

MINUTES OF Town Council Meeting

09 February 2026, 7:00pm

The Guildhall

Present:

Cllr Rowlands (Chair)	Present		Cllr Golding	Apologies
Cllr C Martin	Present		Cllr Jones	Apologies
Cllr Coniam	Present		Cllr B Martin	Present
Cllr Cook	Present		Cllr T Martin	Present
Cllr Crayford	Apologies		Cllr Newman	Present
Cllr Eyre	Apologies		Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Gibson	Present		Cllr Saunders	Present

In attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

536. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Jones, Golding, Eyre and Crayford.

537. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest noted for items on the agenda.

538. Town Council Minutes

The minutes for all three meetings were proposed for approval and no matters arising.

Decision: *The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12th January 2026, the Annual Finance Meeting on 19th January 2026, and the Extraordinary Meeting on 2nd February 2026 were accepted as true records.*

539. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor, Cllr Rowlands, provided a brief update on recent activities.

540. Report from Community Police Officers

The report from Faversham Community Police Officers highlighted ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour (ASB) in specific areas. Incidents included egg throwing and door kicking, which sometimes escalated to criminal damage. The police have been patrolling the hospital area due to a group of youths causing disturbances. Efforts to identify the youths have been

challenging, despite circulating images to local schools. The police have started trialling evening surgeries, with limited attendance so far. Cllr Newman raised concerns about shops selling eggs to youths, and the police confirmed they had addressed this with local retailers. The discussion included suggestions to contact schools in Canterbury and special provision units to identify the youths involved. The police agreed to continue their efforts and update the Council on progress.

541. **Public Works Loan**

The Council resolved to seek approval from the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for the loan over a 15-year term for refurbishment works to the Guildhall, Faversham.

Decision: *Cllr Rowlands proposed, seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting the Council resolved to seek approval from the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a Public Works Loan of £250,000 over a borrowing term of 15 years for refurbishment works to the Guildhall, Faversham.*

542. **Guildhall Works**

The Council discussed the motion to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in liaison with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Deputy Town Clerk, to interview and make the final decision to engage one of the two companies recommended by Daniel Martin for the Guildhall works. Cllrs debated the urgency of the works and the need to avoid further delays. It was agreed that the delegated authority would include oversight to ensure the works meet the proposed programme and budget, with any significant overspend requiring further approval from the full Council.

Decision: *Cllr Rowlands proposed, seconded by Cllr C Martin and on being put to the meeting the Council agreed to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in liaison with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Deputy Town Clerk, to interview and make the final decision to engage one of the two companies recommended by Daniel Martin for the Guildhall works.*

543. **Environment Committee**

Cllr C Martin provided an update on the Environment Committee meeting held on 14th January 2026. The facilities manager's update included information on surveys and budget for events. There were no recommendations from the committee, and the minutes were approved without further discussion.

Decision: *Cllr C Martin proposed, seconded by Cllr Cook and on being put to the meeting it was resolved to accept the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 14th January 2026.*

544. **Community Committee**

Cllr Coniam summarised the Community Committee meeting held on 26th January 2026. The committee received a presentation on employability through enterprise, which generated interest in exploring further. The Healthy Futures initiative will continue with a Citizens Assembly working group. The major recommendation discussed was the purchase of land at Reedland Crescent, with the Community Committee recommending the Town Council to purchase the land using funds from the Community Committee budget. The recommendation was debated, with Cllr Gibson suggesting an amendment to clarify that the land offers possible benefits. The recommendation was approved with the amendment.

Decision: *Cllr Saunders proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr Cook to include acknowledging there where multiple possible benefits to the land, but ensuring satisfactory terms and responsibilities for the boundary walls and rights of way with full due diligence were vital. Cllr Coniam proposed, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was resolved that the Town Council to purchase the land at Reedland Crescent using funds from the Community Committee budget, taking full account of due diligence.*

545. **Policy and Resources Committee**

The Policy and Resources had been a brief meeting, which agreed that the Strategic Working Group should review the current grants procedure.

Decision: *Cllr Rowlands proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was resolved to accept the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 2nd February 2026.*

546. **Heritage Buildings and Creek Committee**

Cllr Cook reported on the Heritage Buildings and Creek Committee meeting held on 4th February 2026. The committee also reviewed a paper on the benefits of a fully navigable creek, agreeing that a balanced report considering both positives and negatives should be prepared. The committee resolved to make comments and suggestions for the report, which would remain a standing item on the agenda.

Decision: *Cllr Cook proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was resolved to appoint DSBS Carpentry & Construction for repairs to cornerstones at the Pump House at the cost of £6,665.00 ex VAT.*

Decision: *Cllr Cook proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was resolved to accept the Minutes of the Heritage Buildings and Creek Committee dated 4th February 2026.*

547. **Active Travel Committee**

Cllr Gibson reported on the Active Travel Committee meeting held on 5th February 2026. The meeting included a public question session addressing

social exclusion challenges due to poor public transport infrastructure, particularly buses. The committee discussed the bus user group and agreed to hold a meeting with the Kent Action Travel team to address issues with East-West and North-South routes. The committee continued to support the 'hopper bus' initiative and reviewed financial reports on its profitability. Cllr Gibson praised Rob for quickly typing up the minutes despite sleep deprivation.

Decision: *Cllr Gibson proposed, seconded by Cllr Saunders and on being put to the meeting it was resolved to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 5th February 2026.*

548. **Spring Newsletter**

The council discussed the Spring Newsletter.

Decision: *Proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr B Martin and on being put to the meeting it was resolved to agree the Spring Newsletter with suggested amendments, including the addition of a description for the star symbol on the back page.*

549. **Mayor Elect**

Cllr Rowlands nominated Cllr C Martin as the Mayor Elect for 2026-2027, highlighting her contributions as Deputy Mayor and her involvement in various events. Cllr C Martin expressed her readiness to take on the role.

Decision: *Proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously agree that Cllr C Martin be officially elected as the Mayor Elect for the upcoming term.*

550. **Deputy Mayor Elect**

Cllr Martin proposed Cllr Ben Martin as the Deputy Mayor Elect for 2026-2027. The nomination was seconded and supported by the council, with no other nominations presented. Cllr Ben Martin was officially elected as the Deputy Mayor Elect for the upcoming term.

Decision: Cllr Ben Martin was officially elected as the Deputy Mayor Elect for the upcoming term.

551. **Receipts and Payments**

The council reviewed and approved the receipts and payments for February 2026. Cllr Martin requested the transfer of £50,000 into the council's reserves, which was agreed upon. The council also discussed the purchase of a new flag from Hampshire Flag Company, noting the quality and cost-effectiveness of their products. The motion to approve the receipts and payments was passed, with Cllr Martin seconding it.

Decision: *Cllr B Martin proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was approved to make the payments for February 2026.*

Task: Transfer £50,000 from CCLA.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm