

Folkestone Town Council

MINUTES of the AGAR Meeting held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Thursday, 11 June 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillors Lucy McGirr, Christine Dickinson, Adrian Lockwood, Jane Darling, Connor McConville, Laura Davison (6:08pm), Peter Gane, Tim Prater, John Renshaw, Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Belinda Walker and Jackie Meade.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors Nicola Keen, Roger West and Bridget Chapman.

ABSENT:

Councillors Kieran Leigh, Charles Bain Smith and Liz McShane.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Toni Brenchley (Town Clerk)
Karen Palmer (Finance Officer)
Jennifer Griffin (Administration Officer)

Prayers were read by Councillor Peter Gane

No questions were received.

2262. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Nicola Keen, Roger West and Bridget Chapman. Part Apologies were received from Councillor Laura Davison.

2263. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2264. MINUTES

Council was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5 May 2026 and to ask the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5

May 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

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

2265. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the above Committee's meetings of 19 February 2026, 19 March 2026, 2 April 2026 and 23 April 2026

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 19 February 2026, 19 March 2026, 2 April 2026 and 23 April 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Christine Dickinson

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

2266. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the above Committee's meetings of 12 February 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Christine Dickinson

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

2267. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the above Committee's meeting of 10 February 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

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

2268. MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the above Committee's meetings of 3 February 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Climate and Environment

Committee Meeting held on 3 February 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw
Voting: F: 11, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2269. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES

i) Climate & Environment Committee – 7 April 2026

Noted

ii) Community Services Committee – 14 April 2026

Noted

ii) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 16 April 2026

Noted

2270. INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Council noted the Internal Auditor's Report for 2025/26.

RESOLVED: To note the Internal Auditor's Report for 2025/26.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F: 11, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2271. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

To review the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control. Councillors were asked to consider the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement.

The Chair of the meeting and the Town Clerk signed the Statement of Internal Control.

RESOLVED: To approve the Statement of Internal Control for the year ending 31st March 2026 and for the Chair and Town Clerk to sign.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling
Voting: F: 11, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2272. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26

The Council was asked to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26 (Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2026).

The Chair of the meeting and the Town Clerk signed the Statement of Internal Control.

RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26 and for the Chair of the meeting and Town Clerk to sign. Councillors moved a vote of thanks to the Finance Officer for all their hard work.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Tim Prater

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

(Councillor Laura Davison arrived at 6:08pm)

2273. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN 2025/26

The Council was asked to approve the Statement of Accounts 2025/26, the Annual Return for 2025/26 (Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2026) and supporting Bank Reconciliation.

The Chair of the meeting and the Town Clerk signed the Statement of Internal Control.

RESOLVED: To approve the Statement of Accounts 2025/26, the Annual Return for 2025/26, and supporting Bank Reconciliation, proposed on the basis that all questions on page 4 of the Annual Return are ticked Yes, apart from question 9 which is not applicable to Folkestone Town Council and for the Chair of the meeting to sign all documents.

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling

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

2274. PERIOD OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

Councillors noted the dates set for the period of exercise of public rights as 15 June 2026 to 24 July 2026.

2275. ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

The 2025/26 Annual Report was noted.

2276. WORKING GROUPS

Council were asked to approve nominations for membership to Working Groups for 2026/27.

RESOLVED: That the membership to Working Groups for 2026/27 be as follows:

CCTV: Councillors Akuffo-Kelly, Keen, Lockwood, McConville and Walker.

Highways Improvement Plan: Councillors Darling, Dickinson, Gane, Keen, Leigh, McGirr, Prater, Renshaw and Walker.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Laura Davison
Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2277. 2 GRACE HILL

i) Budget Provision

Members were asked to consider Report C/26/420 setting out proposals to realign existing budgets to establish a dedicated budget for building management.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Receive and note report C/26/420**
- 2) To accept the proposals set out in Section 3 of the report regarding the establishment of a Grace Hill earmarked reserve and associated budget reallocations, with further review and amendment following, as necessary, as the project develops.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville
Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood
Voting: F: 11, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

ii) Steering Group Arrangements

The Town Clerk sought Members' views on the future role and composition of the Steering Group, together with consideration of the draft Terms of Reference (ToR).

RESOLVED: To accept the Grace Hill Steering Group Terms of Reference and for the group to comprise of the following members:

Folkestone Town Council:

The Town Mayor of Folkestone
Chair of Finance & General Purposes
Chair of Community, Climate & Environment
Central Ward Councillor
Project Champion - Cllr Tim Prater
Construction/Building Advisor - Cllr Adrian Lockwood
Town Clerk – Toni Brenchley

Partners:

Creative Folkestone
Advisor - Alastair Upton
One Folkestone Partnership Lead - Jon O'Connor
Folkestone & Hythe District Council Leader
Folkestone & Hythe Constituency MP

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater
Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw
Voting: F: 12, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

2278. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Full Council – Thursday 17 September 2026

The meeting concluded at 6:56pm.

.....Town Mayor

DRAFT