

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

26th January 2026 7:30pm
The Guildhall

Cllr Coniam (Chair)	Present	Cllr Crayford	Present
Cllr Rowlands	Present	Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr C Martin	Present	Cllr Eyre	Substitution
Cllr Newman	Present	Cllr Saunders	Substitution
Cllr Perkin	Apology		

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)
Jude Sach – Business Unboxed CIC (presentation only)
Jasmin Appleyard – Business Unboxed CIC (via Teams – presentation only)

Public Questions:

None.

A presentation on Employability through Enterprise was delivered by Jude Sach of Business Unboxed CIC prior to the main meeting commencing.

235. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Golding (who was substituted by Cllr Saunders) and Cllr Perkin (who was substituted by Cllr Eyre).

236. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crayford DNPI as Director/Trustee of West Faversham Community Centre Minute Items 238 and 239
Cllr Crayford DNPI as Director of Faversham Emergency Equipment Minute Item 238
Cllr Crayford DNPI – Minute Item 249

237. Minutes and Matters Arising

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

238. Community Lottery

The Operator Report for January 2026 was received and noted.

239. Faversham Healthy Futures

The Report from Faversham Healthy Futures was received and noted.

Cllr Rowlands expressed his thanks to Gill Wagstaff and Laurie McMahon for the amount of work they had undertaken on the Faversham Healthy Futures project.

It was noted that the first meeting of the Citizens Assembly Working Group was on 10th February 2026.

240. Faversham Community Networking Group

The report from Faversham Community Networking Group was received and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to move forward with option 2 FTC Incorporates the FCNG Co-ordinator Role into an Existing FTC Staff Post on the basis that FTC actively looks for grant funding to support the additional work.**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to re-print the Community Z Fold leaflets and to order Volunteer Badges for 2026.**

241. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

a) Neurodiversity Week

Cllr Coniam provided an update. She had discussed this with the Abbey Physic Garden who were looking to collaborate on a talk for their members.

b) White Ribbon Accreditation – Annual Report

A further meeting of the White Ribbon Working Group was due to scheduled.

The Town Clerk provided an update on work for an event for International Women's Day.

c) Age Friendly Update

The Town Clerk reported that FTC was the first Town Council to be awarded Age Friendly Town status with Ashford Borough Council being awarded at the same time. Work was ongoing.

d) Any EDI Updates Not Listed

There was nothing to report on under this agenda item.

242. Community Resilience

The Community Resilience Report was received and noted.

It was agreed the Report was a good starting point that could be expanded on, particularly in respect of the different authorities' roles in the event of an emergency.

243. Town of Culture

The Town Clerk reported on work being coordinated by Creek Creative to work with organisations in Faversham to put together an Expression of Interest for Town of Culture status.

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting, it was **RESOLVED to allocate £500 towards meeting costs**

for an Expression of Interest for Town of Culture status.

244. North Preston

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED that the Community Committee sees multiple benefits of purchasing the land at Reedland Crescent therefore recommends that Faversham Town Council purchases the land using funds from the Community Committee budget, in practice if agreement for the wall/fence to be repaired by Southern Housing can be agreed, to be overseen by the Strategic Working Group. Once the purchase is finalised, decisions pertaining to the land and its future use should be made by recommendations by the Community Committee to Full Council.**

4 FOR/1 AGAINST/2 ABST.

245. Great Explosion

Cllr Coniam referred to an email provided by Cllr Perkin. It was agreed to ask Cllr Perkin to provide some further details at the next meeting.

246. Swale Review of Play Areas within Faversham

Cllr Crayford referred to a review of play areas within Swale being carried out by SBC. Cllr Coniam agreed to ask Cllr Perkin for an update via email.

247. Matters for Report

None.

248. Private Session

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, 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.**

249. KALC Community Award

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Gill Wagstaff and Laurie McMahon of Faversham Healthy Futures should receive the KALC Community Award for 2026.**

The meeting closed at 09:30pm.