



TOWN CLERK – MS LOUISE BAREHAM  
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10 May 2022

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Dear Councillor

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND** the Annual Meeting of Faversham Town Council to be held on Monday 16 May 2022 at **7pm** in the Guildhall, Faversham.

Yours sincerely

*Louise Bareham*

Louise Bareham FSLCC  
Town Clerk

**The Mayor will allow a maximum of thirty minutes for Members of the Council to receive questions from registered electors of the Town before the formal meeting commences. When providing your name and address prior to addressing the meeting, please confirm or otherwise, that you consent to your personal details being recorded in the Minutes. Your personal data will be processed as directed by GDPR Article 5.**

**This meeting may be filmed or recorded. At the start of the meeting the Mayor will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed or audio recorded. The whole of the meeting can be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items. If any member of the public has an objection to being filmed, please make yourself known to the Mayor or the Town Clerk before the start of the meeting.**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies  
To receive apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests  
Members who have an interest to declare on any items on the Agenda, must declare the existence and nature of it at the start of the meeting and act in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct (s27 Localism Act 2011).

3. Previous Minutes  
To receive and accept as a true record the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May and any matters for report.
4. Mayor's Announcements  
To receive the Mayor's announcements
5. LCWIP Working Group  
To receive the Minutes of the LCWIP Working Group dated 6<sup>th</sup> April and agree any recommendations.
6. Climate and Biodiversity Working Group  
To receive the Minutes of the Climate and Biodiversity Working Group dated 11<sup>th</sup> April and agree any recommendations.
7. 20's Plenty Working Group  
To receive the Minutes of the 20's Plenty Working Group dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and agree any recommendations.
8. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
To receive the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and agree any recommendations.
9. Policy and Finance Committee  
To receive the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (tabled)
10. Appointment to Committees  
To agree the appointment of Members to Standing Committees and Working Groups.
11. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies  
To agree the appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies
12. Standing Orders  
To agree amended Standing Orders following NALC's update to Para 18 to omit reference to EU Regulations (tabled)
13. Insurance  
The Town To agree the resolution "*The Council confirms that arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks is in place for the Civic Year 2022 to 2023*".

#### 14. KCC Bus Services

This council notes the proposed cuts to bus services in our area, as published in KCC's "Public Transport Briefing Note: Bus Recovery and Kent Service Reductions" & "Public Transport Briefing Note; Bus Recovery and Kent Service Reductions #2 (April and June 22)"

The proposals include;

- Withdrawal of the X4 service, meaning no direct link to/from Sittingbourne for Abbey School. Luddenham School pm/Kiln Court/Oare will have no service.
- There would be no services at Ospringe Street
- The withdrawal of the 666 service to Ashford on Sunday's and Bank Holidays.

This Council further notes:

That Davington and North Preston are already underserved, with bus stops at Priors Row & Oare road already being without regular scheduled services, and no bus stops or services in North Preston itself.

That the proposed cuts to services would leave Ospringe, an area within an Air Quality Management Area, in a similar position to Davington & North Preston.

That the withdrawal of the X4 would leave the bus stop on London Road by the junction with Brogdale Road with just 3 AM peak services per day.

KCC's design guide states that "walking distances to bus stops in urban areas must not be no greater than 400m and desirably no more than 250m. In rural areas the walking distance should not be more than 800m."

That the 666 bus is the only direct public transport link between Faversham and Ashford, the nearest hospital with an A&E department, Maternity Ward and several other services.

This council believes:

- That public transport has a key role to play in providing sustainable transport for residents, to reduce congestion and assist in tackling climate change.
- The proposed cuts will leave the west of Faversham cut off from public transport
- That adequate public transport would assist in generating footfall for town centre businesses by ensuring access to Faversham's shops and services for those living in surrounding villages.

Cllr B J Martin proposes that *This Council strongly objects to the proposed cuts to bus services and commits to write to the leader of Kent County Council and to Joel Mitchell,*

*Managing Director of Stagecoach South East to object to the proposed cuts in the strongest possible terms and to request a review of routes within and around the town to ensure communities across Faversham and its surrounding villages are properly served in the future.*

#### 15. Strategic Pillars

The Strategic Planning Working Group was set up by the Policy and Resources Committee to review the Town Council's strategic plan. The aim to agree these strategic pillars and the missions/objectives within them.

The Strategic Planning Working Group proposes a governance structure for work aligned to the Action Plan with a template to be agreed at the next Policy & Resources Committee and for each of the committees to produce a costed / resource plan for approval.

The Strategic Planning Working Group proposes the motion that *all committees submit plans (in a template to be provided) to cover resources required and timelines for actions proposed across the civic year 22/23 to P&R by 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022.*

#### 16. Age UK Sittingbourne and Faversham

Kent County Council have recently withdrawn grant funding for Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne, instead offering a wellbeing contract to Imago. Age UK Faversham & Sittingbourne supports some of the most lonely, isolated and vulnerable people in our community and this loss of funding will leave a deficit in this year's budget which will be a struggle to replace in the short term. This loss of funding will have direct impact on the communities most in need, whose previously subsidised care and service provision will instead increase in price during a cost of living crisis. Some examples of the impacts are:

- Review of Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne buildings – potentially having to downsize
- Full cost recovery of all services delivered as no funding available to subsidise services such as wellbeing centre activities and/or 1-1 support which has been (and still is), vital to the most vulnerable who are facing severe isolation and loneliness and reduced mobility due to Covid. Our services also include independent living services, 2 course hot meal delivery 365 days a year, Gardening, Shopping & prescription collection and delivery, dog walking, cleaning and Handyperson services.
- Review of the ability to deliver Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne free Information and Advice Service across the region which is inundated currently with enquiries, to the point Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne had to close for two weeks recently to enable the advisor to catch up. The current cost of living crisis plus post pandemic issues, carers support and advice required due to carers being in crisis etc have put huge demands on this service. Swale CAB refer a lot of over

50's into our service as they themselves are under pressure. This service has been invaluable to people who have needed support in completing blue badge, attendance allowance, PIP, Pension credits and lots more. Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne continued to deliver this service through the pandemic including face to face where an individual was unable to engage by virtual means or telephone, no other organisation did this.

Cllr Barker proposes the motion that *This Council recognises the importance of the work that Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne does in the community, especially for those most in need. We call on Kent County Council to explain, and provide assurances, that the users of the services of Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne are not paying any more than would have previously. If they are unable to provide those assurances, we urge KCC to look again at the funding provided to Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne for the vital work they provide to those communities.*

17. Receipts and Payments

To resolve to agree receipts and approve payments to be made (tabled)

18. Private Session

To Resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

19. Staffing Sub-Committee

To receive the confidential Minutes of the Staffing Sub-Committee.