



3rd December 2024

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 9th December 2024** 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. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes during the public session. 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. Town Council Minutes
To receive and accept as a true record the Minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on 11th and 18th November 2024 and any matters for report.
4. Mayor's Announcements
To receive the Mayor's Announcements.
5. Neighbourhood Plan

To note the referendum result and the Mayor to propose a vote of thanks to all involved.

6. Environment Committee

To receive the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 12th November 2024 and agree any recommendations.

7. Community Committee

To receive the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 18th November 2024 and agree any recommendations.

8. Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee

To approve the following recommendation from the meeting dated 2nd October 2024:

The Committee received Paper 7, quotes for the works on the Guildhall Clock. It was proposed by Cllr P Cook seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was RECOMMENDED to select Company B to undertake the work. Members selected options 3, 4 and 6 and specified that the clock should be silenced between 7pm and 8am. Members requested that the clock mechanism should be photographed. A record should be kept of any parts that are removed, which should be 15 photographed before removal. The removed parts should be kept and displayed. (Cllr R Crayford abstained).

9. Policy and Resources Committee

To receive the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 2nd December 2024 (tabled) and agree any recommendations.

10. Swale Borough Council Draft Budget

To comment on Swale Borough Council's Draft Budget Consultation.
<https://swale.gov.uk/your-council/consultations/budget-consultation>

11. National Insurance Contributions

The following motion is proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr B J Martin for approval:

“This Council is deeply concerned that Town and Parish Councils will not be compensated for the changes in Employers National Insurance contributions, which will be introduced in April 2025.

From April next year employer's National Insurance contributions will increase by 1.2% and the threshold at which employers must contribute to National Insurance will be reduced to all employees earning £5000 or more. Principal Councils will be compensated for revenue lost due to the National Insurance rises. But Town and Parish Councils will not – as the criteria used to determine whether compensation can be received is whether the organisation receives direct funding from the Government.

The National Insurance increases are predicted to cost Town and Parish Councils an extra £10 million each year – roughly £615 extra for every

employee earning over £9000. Council welcomes pay increases and additional national insurance support for local government employees.

However by passing the bill on local Town and Parish Councils, the Government is forcing us to choose between possibly increasing Council Tax precepts or making staffing cuts.

Council resolves that the Mayor write to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government to demand that the compensation formula is changed so Town and Parish Councils receive the same compensation at principal councils for financial losses due to the forthcoming National Insurance changes.”

<https://www.slcc.co.uk/no-central-compensation-for-the-additional-costs-of-employers-nic/>

12. Government Consultation

The Government is consulting on introducing powers for local authority members (including parish and town councils) to apply to the relevant authority for a dispensation to attend formal council meetings remotely and vote by proxy in certain circumstances.

- a) To review the feedback received following the previous meeting
- b) To consider proxy voting.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings>

13. Receipts and Payments

To approve the receipts and payments.

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 sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

15. Staffing Committee

To receive the minutes of the Staffing Committee dated 2nd December 2024 (tabled)