

Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council
14th August 2023, 7pm
The Guildhall, Faversham

Cllr T Martin (Chair)	Present	Cllr BJ Martin	Present
Cllr Rowlands	Present	Cllr C Martin	Present
Cllr Coniam	Apology	Cllr Newman	Present
Cllr Cook	Present	Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Crayford	Present	Cllr Saunders	Present
Cllr Eyre	Apology	Cllr Thomas	Present
Cllr Golding	Present	Cllr Williams	Present

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

PC James Tancock (Kent Police Neighbourhood Beat Officer covering Abbey, St Anns, Davington) (Minute Item 071 only)

071. Local Policing Update from PC Tancock

PC Tancock provided a report on the restructuring of local policing and Neighbourhood Beat Officers had replaced PCSOs. Each Neighbourhood Beat Officer would have two wards, although until additional staff were in place, PC Tancock was covering three.

A number of issues were raised by Councillors including the reporting of speeding traffic, e-scooters, recent fires, violence in pubs, domestic violence, criminal damage, and hate crimes.

PC Tancock reported he was holding surgeries at different venues around the town.

072. Apologies for Absence

Apologies with reasons were received from Cllr Coniam and Cllr Eyre.

073. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Crayford DNPI Minute Item 084 Receipts and Payments

074. Minutes of the Town Council

Cllr T Martin proposed, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Town Council meetings dated 10th July 2023.***

075. Mayor's Announcements

Cllr T Martin reported on recent events attended including the Memorial Service for Lord Boyce, held at Westminster Abbey, the inauguration of the pontoons, the Pride Event at West Faversham Community Centre, and the launch of Open Faversham. Whilst in London, Cllr T Martin handed in a letter to the Department for Transport about the Creek Bridge.

076. Faversham HWRC Working Group

It was noted the KCC HWRC Public Consultation had been postponed. Cllr Thomas advised he had updated the HWRC Action Plan and would circulate this.

Cllr Crayford advised there had been a further meeting of the Working Group on 19th July and the minutes had not yet been published.

There followed a lengthy debate on the way forward for the Working Group.

Cllr Crayford proposed, seconded by Cllr Thomas, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Faversham HWRC Working Group dated 11th July 2023.**

077. Environment Committee

Cllr Williams proposed, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 12th July 2023.**

078. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

Cllr Perkin proposed, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group dated 14th July 2023.**

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED to set aside £1,000 from the ED&I budget for Black History Month.**

Cllr Perkin proposed, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED that Faversham Town Council begins the process for becoming a City of Sanctuary <https://la.cityofsanctuary.org/membership> and recommends the following motion for Full Council**

"This council is committed to support an initiative to make Faversham into a recognised 'City of Sanctuary' welcoming those fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries. We recognise their potential contribution to our town, and also recognise that a comprehensive, co-ordinated and forward-looking approach is needed if the welfare of people moving into the

town, and community cohesion between new and existing communities, are to be supported effectively. To this end, we:

- Acknowledge the contribution of refugees and people seeking sanctuary to the town of Faversham,***
- Are willing to add our organisation's name to the list of supporters of Cities of Sanctuary***
- This council will work to implement the City of Sanctuary pledges through its actions and policies, and with its partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors.***
- This council is committed to support an initiative to make Faversham into a recognised 'City of Sanctuary'."***

079. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Cllr Perkin reported on progress for the Neighbourhood Plan going to Regulation 16 and delays at SBC.

Cllr Perkin proposed, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group dated 24th July 2023.***

080. KCC Consultation on Family Hubs

Councillors expressed their concerns about the Consultation.

The Town Clerk reported on a response from KCC regarding a letter she had written requesting a consultation meeting in Faversham. As Sittingbourne and Sheppey had consultation meetings planned, Councillors felt that Faversham should also have such a meeting.

Cllr Perkin proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED for Cllr T Martin to write in strong terms to KCC, further requesting a consultation meeting in Faversham.***

Cllr Perkin agreed to co-ordinate responses from Councillors to the Consultation and feed these to the Town Clerk for onward submission to KCC.

081. KCC Consultation on Domestic Abuse Strategy

Cllr Perkin agreed to co-ordinate a response to the Consultation on behalf of the Council.

082. Installation of Automatic Door Openers

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree to the installation of 3 automatic door openers to 3 fire doors in the office at 12 Market Place to enable accessibility. 2 no @ £1993 and 1 no @ £1974 – total £5960 + VAT.***

083. Medieval Style Clothing for Volunteers

The recommendation to agree a sum of up to £1,800 from the Magna Carta earmarked reserves (£2,995) for 5 medieval style adult costumes and accessories for use by volunteers during events and school visits was considered.

There was a general discussion about the use of the EMR to purchase medieval style clothing at a time of strained budgets. It was noted that the request came from the Charter Volunteers, and it was noted the important work they did to keep the Exhibition open.

It was proposed by Cllr Crayford, seconded by Cllr Golding, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to hold a recorded vote on the proposal.**

Cllr T Martin	FOR	Cllr C Martin	FOR
Cllr Rowlands	FOR	Cllr Newman	ABSTAINED
Cllr Cook	FOR	Cllr Perkin	FOR
Cllr Crayford	AGAINST	Cllr Saunders	AGAINST
Cllr Golding	AGAINST	Cllr Thomas	FOR
Cllr BJ Martin	FOR	Cllr Williams	FOR

With 8 votes FOR, 3 votes AGAINST, and 1 ABSTENTION, the recommendation succeeded to agree a sum of up to £1,800 from the Magna Carta earmarked reserves for 5 medieval style adult costumes and accessories for use by volunteers during events and school visits.

084. Receipts and Payments

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree receipts and approve payments for August 2023.**

085. 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.**

086. Events Officer

The appointment of Gemma Perry as Events Officer was agreed.

