



TOWN CLERK – MS LOUISE BAREHAM  
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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

## TO ALL MEMBERS OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND** the Meeting of Faversham Town Council to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at **7.00pm** 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. 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. Faversham Town Council  
To receive and accept as a true record the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and any matters for report.
4. Mayor's Announcements  
To receive the Mayor's Announcements.
5. Policy and Resources Committee  
To note the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and approve any recommendations.
6. Heritage and Buildings Working Group  
To note the Minutes of the Heritage and Buildings Working Group meeting dated 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 and approve any recommendations.
7. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
To receive the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and agree any recommendations.
10. Creek Working Group  
To receive the Minutes of the Creek Working Group dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and agree any recommendations (tabled).
11. Crisis in Leisure  
Cllr B J Martin proposes the motion that *Faversham Town Council requests the Mayor of Faversham writes on its behalf to the Prime Minister, copying in the Mid Kent MP, urging swift action on the following points:*
  1. *Reclassify pools and leisure centres as an energy and trade intensive industry in the Energy Bills Discount Scheme so they can access the higher level of energy price discount.*
  2. *Set out what tangible support it will provide to the wider sector – including gyms and sports facilities – to help navigate the energy crisis across 2023 so that service restrictions and facility closures can be minimised.*
  3. *Set out a 'plan for growth' for the sector by aligning the proposed new Sports Strategy with the Spring Budget to unlock the potential of the sector to support*

(See Appendix A)
12. Honorary Freeman of Faversham  
The Mayor of Faversham, Cllr T Martin, proposes the motion that *"This Council nominates Mr Ted Wilcox as Honorary Freeman of Faversham for his outstanding contribution, and eminent service, to the Town Council during his term of office"*
13. Receipts and Payments  
To resolve to agree receipts and approve payments for March 2023.

14. 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 commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.*

15. Staff Handbook

To approve the Staff Handbook

16. Honorary Freeman

To consider nominations for Honorary Freeman

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82904458881?pwd=eEVLRm95bHIRMFhRYVhFbXJhUjNWZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 0445 8881

Passcode: 269519

## Crisis in sport and leisure centre funding

### Council notes:

- Local public sport and leisure infrastructure across the country faces an extraordinary financial crisis due to the ongoing impacts from COVID-19, the cost of living and the energy crisis.
- The concerns raised by the Local Government Association and hundreds of other organisations across the country to the Prime Minister citing “the failure to identify bespoke support for the sector (and schools operating sports facilities) as part of the Energy Bills Discount Scheme will be the final straw for many facilities and services – especially swimming pools.”
- Faversham Pools an independent charity attracted over 144,000 admissions in 2021/22, despite continuing Covid restrictions at the time. The Pools is at the heart of our community, helping people to be active, improving their health and wellbeing, and to meet other people in the community.
- Millions enjoyed and have been inspired by the Lionesses’ Euro 2022 triumph and the recent Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games, which have given us a timely boost in terms of national pride. If we are to continue our successful record in medal winning, then we need to grow the athletes of the future.
- Evidence gathered nationally from leisure providers shows that since 2019 energy bills have risen by 300 per cent. Our swimming pools have seen an increase in energy costs to approximately £200,000 p.a. . Clearly, this is unsustainable, especially with Swale Council reducing grant funding to the pools following years of cuts to council funding by central government. Trustees of Faversham pools will have to make difficult decisions and perhaps reduce services.

In light of these pressures, Faversham Town Council has significant concerns about the decision to exclude swimming pools and leisure centres from the list of sectors eligible for extra support under the Government’s Energy and Trade Intensive Industries scheme and the Energy Bills Discount Scheme.

### **Faversham Town Council instructs the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister, copied to our local MP urging the Government to act swiftly with three key measures:**

- Reclassify pools and leisure centres as an energy and trade intensive industry in the Energy Bills Discount Scheme so they can access the higher level of energy price discount.
- Set out what tangible support it will provide to the wider sector – including gyms and sports facilities – to help navigate the energy crisis across 2023 so that service restrictions and facility closures can be minimised.
- Set out a “plan for the growth” for the sector by aligning the proposed new Sports Strategy with the Spring Budget to unlock the potential of the sector to support.

Cllr B J Martin