

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

15th June 2026 7:30pm
The Guildhall

Cllr Coniam (Chair until MI 270)	Present	Cllr Crayford	Apology
Cllr Gibson	Present	Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr C Martin	Present	Cllr Perkin	Apology
Cllr Eyre (Vice Chair from MI 270)	Present	Cllr T Martin	Apology

In Attendance:

Sarah Muteham (Town Clerk)

Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

Public Questions:

Harry Hilden expressed his opposition to the Town of Sanctuary status.

Ann Furedi made it clear she was speaking on behalf of herself rather than as Chair of the Faversham Society. She felt the Council needed to engage with residents to explain the implications and felt a Town Meeting or a referendum would be beneficial.

Cllr Gibson advised the motion had been passed before tensions had arisen and referred to Annual Town Meetings held where the issue had not been raised.

Maria Stevens expressed her opposition to the Town of Sanctuary status.

269. Election of Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to elect Cllr Eyre as Vice Chair.***

Cllr Coniam advised she would hand over to Cllr Eyre to chair for the remainder of the meeting.

270. Non-Councillor Members

There were no applications to consider.

271. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Crayford, Cllr Golding, Cllr Perkin, and Cllr T Martin.

272. Declarations of Interest

None.

273. Minutes and Matters Arising

It was noted the Minutes of the last Community Committee Meeting held on 20th April 2026 had been approved by Full Town Council on 18th May 2026.

Following disorderly conduct in the public seating area, the Chair of the meeting applied Standing Orders 2a,2b and 2c (Disorderly Conduct at Meetings). Members present voted unanimously to temporarily suspend the meeting at 7:59pm while members of the public left the premises.

The meeting reconvened at 8:15pm

274. Policies

The Community Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed.

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that under section 7 to add: To invite people and organisations to come in and speak about their grant application.**

275. Sharps Bin Collection Charges

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that:**

This Council notes that Swale Borough Council has introduced a charging structure for sharps bin collections, with each household receiving two free collections per year between 1 April and 31 March, and additional collections charged at £3.80 per collection.

This Council further notes the important role safe sharps disposal plays in protecting public health and supporting residents managing chronic health conditions, including Type 1 diabetes and other conditions requiring regular use of needles or medical sharps. While recognising the significant financial pressures facing local authorities and the need to balance budgets, this Council is concerned about the potential impact these changes may have on vulnerable residents and those requiring more frequent collections due to medical need. Therefore, Faversham Town Council resolves to:

- 1. Write to Swale Borough Council seeking clarification on: The full details of the new charging arrangements; Any exemptions, concessions, or support available for residents with chronic or lifelong medical conditions; Any equality or impact assessments undertaken regarding the changes; The anticipated impact on residents across Swale, including Faversham.***
- 2. Request that Swale Borough Council keeps the policy under review to ensure residents with genuine medical needs are not unfairly disadvantaged.***
- 3. Ask that the response from Swale Borough Council be shared with all councillors and, where appropriate, communicated to residents.***

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to add a point 4 to the motion: To compile a list of locations where full sharp bins can be taken and to publish this on**

the Council's communication channels (including the Newsletter) and for this to be kept up to date.

Action: The Mayor, Cllr C Martin, would write to Swale Borough Council.

276. Equality, Diversion and Inclusion

a) Town of Sanctuary

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to discuss the way forward for the Action Plan 2026-29 at a Full Council meeting.***

b) Community Projects Report

The Community Project Report was received and noted.

The Age Friendly Faversham Group's request for newsletter space was not agreed; however, it was agreed that an article on the group and its activities would be beneficial.

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to add an item to the next meeting agenda to consider whether each accreditation required an individual Councillor to oversee it.***

Councillors recorded thanks to Fiona Palmer (Projects and Faversham Charters Officer) for her work, and for the report.

277. Twinning Association

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that following the dissolution of Faversham Town Twinning Association, to recommend that the Full Council sets up a Working Group to consider how to retain future links with our current twinned town, Hazebrouck.***

278. Community Events

a) The report on recent events was received and noted. Councillors recorded thanks to Claire Elliott (Events Officer) for her work in organising the Festival of Transport 2026.

b) The dates for community events in 2027 were noted.

c) It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the following would be invited to attend the Cinque Ports Picnic on 12th July 2026:***

- ***The Mayor and her consort***
- ***2 volunteers from the Faversham Hopper***
- ***2 volunteers from Friends of the Westbrook Stream***
- ***2 representatives from the Mayor's Charities at the Mayor's discretion***
- ***2 from Royal British Legion***

279. Section 106

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr C. Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to add the following suggestions for future S106 requirements to the list to submit to the Planning Committee and for the list to be reviewed at a later date:***

- ***To develop the Skate Park***
- ***Improve and develop community spaces, which in particular are currently limited in the East of the town***
- ***Improving and develop play spaces, including free play space with natural materials***
- ***Disabled accessibility improvements to existing play spaces***
- ***Football pitch provision***

280. Community Lottery

The Community Lottery Operator Report dated 9th June 2026 was received and noted.

281. Items for Report

- Named Councillors for each accreditation

The meeting closed at 9:00pm.