for the events concerned, Council were asked to approve the following Ward Grant applications:

Organisation Name	Project Name	Requested Amount	Supported by
Strange Cargo	Cheriton Christmas Lights craft workshop	£100.00	P Gane
Strange Cargo	Cheriton Christmas Lights craft workshop	£100.00	J Renshaw
Strange Cargo	Cheriton Christmas Lights craft workshop	£100.00	R West

**RESOLVED: To award Strange Cargo with the Ward Grant amounts listed.**

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

## **2122. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Full Council was asked to receive and endorse the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee held on the 29 August 2024 and 26 September 2024.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings of 29 August 2024 and 26 September 2024 be received.**

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

## **2123. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Full Council was asked to receive and endorse the Minutes and recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meetings held on the 22 August 2024.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meetings of 22 August 2024.**

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Christine Dickinson

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**2124. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The Full Council was asked to receive and endorse the Minutes and recommendations of the Community Services Committee meetings held on the 11 June 2024.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings of 11 June 2024 be received.**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**2125. MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The Full Council was asked to receive and endorse the Minutes and recommendations of the Climate and Environment Committee meetings held on the 4 June 2024.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meetings of 4 June 2024 be received.**

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**2126. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

Councillors noted the resolutions.

i) **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

Noted

ii) **Community Services Committee**

Noted

iii) **Climate and Environment Committee**

Noted

**2127. OUTSIDE BODIES**

i) The Council received verbal reports from Councillors as Council representatives on the following outside bodies:

Councillor Jane Darling sent a Report on Kent Association of Local Councils.

Councillor Roger West gave a brief update on John Bowley & Sherwood Almshouses Charity.

Councillor Adrian Lockwood gave a brief update on the Folkestone Twinning Association.

Councillor Adrian Lockwood to enquire with the Twinning Association with regard to meetings for him to attend as a Council representative.

Councillors Belinda Walker, as Cinque Ports Champion and Councillor Nicola Keen, as a Cinque Ports Baron gave brief updates on the Cinque Ports.

Councillor Belinda Walker agreed to add the Environmental Emergency Plan to the Cinque Ports Agenda for the next meeting.

Councillors Roger West, Lucy McGirr and Belinda Walker gave brief updates on the Folkestone Municipal Charity.

Councillor Belinda Walker gave a brief update on Folke About Town.

- ii) The Town Mayor received a request from the Nepalese Twinning Association for Council representation on the group. Councillors were therefore asked to consider who will represent Folkestone Town Council.

**RESOLVED: For the Town Clerk to email all Councillors to see if they wish to be included on the Nepalese Twinning Association as Council representatives.**

Proposed: Councillor Laura Davison

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

## **2128. NALC CONSULTATION**

Since temporary COVID-19 powers ended in May 2021, NALC have been at the forefront of a national campaign to allow parish and town councils to hold remote council meetings. The Deputy Prime Minister has announced that the government is committed to allowing councils to hold remote council meetings and published a consultation paper, which closes on 19 December 2024.

NALC are therefore encouraging all parish and town councils, county associations, and individual Councillors and clerks to participate in this essential consultation. Council was therefore asked if they wished to respond as a corporate body and, if so, did they agree with the broad principle of granting local authorities powers to allow remote attendance at formal meetings.

**RESOLVED: That Council agree with the broad principle of granting local authorities powers to allow remote attendance at formal meetings and for the Town Clerk to circulate to all Councillors the NALC questionnaire, then collate and respond as a corporate body.**

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

## **2129. POLICIES & STATEMENTS**

Council was asked to approve the following policies and statements:

- FTC Public Space CCTV Policy – The CCTV Policy has been revised to reflect the current partnership agreement with Swale BC
- Fire Prevention Management & Procedure (New)
- Biodiversity Statement (Reviewed)
- Environmental Statement (Reviewed)
- Collections Management Policy Pack – In preparation for re-accreditation from the Arts Council, various policies and documents have been reviewed and combined for adoption by Council.

**RESOLVED: That the FTC Public Space CCTV Policy, Fire Prevention Management & Procedure, Biodiversity Statement, Environmental Statement and Collections Management Policy Pack be approved and adopted.**

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

## **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**To resolve pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next item of business is discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

## **2130. CCTV MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE**

Council were asked to consider Exempt Report C/24/370.

**RESOLVED: To accept the Exempt Report C/24/370 as detailed below**

- 1. To receive and note report C/24/370**
- 2. That Council extend the contract with SBC (Financial Regulation 11 iv) from 1 April 2025 with the option to include maintenance for Folkestone's public realm CCTV.**
- 3. That Council accept the funding from Safer Streets of £13,796.89 for 2024/25 for improvements to the signal within the town centre.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane  
Seconded: Councillor Christine Dickinson  
Voting: F: 13, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**2131. DATE OF THE NEXT MEEETING**

9 January 2025 at 7pm – Ordinary Full Council Meeting.

**The meeting concluded at 7:49 pm.**

.....Town Mayor