

**Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council**  
**9<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 8.40pm**  
**The Guildhall, Faversham**

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

**In Attendance:**

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

**409. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies with reasons were received from Cllr Golding.

**410. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None.

**411. Town Council Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Town Council meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.***

**412. Mayor's Announcements**

Cllr Rowlands advised he would provide a report via email.

**413. Report from Community Police Officers**

The Town Clerk advised no report had been received.

**414. Policy and Resources 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 Internal Auditor's Year End Report and the AGAR.***

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.***

**415. Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee**

It was noted that Cllr Newman was recorded in the minutes as both present and as an apology. Cllr Newman confirmed he should be recorded under apologies for absence.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Heritage, Buildings and Creeks Committee as amended.***

**416. Active Travel Committee**

An amendment under Minute Item 170 to read *Jamie Watson*, Minute Item 174 the roundels referred to Athelstan Road and it was agreed to ask KCC to proceed and the list provided by Chris Oswald-Jones would update the 20mph Compliance Fund Project Plan.

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 as amended.***

**417. Significant Events**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to confirm that there were no legal claims outstanding against the Town Council as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and no provision for any uninsured element was required in the 2024/2025 budget.***

**418. Annual Governance Statement 2024/25**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/2025 acknowledging responsibility for the Accounting Statement.***

**419. Accounting Statements**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/2025.***

**420. Period for the Exercise of Public Rights**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the period of exercise of public rights be Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.***

#### 421. Local Government Reorganisation

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Gibson:

*Faversham Town Council's preference is a four unitary council division across Kent and considers, from the current models put forward, its preferred option is Model 2 (Swale, Canterbury, and Thanet). It also recognises that Model 4 (Swale, Ashford, and Maidstone) does have merit.*

*Faversham Town Council considers, if a two or three unitary council division be decided, then we should pursue a move to an East Kent Unitary Authority, even if this means we seek a split from the current Swale Borough Council boundary and that, furthermore, we start to build evidence as to why this should be the case.*

*The Town Council agrees that members of the Strategic Working Group should begin conversations with neighbouring parishes.*

Cllr Perkin	<b>FOR</b>	Cllr Newman	<b>FOR</b>
Cllr Eyre	<b>FOR</b>	Cllr T Martin	<b>FOR</b>
Cllr Saunders	<b>ABSTAINED</b>	Cllr Cook	<b>FOR</b>
Cllr Crayford	<b>ABSTAINED</b>	Cllr Gibson	<b>FOR</b>
Cllr Jones	<b>FOR</b>	Cllr C Martin	<b>FOR</b>
Cllr Coniam	<b>FOR</b>	Cllr Rowlands	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
Cllr B Martin	<b>FOR</b>		

**10 FOR/3 ABST.**

The following amended motion was proposed by Cllr Crayford and seconded by Cllr Saunders:

*Faversham Town Council believes it is premature to adopt a preferred model for local government reorganisation at this stage. Instead, the Council resolves to withhold judgement on any specific model or configuration until more assessment of the available evidence and meaningful engagement with residents and neighbouring parish councils has taken place.*

*The Council therefore agrees to:*

*- Gather evidence on what Faversham residents' main concerns are in relation to re-organisation and what the likely impacts of being in different unitary authorities might be, particularly in relation to core service costs, council income, service levels and council tax rates.*

- *Begin engagement with neighbouring parishes and local stakeholders to understand shared priorities and concerns; -*
- *Ensure any eventual position taken by Faversham Town Council is informed by community feedback and evidence and communicated transparently to residents."*

Cllr Perkin	<b>AGAINST</b>	Cllr Newman	<b>AGAINST</b>
Cllr Eyre	<b>AGAINST</b>	Cllr T Martin	<b>AGAINST</b>
Cllr Saunders	<b>FOR</b>	Cllr Cook	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
Cllr Crayford	<b>FOR</b>	Cllr Gibson	<b>AGAINST</b>
Cllr Jones	<b>AGAINST</b>	Cllr C Martin	<b>AGAINST</b>
Cllr Coniam	<b>AGAINST</b>	Cllr Rowlands	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
Cllr B Martin	<b>AGAINST</b>		

**2 FOR/9 AGAINST/2 ABST.**

The motion proposed by Cllr Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Gibson therefore succeeds and the amended motion proposed by Cllr Crayford and seconded by Cllr Saunders therefore falls.

#### **422. Newsletter**

The motion proposed by Cllr Crayford, seconded by Cllr Saunders, to remove both Cllr Hook's and Helen Whately MP's features from the Summer Newsletter and replace with posters and refer the policy on accepting articles from other elected representatives to the Policy and Resources Committee.

**5 FOR/8 ABST.**

The motion proposed by Cllr BJ Martin to remove references to Liberal Democrat from Cllr Hook's article and place "Editorial" around Cllr Hook's article.

**3 FOR/10 ABST.**

Cllr Crayford's motion therefore succeeds and Cllr BJ Martin's motion falls.

Cllr Rowlands advised he would write an article on the flying of the Pride and Ukrainian flags; Cllr Gibson would write an article on water quality.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Summer 2025 Newsletter as amended.**

#### **423. Receipts and Payments**

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr BJ Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the payments for June 2025.**

**11 FOR/2 ABST.**

**424. Private Session**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admissions 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 business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.***

**425. Staffing Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Staffing Committee dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.***

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

**APPENDIX ONE**

**Questions from Members of the Public**

A member of the public expressed his opinion that the presentation by Southern Water was a waste of the Town Council's time and enquired whether it would be repeated. Continuing, the member of the public highlighted that batteries were due to be installed at Cleve Hill Solar Farm. The evacuation procedure published covered workers on site but did not address the evacuation of local residents. The support of Graveney Parish Council by the Town Council was sought. The possible effects of an emergency could be felt in Faversham if the weather conditions were right.

Cllr Rowlands advised the Town Council sought to work with local organisations but how that worked in practice could be looked at. Continuing, Cllr Rowlands felt the Environment Committee could look into the Cleve Hill project at a future meeting.

Cllr Newman felt a meeting should be arranged with Graveney Parish Council, also KCC. Cllr BJ Martin felt it should be a matter for the Swale Eastern Area Committee. Cllr Saunders referred to the benefits for the parish that the developer provides and put trust in the process underway.