

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

23rd September 2026 at 7:30pm at Faversham Town Hall

Present: Cllr Perkin (Chair), Cllr C. Martin, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Coniam, Cllr Crayford, Cllr Gibson

Apologies: Cllr T. Martin, Cllr Golding, Cllr Eyre

In attendance: Adrienne Begent (Interim Town Clerk)

Public Questions:

Chris Oswald-Jones referred to the Community Events Report and queried where the budget figure requested of £40,000 came from. The Interim Town Clerk advised that the current year's budget for events had been £30,000 and next year's projected budget had increased due to it being an anniversary year for the Faversham Festival of Transport plus an additional event. The budget request would go to the budget meeting for consideration. Chris Oswald-Jones felt this amount was rather low. The use and training of volunteer marshals was discussed.

It was proposed by Cllr Crayford, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to bring forward the item on Supporting Faversham Fire Station on the agenda.**

291. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies with reasons were received and accepted from Cllr C Martin and Cllr Golding.

292. Declarations of Interest

Cllr R Crayford – DNPI – Minute Item 296

Cllr T Martin – DNPI – Minute Item 296

293. Supporting Faversham Fire Station

Cllr Crayford referred to the recent Kent Fire and Rescue Service consultation that saw Faversham Fire Station's second on call fire engine being put at risk. It had been great to see cross party support for Faversham Fire Station and Cllr Crayford was seeking to develop the relationship. Part of the work would include gathering data on population growth in the town that would help prove the importance of retaining the existing level of cover, should further consultations be presented.

It was proposed by Cllr Crayford, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED that:

- **Supporting recruitment of on-call firefighters** – to use the Town Council's social media, newsletter, noticeboards, events and other channels to promote opportunities at Faversham Fire Station.

- **Working with local employers** – Cllr Crayford to write a full proposal on exploring a “Fire Service Friendly Employers” initiative, encouraging local businesses to support employees who might want to become on-call firefighters.
- **Giving the station access to Town Council communications** – regularly promoting recruitment, fire prevention, Home Fire Safety Visits and other safety messages.
- **Holding an annual Fire and Community Safety Day** – bringing together the fire service and other emergency and community organisations for a public event in Faversham – it was confirmed that the Events Officer had included the event in her plan for 2027.
- **Supporting vulnerable residents** – working with KFRS and local community organisations to increase awareness and uptake of Home Fire Safety Visits – it was agreed this would be best placed with the Faversham Community Networking Group and its work with vulnerable residents.
- **Exploring funding for community safety initiatives** – discussing with the station whether there are appropriate community safety, prevention or resilience projects that the Town Council could help support.
- **Building a formal ongoing relationship with Faversham Fire Station** – potentially inviting representatives from the station/KFRS to attend the Committee periodically to discuss local issues, recruitment and community safety. It was suggested that the full Town Council meeting would be more beneficial for the KFRS to attend.
- **Developing a local fire and community risk profile** – bringing together information about population growth, new housing vulnerable residents, heritage buildings, road and water risks and other factors relevant to maintaining strong fire cover in Faversham. Cllr Crayford agreed to write a proposal to Full Town Council to initiate the Campaign Working Group to take this forward.
- **Working with neighbouring parish councils** – building wider support for Faversham Fire Station and recognising the important role it plays in protecting surrounding communities as well as the town itself. Cllr T Martin suggested expanding this beyond the Faversham district to share this with KALC, and he would discuss this with the Chair of the Swale BC Councillor Residents Forum.

James Harris from Faversham Fire Station thanked Councillors for their support and advised that local Firefighters would be able to assist with data collection and attendance at community events and meetings.

294. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was noted that the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 20th July 2026 had been approved at the Full Town Council meeting on 10th August 2026.

Cllr Crayford raised under Matters Arising the action for the Mayor, Cllr C Martin, to write to Southeastern regarding the lift being out of operation at Faversham Railway Station.

Office Note – *this letter was sent on 14th August 2026.*

Cllr Crayford suggested Youth Partnership Forum to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Crayford reported on a recent Faversham First Job roundtable meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Crayford would present a report at the next meeting.

295. Community Events

The document titled Events Programme and Budget Proposal 2007 was received and noted.

Cllr T Martin queried whether the Cinque Ports had been made aware of the proposed Volunteer Fair on 13th March 2027. The Cinque Ports Mayors and Lord Warden could be invited to attend to celebrate volunteers in the town.

Cllr Crayford queried the breakdown of costs for each event and whether the events were to be spread across the different wards. The Town Clerk advised the proposed budget had seen a £5000 increase to cover the cost of the proposed Fire and Community Safety Day.

It was proposed by Cllr Crayford, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to ask the Events Officer to produce a costing and a ward location for each event. The revised Proposal to be submitted to the next meeting.***

296. Community Projects

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the Meeting it was ***RESOLVED to note the Community Projects Report.***

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to refer the section Faversham Charters and Magna Carta, and the relevant queries, to the Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee.***

It was agreed that the DBS Checks for staff and volunteers were already delegated to the Town Clerk, but that the DBS Checks should be carried out as required.

It was noted that many of the projects now had a Councillor overseeing who could drive them forward and it would be helpful for each project to have details of next steps to be taken.

297. Community Lottery

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the Meeting it was ***RESOLVED to note the Community Lottery Operator Report.***

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the 12-Month Communication Plan.***

Cllr Perkin agreed to develop the infographic detailed in the Communication Plan.

298. Sharps Bins

Cllr Perkin advised the current Sharps Bins waste collection was currently under review by SBC following changes to how GP surgeries and pharmacies collected Sharps. Residents were able to request a larger, secondary bin. More information would be communicated by SBC in due course.

It was agreed that Cllr Perkin would develop a list of locations that accepted waste Sharps in the interim period.

299. Items for Report

- Youth Partnership Forum
- Faversham First Job presentation
- Community Events Proposal with costings and ward location

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.