

Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council
11th March 2024, 7pm
The Guildhall, Faversham

Cllr T Martin (Chair)	Present	Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr Rowlands	Present	Cllr Jones	Apology
Cllr Coniam	Present	Cllr B Martin	Present
Cllr Cook	Present	Cllr C Martin	Present
Cllr Crayford	Present	Cllr Newman	Present
Cllr Eyre	Present	Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Gibson	Apology	Cllr Saunders	Present

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

185. Apologies for Absence

Apologies with reasons were received from Cllrs Jones, Gibson, and Golding.

186. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

187. Minutes of the Town Council

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowland, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Town Council meeting dated 12th February 2024.***

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting dated 15th January 2024, with the amendment of 162 Draft Budget, the vote for Cllr Saunders was recorded as AGAINST and it was FOR.***

188. Mayor's Announcements

Cllr T Martin took this opportunity to thank all the local businesses for their kind donations of prizes for the upcoming Mayor's Ball.

Cllr T Martin reported that he had attended a lot of Civil Service events and opened up a new coffee room in town. An update will be given later in the week via a blog, regarding the Mayors diarised upcoming events.

189. Creek Working Group

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendation as follows;**
The approval for the amended License that has been drafted by Tassells Solicitors.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendation as follows;**
That the Mayor of Faversham writes to Peel Ports requesting that they fulfil their obligations and fix the sluices.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendation as follows;**
The Town Council investigates the costs of a Judicial Review. AH to assist with the process by providing details of potential companies and assisting in drafting the tender document.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martiin, seconded by Cllr Rowland, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendation as follows;**
The remaining hours with Breakthrough Communications are used to make press/social media releases after members of the CWG have met with Helen Whatley MP on Friday 23rd February.

8 VOTES FOR/1 AGAINST/2 ABST

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendation as follows;**
The Mayor of Faversham writes to the DFT asking for a response to the petition inviting them to Faversham for a site visit.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendation as follows;**
An appeal is launched on social media asking for old photographs of the creek with the tide out.

10 VOTES FOR/1 ABST

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept Minutes of the Creek Working Group dated 7th February 2024.**

190. Community Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 19th February 2024 with the following amendments;**

- **Remove s from Cllr Perkin**
- **Lottery- Change wording (RESOLVED that for this year we maintain the prizes for the draw for organisations of the community pot).**

191. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group dated 26th February 2024.**

192. Active Travel Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr B Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept Minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 28th February 2024 with the following amendment;**

- **Minute 049- change wording (orders not borders/objections not rejections).**
- **Minute 052- Request to add in (All councillors bring forward any ideas they may have for events for the AT Month and particularly, if they can potentially host an event).**

193. Policy and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 5th March 2024 with the following amendment;**

- **Minute 089- Misspelling of name change to Cllr Eyre not Ayre.**

194. Heritage and Buildings Working Group

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendation as follows;**

- **The creation of a semi-permanent exhibition of the maps of Faversham was explored which could be displayed when the exhibition space is empty.**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendations as follows;**

- **Members of the HBWG meet virtually with the representatives from two of the tenderers to discuss the proposals.**

AGAINST 1/ABST 8/FOR 3

Cllr Perkin felt with the number of abstentions the proposal was not sound, although happy with the principle of the recommendation, asked for a breakdown to be brought to the Council. Cllr T Martin agreed that he would discuss this further with the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk and that the item would go back on the next Heritage agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendation as follows;**

- ***A member of the royal family is invited to the Opening of Open Faversham.***

Minutes amended to note Proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Newman and not Proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Cook.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Newman and on being put to The meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendation as follows;**

- ***The Mayor should write to KCC sharing the Town Council's concerns on the wall and asking them to instruct a structural engineer to examine the wall.***

Included in this proposal was the need to add 'the wall is potentially unsafe due to the hole that has been cut in it'.

Town Clerk noted that she has written to the KCC but they were unable to give a rebuild date. KCC had advised that they would carry out a survey, but they have not done so yet.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the recommendation as follows;**

- ***That a second phase of the plaque scheme in Faversham should be pursued in collaboration with the Faversham Society.***

With the addition of blank walls being pursued as well.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept Minutes of Heritage and Buildings Working Group dated 6th March 2024.**

195. Annual Report 2023-2024

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Annual Report 2023-2024 with the following amendments;**

- ***Page 8- Number isn't clear, needs circle around it like the others.***
- ***Page 12- Mayor of Faversham, switch photo for the one that's the underlay of page one or switch them around.***
- ***Page 22- Abbey Ward spelt incorrectly.***
- ***Page 23 (bottom)- Doubled up the word 'Priory Ward' double stripe.***
- ***Cllr BJ Martin, has asked to ditch the J on his name.***
- ***Page 17- Request for LCWIP WG to have the Chair included on the page Cllr Saunders.***
- ***Change in Font if possible.***

ABST 1

196. Receipts and Payments

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree receipts and payments for March 2024. Also, the signing of a VOID cheque for CCLA account opening.**

ABST 1

197. Private Session

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED 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.**

198. Staffing Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to start the process of becoming an accredited Living Wage Employer.**

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to give the Town Clerk delegated powers to employ a temporary caretaker to undertake manual work with the Town Ranger, in the absence of the Facilities Manager.**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Staffing Committee dated 4th March 2024.**

The meeting concluded at 20.56

APPENDIX ONE- Questions from Members of the Public

A member of public raised his concerns on the ongoing issue of the footpath between St Mary's Church and Abbey Place. A discussion and updates was given on this topic, with the member of public and Counsellors. Cllr Coniam is also setting up a meeting with herself, Queen Elizabeth School and the member of public regarding the Earth bunds.

PC Tancock of Kent Police delivered a report on recent activity.

Adrienne Begent, Deputy Town Clerk, was recognised by the Mayor for being employed by the Town Council for 10 years.