

**AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE** held in the Guildhall, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Present:** The Mayor Cllr Josh Rowlands, Cllrs R Crayford, C Gibson, T Martin, R Newman and J Saunders

**In attendance:** Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

**356. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L Coniam, P Cook, A Eyre and H Perkin

**357. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest are listed on the Planning Schedule

**358. MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin seconded by C Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council Planning Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.**

Cllr R Crayford abstained

**359. PLANNING SCHEDULE**

It was proposed by Cllr C Gibson seconded by T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the Schedule of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council Planning Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.**

**360. PROPOSED DISABLED PERSONS PARKING BAY**

The meeting received the request from Swale Borough Council to install a Disabled Persons Parking Bay at 35 Athelstan Road, Faversham. It was proposed by Cllr C Gibson, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to support the proposal.**

The meeting received the request from Swale Borough Council to install a Disabled Persons Parking Bay at 25 Edith Road, Faversham. It was proposed by Cllr C Gibson, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to support the proposal.**

**361. SBC CONSULTATION ON DESIGNATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENT**

It was proposed by Cllr J Rowlands seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to defer this item to Planning Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> April.**

**362. INCLUSIVE CONSULTATION ON ABBEY FIELDS DEVELOPMENT**

It was proposed by Cllr R Crayford seconded by Cllr C Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that the mayor writes to Fernham Homes raising the following points (as amended):**

This Planning Committee notes:

- That the developer’s consultation regarding the proposed development at Abbey Fields is only being conducted online only.
- That an online-only consultation risks excluding members of the community who may not have access to digital services, lack digital confidence, or prefer in-person engagement.
- That meaningful community engagement should be accessible, inclusive, and representative of all residents.

This Planning Committee believes:

- That all residents should have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in consultations that may impact their local area.
- That relying solely on online methods does not reflect best practice for inclusive community engagement.
- That a range of consultation methods, including in-person events and accessible offline options, should be provided wherever possible.

This Planning Committee resolves to:

- Request that the developer adds to their consultation approach to include more inclusive and accessible methods of engagement for residents.
- Write to the developer to formally express concerns regarding the current online-only consultation and to ask for alternative engagement opportunities, such as in-person events, paper submissions, or community drop-in sessions.
- Reaffirm the Planning Committee’s expectation that all future consultations affecting the community should be designed to maximise inclusivity and participation.

The meeting ended at 18.54

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

### **Mr C Oswald-Jones**

Regarding the proposed EE Mast - Corner of Lower Road and Ospringe Road. Is there an update?

DTC – confirmed that on 26/03/26 the M Group confirmed they were waiting for a response to the mayors letter from their client (EE). This was chased on 08/04/26 with a response date of 10/04/26.

Cllr R Crayford – had received a reply to his letter from EE and been offered a meeting

### **Mr M Ellsmore**

25/500987/FULL ALBION TAVERN, FRONT BRENTS

This application is for the Albion Tavern to use a public open space. The gardens of the two adjoining listed properties are not long and residents will be effected by an additional dining area.

This a resubmission of previously unsuccessful application with a reduction of tables from 10-7.

In 2019 the Town Council objected and at SBC it was refused 14 - .

The proposal will have a negative impact on neighbouring properties, amenity space and the conservation area.

There will a 45% increase in the Albion's capacity. There are presently 75 outdoor seats which already cause issues for residents. Parking in the vicinity is difficult.

Though the proposal will be for mixed use, this is for Shepherd Neame.

The application says the public can use during "none busy times".

The application says that the Town Council fully support, is this true?

Shepherd Neame have not engaged with neighbours.

The proposed benches will attract additional anti-social behaviour in the area

### **Mr R McKay**

25/500987/FULL ALBION TAVERN, FRONT BRENTS

Echoes the points raised by Mr M Ellsmore.

He has three young children that play daily his garden that adjoins the proposed area. There is no noise screening.

CG – Shepherd Neame have come to this committee and briefed members but an opinion has not been agreed

