Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council
Monday 8th December 2025 at 7pm
The Guildhall, Faversham

Cllr Rowlands (Chair)	Present		Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr C Martin	Apology		Cllr Jones	Apology
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	Apology
Cllr Gibson	Apology		Cllr Saunders	Present

Public Questions - See Appendix One

500 Apologies

Apologies for absence with reasons were received from Cllrs C Martin, Gibson, Golding, Jones, and Perkin.

501 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

502 Town Council Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the of the Town Council meeting dated 11th November 2025, the minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting dated 20th November 2025 (subject to a minor amendment under Minute Item 494), and the minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting dated 28th November 2025.***

Decision: The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 11th November, and the Extraordinary Meetings held on 20th November and 28th November 2025 were formally accepted as accurate records.

503 Mayor's Announcements

Cllr Rowlands shared updates on recent activities and engagements. Highlights included attendance at several choral concerts, participation events related to the White Ribbon '16 Days of Violence Against Women and Girls' campaign, and involvement in the town's Christmas lights ceremony. Cllr Rowlands expressed gratitude to the Christmas Lights Committee for their efforts, noting the positive reception of this year's decorations.

504 Report from Community Police Officers

The Report from the Community Police Officers was received and noted.

505 Community Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr B Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to amend Minute Item 231 to read RECOMMENDED rather than RESOLVED.***

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 17th November 2025 (subject to the amendment under Minute Item 231).***

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the following motion:***

This Council believes that:

Everyone deserves to live in safety, free from fear and discrimination.

Faversham should be a place where refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed, supported, and valued as members of our community.

Working in partnership with local organisations, voluntary groups, and residents will strengthen community cohesion and mutual understanding.

The "Town of Sanctuary" initiative aligns with this Council's values of equality, inclusion, and social justice.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Formally support the principles and aims of the Town of Sanctuary scheme.

Work in partnership with the national City of Sanctuary town and parish councils' network and local voluntary and community sector organisations to pursue official recognition as a Town of Sanctuary.

Appoint a lead councillor and officer to coordinate sanctuary-related initiatives and to liaise with the City of Sanctuary movement.

Develop an action plan to:

Review the Council's own policies and practices to ensure accessibility and fairness for people seeking sanctuary.

Promote awareness and understanding among council staff, service providers, schools, and the wider community.

Celebrate Refugee Week and other events that foster inclusion and awareness.

Encourage local partners—including schools, health services, businesses, and community groups—to join the movement and adopt "Sanctuary" principles.

Report back to Council monthly on progress toward formal recognition as a Town of Sanctuary.

Decision: The amendment to change the wording of item 231 from 'resolved' to 'recommendation' was approved.
Decision: The minutes of the Community Committee Meeting held on 17th November 2025 were formally accepted as accurate records.
Decision: The council voted to support the Town Sanctuary motion, demonstrating its commitment to welcoming unaccompanied migrant children and fostering inclusivity within the community.
Task: Establish a working group to oversee the creation of a Citizens Assembly and ensure representation from councillors across all wards.
Task: Plan discussions for future meetings regarding how the council can support the Faversham Networking Group initiative.

8 FOR/1 ABST.

506 Policy and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 1st December 2025.***

Decision: The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting dated 1st December 2025 were formally approved.
Task: Prepare for the January 2026 budget workshop by compiling relevant financial data and planning materials.

507 Heritage Buildings and Creek Committee

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 Creek Committee dated 3rd December 2025.***

Decision: The minutes of the Heritage Buildings and Creek Committee dated 3rd December 2025 were formally approved.

508 Nominated Trustee – Faversham Pools

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Rowlands would be nominated as a second representative for the Faversham Swimming Pools.***

Decision: Cllr Rowlands was nominated as a second representative for the Faversham Swimming Pools.

509 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 approve the receipts and payments for December 2025.***

1 ABST.

Decision: The receipts and payments for December 2025 were formally approved.

510 Private Session

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

511. Staffing 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 Staffing Committee dated 1st December 2025.***

Decision: The minutes of the Staffing Committee dated 1st December 2025 were formally approved.

Appendix One

Mr C Oswald-Jones queried the current status of Cllr Newman regarding his political party affiliation. It was clarified that Cllr Newman, whilst a member of the Labour Party, had had the whip withdrawn and was thus an independent representative.