

Folkestone Town Council

MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Thursday, 18 September 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Lucy McGirr, John Renshaw, Nicola Keen, Christine Dickinson, Kieran Leigh, Bridget Chapman, Jane Darling, Connor McConville, Peter Gane, Tim Prater, Jackie Meade, Belinda Walker, Adrian Lockwood and Roger West.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Charles Bain Smith and Laura Davison.

ABSENT: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly and Liz McShane.

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 2

2163. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Charles Bain Smith and Laura Davison.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Charles Bain Smith and Laura Davison.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen
Voting: F: 14, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2164. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2165. MINUTES

Council was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12 June 2025 and to ask the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12 June 2025 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F: 14, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2166. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council were asked to receive Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings of 29 May 2025, 19 June 2025, 10 July 2025 and 31 July 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings of 29 May 2025, 19 June 2025, 10 July 2025 and 31 July 2025 be received.

Proposed: Councillor Christine Dickinson

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

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

2167. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Council was asked to receive the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meetings of 8 May 2025 and 12 June 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meetings of 8 May 2025 and 12 June 2025 be received.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Bridget Chapman

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

2168. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Council was asked to receive the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting of 8 April 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting of 8 April 2025 be received.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling

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

2169. MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Council was asked to receive the Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee Meeting of 3 June 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee Meeting of 3 June 2025 be received.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

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

2170. MINUTES OF THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

Council was asked to receive the Minutes of the Grants Committee Meeting of 6 February 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Grants Committee Meeting of 6 February 2025 be received.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

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

2171. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillors noted the Matters and Resolutions from Committees.

- i) **Climate and Environment Committee – 24 July 2025**
Noted
- ii) **Community Services Committee – 10 June 2025**
Noted
- iii) **Finance & General Purposes Committee – 21 August 2025**
Noted

2172. CCTV MAINTENANCE

Following a Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) review, Council was asked to approve the recommendations contained within **Report C/25/395** to maintain and enhance the CCTV network's operational effectiveness.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To receive and note report C/25/395**
- 2) To approve the release of £13,524 from *CCTV earmarked reserves***
- 3) To approve the relocation of the current equipment in the Town Hall to Swale's new back-up Centre in Sheerness.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

Councillor McConville thanked Swale Borough Council for their assistance and support over the past months.

2173. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

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

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

Councillor Adrian Lockwood was unable to give an update on the Folkestone Twinning Association due to lack of information available.

Councillor Belinda Walker gave a brief update on the Cinque Ports.

Councillor Lucy McGirr gave a brief update on the Folkestone Municipal Charity.

Councillor Peter Gane gave a brief update on the NALC Super Council Network.

Councillors John Renshaw and Belinda Walker gave an update on the Mechinagar/Folkestone Twinning Association.

Councillor Jane Darling gave a brief update on the Folkestone Community Forum.

2174. KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S UPDATES

The Council received reports providing updates from Kent County Councillors.

i) Councillor Tim Prater, Member for Cheriton Sandgate and Hythe East.

Received

ii) Councillor Mary Lawes, Member for Folkestone East.

Received

iii) Councillor John Baker, Member for Folkestone West.

Received

RESOLVED: To draft a letter to KCC Councillors regarding the future of the Grace Hill Library. The Town Clerk will circulate to all Councillors for approval.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

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

2175. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following the Government's announcement that it will end its new neighbourhood planning support services from 2025 onwards, the Town Clerk has written to F&HDC to ask whether they would consider providing financial support to help continue progress on a neighbourhood plan.

RESOLVED: To await a response from F&HDC regarding funding available to support moving forward with a neighbourhood plan for Folkestone.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

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

2176. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

- i) Councillor John Renshaw moved a motion for the Town Council to approve the use of the Town Council's logo within the logo that has been proposed for the Folkestone Mechinagar Twinning Association.

A revised logo was distributed at the Meeting, please see attached.

After discussion Councillor Renshaw withdrew the Motion.

- ii) Councillor Laura Davison moved a motion to revoke Resolution No.2173 made at Full Council on 6 May 2025, to amend the Committee membership as follows:

- **Planning Committee**

Councillors Charles Bain Smith, John Renshaw, Bridget Chapman, Jane Darling, Liz McShane and Christine Dickinson.

- **Climate & Environment Committee**

Councillors Lucy McGirr, Nicola Keen, Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Charles Bain Smith, Kieran Leigh, Laura Davison, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker and Roger West.

RESOLVED: To amend the Committee membership as follows:

- **Planning Committee**

Councillors Charles Bain Smith, John Renshaw, Bridget Chapman, Jane Darling, Liz McShane and Christine Dickinson.

- **Climate & Environment Committee**

Councillors Lucy McGirr, Nicola Keen, Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Charles Bain Smith, Kieran Leigh, Laura Davison, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker and Roger West.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Seconded: Councillor Bridget Chapman
Voting: F: 14, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2177. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

13 November 2025 – Ordinary Full Council Meeting

The meeting concluded at 7:34 pm.

.....Town Mayor

