



TOWN AND PORT OF FAVERSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

HELD ON

TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2024

1. Apologies for absence were noted.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 14TH March 2023 were accepted.
3. Inspector Vanessa Foster, Neighbourhood Policing Team, together with local ward officers Gary Morris and James Tannock reported to the meeting. They are currently under-staffed and the officers are covering larger areas than they should. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) walk and talks taking place monthly, everyone invited – need more people to come along. Main aims are ASB, recognition of precursors to youth crime; working with crime safety partnership in the summer; officers are around in the community; sign up to My Community Voice <https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/>

Recent issues tackled include kicking of doors; ceasing of illegal e-scooters; littering and speeding.

4. **Public Question** Concerns raised regarding the proposed unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) unit at Kiln Court. Insp Foster advised that the unit would be well staffed and the UASC needed to get back into society. They would not be openly policing the area and would be reactive if required. Equally, they would not accept hate crime.

The Mayor reported that a meeting of stakeholders had taken place and the lack of information/leaflets had been raised.

It was noted that Faversham had a history of welcoming refugees and had a positive experience and people were keen to help with collections. Cllr Perkin reported that the Town Council was working towards City of Sanctuary status.

Public Question the £200,000 previously set aside by Swale Borough Council for the opening creek bridge, longer appeared in the accounts. Cllr Perkin confirmed that the money will still earmarked.

Public Question proposed development by Gladman's at Ham Farm. The Mayor advised that the town council had formally objected to the application and it had not yet been determined by Swale. The ward councillor was working with the residents and case officer.

Public Question what's the status of the Whitstable Road care home. This is subject to a legal case and the town council is not aware of the current situation.

5. Cllr Perkin gave an update on the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan, which had been submitted to Swale Borough Council and was awaiting to hear back from the Inspector.
6. The Mayor gave an account of the previous year.
7. The Mayor of Faversham, Cllr Trevor Martin, presented the following cheques from the Faversham & District Community Lottery:

Cheques of £250:

Faversham Community Radio
SATEDA
Swale Friends of the Earth
Faversham Rugby Club

Cheques of £1,000

Creed Outdoor Learning
Abbey Physic Community Garden
Faversham Pools
Painters Forstal Community Centre

8. Mayor Certificates of Recognition were presented to The Autism Apprentice and Friends of Faversham Rec. A certificate will be presented to Emma Brown at a later date.