

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

20th November 2023 7:30pm
The Guildhall

Cllr Rowlands (Chair)	Present	Cllr C Martin	Present
Cllr Coniam	Present	Cllr Newman	Present
Cllr Cook	Absent	Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Golding	Present		

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)
Claire Elliott (Events Officer) (Minute Item 035 only)
Laurie McMahon and Gill Wagstaff (Minute Item 034 only)

Public Questions

None

031. Apologies for Absence

It was noted that Cllr Cook was absent.

032. Declarations of Interest

None.

033. Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 18th September 2023.**

034. Faversham Healthy Futures

An update on the project was received from Gill Wagstaff and Laurie McMahon. Following the exhibition and questionnaire, a draft report has been compiled and a summary was provided by Laurie McMahon.

A report would be circulated to the Council, and it was hoped to feature it in the local media. An update on progress would be circulated to those who had completed questionnaires. It was agreed that the date of the next FHF Group meeting would be forwarded to the Town Clerk for circulation to Councillors who may wish to attend.

Thanks were expressed to the Committee for their support with the project.

035. Community Events

Cllr Rowlands introduced Claire Elliott, who had recently joined as Events Officer.

It was suggested that engagement with local businesses would be important. Cllr Perkin advised she would provide a list of awareness days that could be promoted on social media.

Cllr Rowlands felt the report of proposed events was an excellent starting point and said he looked forward to working with the Events Officer on them.

036. Discover Faversham Working Group

Due to the absence of Cllr Cook, it was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to defer this item until the meeting of the Town Council on 11th December 2023.**

037. Youth SLA Working Group

It was reported that a meeting took place with Vibe on 6th November 2023. On Friday night activities, 50-90 young people had attended at The Recreation Ground, 30-40 people had attended on a Wednesday night. Vibe had received additional funding from Sports Connect, which had enabled them to extend their provision and were looking at offering facilities at King George Playing Field. KCC funding cuts were discussed however Vibe had secured funding from alternative sources.

It had been agreed a top priority would be to re-establish a Youth Council.

Cllr Newman suggested Vibe could look at working with West Faversham Community Centre as a venue in addition to The Recreation Ground.

Cllr Rowlands advised he would look to setting up a meeting of the Working Group to take these matters forward.

038. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Update

Cllr Perkin referred to her project to place a commemorative stone marking the deaths of four women accused of witchcraft in 1645.

The Town Clerk advised two quotes had been received and a third was awaited.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the first quote based on York stone and machine carving.**

039. Pillars, Action Plan and Budget 2024/2025

Cllr Rowlands referred to the ongoing work to develop a Strategic Plan for 2024-2028. Community featured as one of the pillars. Cllr Rowlands asked members to provide their comments by 30th November, so these could be collated in time for the next Budget meeting on 9th December 2023.

Cllr Perkin suggested under ambitions heading including mental health as a priority. Under Equality, Diversity and Inclusion including an item for making sure new residents felt included.

040. Community Lottery

The Community Lottery Operator Report dated 13th November 2023 was received and noted.

The Town Clerk reported that the Lottery was one of the top performing community lotteries run by Gatherwell and other Town Councils had been in contact to find out more about it. There were currently 59 local community groups involved but the Town Clerk agreed to look at ideas to grow the lottery further.

Cllr Perkin advised Swale Borough Council had been looking at developing a community lottery although this had not progressed at the current time. Cllr Rowland suggested that if this progressed in the future a meeting should be arranged to see how the two Councils could work together.

041. Printed Material

The Town Clerk referred to the matter of the Council Newsletter and some criticism at the Town Council meeting regarding accessibility. The Newsletter was available on the website in Word format, which meant the reader could adjust to suit their requirements and it could also be read to them.

A resident had raised the issue that they did not have internet access and so could not contact their Councillors as only their email address was listed. It was suggested that at least one telephone number be made available for each ward but also telephone calls could be taken by the Town Council staff and passed on to Councillors when required.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that:**

- 1. Councillors and officers ensure that the plain print version of the newsletter is promoted.***
- 2. The plain print version should be enhanced with the addition of the photographs with appropriate printed description.***
- 3. In the past, Councillors have been asked to record their articles, this has not been followed up due to lack of time resources and should be reconsidered.***
- 4. The current printed newsletter should include telephone numbers for the Councillors and not email addresses, to ensure that all residents are able to contact their elected representatives.***

042. 50th Anniversary of Faversham Town Council

The Town Clerk noted that Faversham Town Council celebrates its 50th anniversary of its first meeting on 9th April 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that:**

- 1. An exhibition of relevant photographs and objects through the decades in 12 Market Place during April.***

2. ***Engage Mike Ivatt / Radio Faversham to interview relevant past mayors / members / officers / representatives and produce a film for inclusion within the exhibition and a longer version for the website.***
3. ***The Mayor of Faversham to host a Civic Service at St Mary's followed by an afternoon tea for Past Mayor, partners, civic dignitaries etc at the end of April tbc.***
4. ***A limited-edition badge is produced to commemorate the anniversary.***

It was agreed that the WI could be involved in the afternoon tea and that young people would be included in the celebrations.

043. Library of Things

Cllr Coniam discussed the idea of setting up a "library of things" in a central location for people in the community to borrow, for a small fee, including items such as tools, large kitchen items, gardening equipment. It was estimated that 80% of all household items are used less than once a month. Sharing resources made sense both from a cost of living and an environmental angle.

The Town Clerk reported she had discussed the idea with Louise Asekokhai of West Faversham Community Centre, who was supportive of working with the Town Council, although they did not have the required space.

It was suggested the Library, Salvation Army, and if the Food Bank found larger premises, those avenues could be explored.

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Coniam would liaise with local community groups and report back at the next meeting.***

044. Matters for Report

None.

Appendix One Questions from Members of the Public

A member of the public expressed concern about funding for youth services in the town and asked the Committee to consider looking at how funding is distributed in the town and consider allocating funding to other organisations, such as West Faversham Community Centre.

Cllr Rowlands said that the matter would be included on the agenda for the next Youth Working Group meeting.

Cllr Crayford referred to recent funding gained by Snodland Town Council for a pump track. Cllr Perkin suggested that the Committee wrote to Swale Borough Council to see if they had land that could be made available through a community asset transfer. Cllr Golding referred to a document that stated the sources of funding were local

community grants, KCC Members grants, club nights, Snodland Partnership, Tarmac Landfill Community Fund, Places to Ride, and the National Lottery. Cllr Rowlands thanked the members of the public for starting the petition for a pump track for attending the meeting.