

## MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 7:30pm  
The Guildhall

Cllr Coniam (Chair)	Present	Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Rowlands	Present	Cllr Jones	Apology
Cllr Cook	Present	Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr Newman	Present	Cllr Saunders	Substitution

### In Attendance:

Cllr Crayford

### Public Questions

Cllr Crayford queried how the Town Council could increase the number of accessible defibrillators in the town. Cllr Saunders referred to the minutes of the previous meeting and the potential setting up of a Working Group to develop an action plan.

### 132. Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from Cllr Golding. Cllr Saunders was substituting for Cllr Golding.

### 133. Declarations of Interest

None.

### 134. Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Cook and on being put to the meeting, it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024.***

Cllr Rowlands referred to Minute Item 128 and the need to set up a Working Group as stated to develop an action plan for improving the availability of defibrillator provision within the town.

Cllr Rowlands provided an update on the meeting of the White Ribbon Steering Group that took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

### 135. Community Lottery

The Operator Report was received and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to distribute the lottery funding via a draw for presentation at the Annual Meeting, retaining the same criteria as in previous years.***

Cllr Saunders thanked the Town Clerk for including the figures on ticket sales and causes and this showed a steady performance over the past three years.

### 136. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Town Clerk provided an update on exhibitions scheduled for:

- Holocaust Memorial Day and 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Concentration and Extermination Camp at Auschwitz – 27<sup>th</sup> January with exhibition during 27<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February.
- LGBT+ History Month – exhibition during 3<sup>rd</sup> February – 9<sup>th</sup> February.
- Neurodivergent Celebration Week 17<sup>th</sup> March – 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Cllr Perkin provided an update on the application for Dementia Friendly Status, which was in progress.

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to organise a Neurodivergent Celebration event to include possible activities such as a panel discussion on late diagnosis in women, Autism Apprentice to discuss challenges in the education system, and a networking event for parents.***

### **137. Community Events**

The Event Officer's report was received and noted.

Cllr Saunders felt the report provided a good cost/benefit analysis. A general discussion was held on the visitor figures for some of the events. It was noted some of the events had been held for the first time and that they would continue to be developed.

Councillors thanked the Events Officer for her sterling efforts over the last year.

### **138. Visit Faversham/Tourism**

The latest footfall figures were received and noted.

Cllr Rowlands extended his thanks to the Visit Faversham Co-Ordinator for his work on the footfall figures.

A general discussion was held about the Christmas Lights Switch On and the need to work with the Christmas Lights Committee to manage the crowd during the switching on period.

### **139. Youth Partnership Forum**

A discussion was held, and it was agreed the Town Council should act as a facilitator in bringing various youth groups and young people together and although a draft terms of reference could be put forward, it should be for the Youth Partnership Forum to agree the terms of reference and to put forward a Chair.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the draft terms of reference and the meeting dates proposed, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025.***

**140. KALC Community Award Scheme**

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to nominate the group including past Councillors, and members of the public who worked tirelessly for five years on the Neighbourhood Plan.***

**5 FOR/1 ABST.**

It was agreed that Mayoral Certificates could also be presented.

**141. Proposed Mural on Wastewater Station, Westbrook Walk**

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree in principle that Town Council takes responsibility for the mural, once it is painted, through a legal agreement with Southern Water.***

It was agreed that anti-graffiti paint would need to be used to ensure easy cleaning for the Facilities Team.

**142. Antisocial Behaviour Concerns**

Councillors expressed their disappointment on the response from Swale Borough Council on reviewing the boundaries of the current Public Spaces Protection Order.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the pilot scheme for town centre NHW and agree an awareness campaign and coordinator support in partnership with Kent Police Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.***

**143. National Data Bank**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the internet is at the heart of everyday life. And having access to data is now an essential part of allowing us to live our lives. It gives us access to things like online banking, job applications, online groceries, and even staying connected to loved ones. It also provides us with entertainment, such as streaming our favourite shows or listening to music.***

***Yet in the UK, many people are experiencing data poverty. As the cost-of-living crisis persists, people continue to live in data poverty, which is why the National Databank is so vital.***

***Run by the UK's leading digital inclusion charity Good Things Foundation, the National Databank provides free mobile data, texts and calls to people living in data poverty.***

***The town council understands that the Foodbank already provides free sim cards to its clients but sadly many people who struggle with data poverty will fall through the cracks, within the modern world an internet connection is required for many reasons, whether that be universal***

*credit applications, doctor appointments or work issues not to mention the impact a loss of internet has on those who are studying at any age.*

*Therefore, this committee proposes that the town council works with Faversham Community Networking Group to identify suitable locations that could become data bank sim card issuers and support those organisations if needed in becoming a data bank."*

**144. Homeless in Faversham**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED for the Town Council to run a project working with local organisations such as Porchlight and others to raise awareness of the issues of homelessness in Faversham, both street, and hidden.***

Cllr Rowlands would be leading on this project.

**145. Faversham Art Installation Proposal**

A discussion was held on the proposal from the Kachkar Peace and Reconciliation Project regarding an art installation in Faversham.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that although supportive, the Town Council does not feel it is best placed to deal with the proposal and suggests the Project contacts Reverend Simon Rowlands of St Mary of Charity Church or another local Church.***

**146. Matters for Report**

None

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.