

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Faversham Town Council
28th July 2025, 7pm
The Guildhall, Faversham

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

In Attendance:

Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)
Louise Bareham (Town Clerk) (via Zoom)
Hannah Barter (via Zoom)

440. Apologies for Absence

Apologies with reasons were received from Cllrs Coniam, Eyre, and Perkin.

441. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Rowlands DNPI Minute Item 442 as Trustee of Faversham Municipal Charities

Cllr BJ Martin DNPI Minute Item 442 as Trustee/Vice Chair of Bensted's Charity

Cllr C Martin DNPI Minute Item 442 as Trustee/Chair of Faversham Municipal Charities

Cllr T Martin DNPI Minute Item 442 as Trustee of Faversham Municipal Charities

442. Ham Farm Appeal Reference APP/V2255/W/24/3350524, Ham Road, Faversham

Hannah Barter provided a briefing regarding legal advice received that indicated there were two potential grounds for a judicial review.

Stage one would be seeking a legal summary and advice from Simon Bell and the KC.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that subject to the professional advice from our planning consultant this council commits to spending up to £18,750 for a***

legal summary and advice as necessary as a prerequisite to submitting a judicial review.

7 FOR/3 ABST.

Cllr Saunders	ABSTAINED	Cllr Cook	FOR
Cllr Crayford	ABSTAINED	Cllr T Martin	FOR
Cllr Golding	ABSTAINED	Cllr Gibson	FOR
Cllr BJ Martin	FOR	Cllr C Martin	FOR
Cllr Newman	FOR	Cllr Rowlands	FOR

443. Private Session

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

6 FOR/1 AGAINST/3 ABST.

444. Ham Farm Appeal Reference APP/V2255/W/24/3350524, Ham Road, Faversham

Hannah Barter reported she had consulted Simon Bell for advice as to whether there was a good legal case if the Town Council agreed to proceed. He had responded that there were 2 grounds to bring forward a Judicial Review.

Following receipt of the grounds, it was agreed the next steps would be:

- 1) The Town Clerk to write to Simon Bell to confirm the Council wish to proceed and receive his legal advice.
- 2) The Town Clerk to be the main Officer contact.
- 3) The Town Clerk to use SurveyMonkey to receive pledges and each person making a pledge to be given a unique reference number and this to be logged on a spreadsheet. If more money was pledged than required, then all would receive a percentage back. Cash donations would not be received by the Council, only by third parties, and they should make it clear that if the donation was not required it may be used to support other projects, such as tree planting.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

APPENDIX ONE

Questions from Members of the Public

A member of the public representing the Save Ham Farm Group commented that they had been fighting the Ham Farm Development for two and a half years and felt dismay at the loss of the recent Enquiry despite the strong Faversham Neighbourhood Plan and the opposition from the Town Council, the Faversham Society and the Save Ham Farm Group.

The local roads were poor and there was a growing flood risk in the area. Although Swale BC had not met its 5-year Housing Plan, this should not be sufficient to overturn the planning decision.

The Save Ham Farm Group hoped the Town Council would seek advice and if there was a strong legal case, the Save Ham Farm Group undertook to assist with fundraising alongside other concerned individuals and organisations. New members to the Group were encouraged to help in this fight.

A member of the public referred to the short time frame the Town Council now had following the decision of the Enquiry and the terms that the Council could seek a statutory review.

A member of the public expressed disappointment at Swale BC stopping work on its Local Plan and the Bearing Fruits plan had expired. The member of public pledged support with fundraising.