

Folkestone Town Council

MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Thursday, 17 September 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Jackie Meade (In the Chair)

Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Bridget Chapman, Jane Darling, Christine Dickinson, Nicola Keen, Adrian Lockwood, Liz McShane, Lucy McGirr, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker and Roger West.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors Laura Davison, Peter Gane and Tim Prater.

ABSENT:

Councillors Charles Bain Smith, Kieran Leigh and Connor McConville.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Prayers were read by the Town Mayor's Chaplain Kate McNiece.

No questions were received.

2279. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Laura Davison, Tim Prater and Peter Gane.

2280. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2281. MINUTES

Council was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Full Council (AGAR) Meeting held on 11 June 2026 and to ask the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Full Council (AGAR) Meeting held on 11 June 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

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

2282. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the above Committee's meetings of 14 May 2026, 4 June 2026, 25 June 2026, 16 July 2026, 6 August 2026 and 27 August 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 14 May 2026, 4 June 2026, 25 June 2026, 16 July 2026, 6 August 2026 and 27 August 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Christine Dickinson

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

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

2283. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the above Committee's meetings of 16 April 2026 and 11 June 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2026 and 11 June 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Adrian Lockwood

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

2284. MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the above Committee's meeting of 7 April 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 7 April 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling

Voting: F: 11, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

2285. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the above Committee's meetings of 14 April 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Belinda Walker

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

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

2286. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the above Committee's meetings of 9 June 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Community, Climate and Environment Committee Meeting held on 9 June 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

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

2287. MINUTES OF THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the above Committee's meetings of 5 February 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Grants Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

Voting: F: 11, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

2288. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES

i) Community, Climate & Environment Committee – 18 August 2026.

Noted

ii) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 20 August 2026.

Noted

2289. 2 GRACE HILL UPDATE

- i) Budget Provision
Councillors noted Report C/26/425, and the Town Clerk gave an update to members on the financial position relating to the Grace Hill property. This included expenditure incurred to date, anticipated future costs and the overall projected budget position.
- ii) Steering Group Arrangements
Following a meeting of the Steering Group on Monday 14 September 2026, the Town Clerk provided an update to Councillors on the Steering Groups activities and next steps.

2290. CCTV WORKING GROUP

Councillors were invited to join the CCTV Working Group and noted the time and date of the next Working Group meeting.

2291. KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S UPDATES

KCC Councillors were invited to provide updates. Written updates were received from Councillor Tim Prater, Member for Cheriton, Sandgate & Hythe East.

2292. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

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

Councillor Lucy McGirr gave an update on John Bowley & Sherwood Almshouses Charity.

Councillor Adrian Lockwood gave an update on the Etaples/Folkestone Twinning Association.

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

Councillor Nicola Keen gave an update on the Folkestone Municipal Charity.

Councillor Peter Gane was not available to give an update on NALC Super Council Network.

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly gave an update on the Nepalese/Folkestone Twinning Association.

Councillor Jane Darling gave an update on the Folkestone Community Forum.

Councillor Lucy McGirr gave an update on the Dover, Deal & District Advice Bureau.

Councillor Belinda Walker gave an update on the Armed Forces Covenant.

2293. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

The Town Clerk gave a brief update to Councillors based on the limited information currently available.

2294. THE BIG CONVERSATION ON CARE

Councillors noted the Casey Commission's consultation on the future of adult social care and were invited to view and comment on the thoughts and suggestions that have been submitted by individuals, via the consultation portal.

2295. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Full Council – Thursday 12 November 2026

Extra-ordinary Full Council – Thursday 17 December 2026 (2027/28 Budget)

The meeting concluded at 7:37pm.

.....Town Mayor