

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

28th April 2025 7:30pm

The Guildhall

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|---------------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| Cllr Coniam (Chair) | Present | Cllr Perkin | Present |
| Cllr Rowlands | Present | Cllr Jones | Apology |
| Cllr Cook | Apology | Cllr Golding | Present |
| Cllr Newman | Present | | |

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham -Town Clerk

Public Questions

165. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cook and Jones.

166. Declarations of Interest

None.

167. Minutes and Matters Arising

Cllr Perkin requested a motion go forward to the next Town Council meeting regarding Faversham becoming a Town of Sanctuary.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting, it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 17th March 2025.***

168. Faversham and District Community Lottery

The Operator Report was noted.

The Town Clerk reported that the figures had been distorted due to changes in the direct debit collection by Gatherwell. The figures showed an increase in tickets sold but a slight decrease in players. In reality it was likely there was a small increase of a few tickets overall for the month.

169. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Age Friendly Town Action Plan

Cllr Perkin suggested contact be made with Swale BC regarding the co-ordination of street licensing to ensure that access be kept clear for people with limited mobility. Cllr Newman referred to the difficulties faced by people trying to navigate the cobbled areas of Court Street and Market Place. Cllr Golding referred to online resources that highlighted where disabled and public toilets were available.

Cllr Perkin referred to funding available from Swale BC to enable disabled people to adapt their homes. This funding normally was underspent and Cllr Perkin suggested FTC promotes the existence of the funding.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Golding, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Age Friendly Town Action Plan subject to the additional items raised.***

Any Other Matters

Cllr Perkin referred to an email received from Steven Pullen of Swale Pride CIC requesting support in creating safe and inclusive spaces for members of the LGBTQIA+ Community.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to invite Swale Pride to attend a meeting with Councillors from this Committee with a view to guidance being produced for the next meeting.***

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Golding, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED that the Mayor writes to Swale Borough Council seeking their commitment to people being able to use public toilets for the gender they identify with.***

170. Youth Partnership Forum

Cllr Rowlands provided a summary of the meeting that took place of the Youth Partnership Forum on 31st March 2025 attended by youth representatives from the Army and Air Cadets, Scouts, Carnival Court, and young individuals.

The session had proved particularly useful in bringing together the different organisations and for information sharing. The next meeting will take place in September.

171. Events

The latest report on events was received.

Councillors expressed their gratitude to Claire Elliott (Events Officer) for the volume of work she was undertaking to make a success of all the events.

172. Tourism

The Tourism Strategy document was reviewed. It was agreed that it was a good starting point which could be added to. Cllr Newman referred to the need to reference Faversham's railway history as an example of something that could be included.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to adopt the Tourism Strategy document.***

173. Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

The Town Clerk reported on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Launch Event that took place in Market Place on 12th April. Feedback had been very positive with a number of businesses signing up and Volunteers coming forward. A number of area Schemes were already in existence in Faversham, and it was agreed that where there were gaps local residents should be encouraged to set one up.

174. Defibrillator Action Plan

It was agreed the Town Council would create a page on the website linking interested groups to information resources such as the British Heart Foundation.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Defibrillator Action Plan.***

175. Matters for Report

Mayoral Awards

The meeting closed at 20.36