

Minutes of the meeting of Faversham Town Council

Monday 9th March 2026, 7pm

The Guildhall

Present

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

In attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

552 Apologies

Apologies with reasons were received from Councillors Saunders, Cook, Golding, and Jones.

553 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Perkin – DPI - Agenda Item 570 Faversham Swimming Pools as Chair of the SBC Committee overseeing the leisure contract.

554 Town Council Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Faversham Town Council meeting dated 9th February 2026 subject to an amendment under minute item 540 where Cllr Perkin clarified that her concerns were about the lack of publicising certain issues rather than the sale of eggs to youths.***

1 ABST

Decision: The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9th February 2026 were approved with a correction noted for item 540.

555 Mayor's Announcements

Cllr Rowlands provided updates on various cultural events attended, including a reggae soul night in Margate and the opening of the literary festival at St Mary of Charity Church.

556 Report from Community Police Officers

The Report from the Community Police Officers was noted.

557 Environment Committee

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting dated 11th February 2026.***

Decision: The minutes of the Environment Committee dated 11th February 2026 were approved.

558 Community Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 16th February 2026.***

Decision: The minutes of the Community Committee dated 16th February 2026 were approved.

559 Policy and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 2nd March 2026.***

Decision: The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 2nd March 2026 were approved.

560 Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr B Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee dated 4th March 2026.***

Decision: The minutes of the Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee dated 4th March 2026 were approved.

561 Active Travel Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 5th March 2026.***

Decision: The minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 5th March 2026 were approved.

562 Public Works Loan Application

The Town Clerk provided an update on the Public Works Loan Board application, noting a reduction in the requested amount from £250,000 to £200,000 due to lower tender costs.

*It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that on 9th March 2026 Faversham Town Council resolves 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 £200,000 over the borrowing term of 15 years for refurbishment works to the Guildhall, Faversham. The annual loan repayments will be £19,302.72 per annum. The precept for 2026-2027 has increased by 29% from £755,000 to £973,600, but not due to the purpose of this loan.

It was noted that in order to show in our budget where the public works loan repayment is, the cost code 4343 has been amended to include 'PWL' Guildhall External Works.

Additionally, it was noted that there will be no additional income or expenditure incurred by the works.

Decision: The motion to reduce the loan application amount from £250,000 to £200,000 was approved.

563 Local Government Reorganisation

Not discussed.

564 Ham Marshes

The Town Clerk provided an update on the resistance grounds received from both parties regarding Ham Marshes. It was agreed to await further legal advice before making a decision.

565 Defence Employer Recognition Scheme 2026 Silver Award

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr B Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to nominate Cllr Gibson as Armed Forces Champion.***

Decision: Councillor Charles Gibson was nominated and accepted the role of Armed Forces Champion for the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme 2026 Silver Award.

566 Stroke Unit Relocation, Service Quality and Patient Access

It was proposed by Cllr Crayford, seconded by Cllr Newman and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the Mayor writes to the NHS Trust to formally register Faversham Town Council's opposition to the proposed relocation of the stroke unit from Kent & Canterbury Hospital to William Harvey Hospital.***

567 Withdrawal from X (formerly Twitter) as an Official Communication Channel

The motion to withdraw from X as an official communication channel was introduced, with Councillor Crayford expressing concerns about the platform's alignment with the council's values of being warm and welcoming. The

councillor argued that using X contradicts these values and proposed the withdrawal.

Decision: It was proposed by Cllr Crayford, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to delete Faversham Town Council's X account.***

568 Receipts and Payments

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Receipts and Payments for March 2026.***

569 Private Session

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED 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.***

570 Faversham Swimming Pools

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to seek quotes for legal advice to enable further discussion to take place.***

571 Honorary Freeman

Suggestions for Honorary Freeman were considered, and it was agreed to contact three nominees to ask if they were happy to be put forward for nomination at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm