

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

10th August 2026 at 7:00pm

The Guildhall

Present: Cllr C Martin (Chair), Cllr Coniam, Cllr B Martin, Cllr T Martin, Cllr Newman, Cllr Rowlands, Cllr Saunders.

Apologies: Cllr Crayford, Cllr Eyre, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Golding, Cllr Jones, Cllr Perkin

In attendance: Rob Gibbs (Office Manager)

Public Questions: Chris Oswald-Jones queried the cost to date of pursuing the Ham Marshes Judicial Review. Cllr C Martin advised that she would seek the answer from the RFO and the cost would be published in the minutes. Chris Oswald-Jones further queried whether it had been resolved to appeal the outcome of the Judicial Review. Cllr Rowlands replied it had been and resolved to go to the Court of Appeal and a decision from a Judge on whether the appeal would be heard, was awaited. Chris Oswald-Jones queried whether this decision had been taken following additional legal advice. Cllr Rowlands advised it was. He wouldn't be able to go into specifics in public forum. The reasoning would be published when it was the right time to do so. Cllr Rowlands advised that there was a decision made in the Judicial Review that the Town Council's Barrister team believed to be incorrect and that contradicts something stated in the original appeal. Maria Newman advised that the meeting was recorded for internal purposes and meeting recordings were not currently being published online as had been done in the past. Maria Newman referred to the Extraordinary Town Council meeting of 28th July where it had been stated that there would be no cost to go to the Court of Appeal. Cllr Rowlands advised there would be legal costs that had been budgeted for. Maria Newman advised it was taxpayer's money that could be spent elsewhere.

663. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the apologies for absence with reasons from Cllrs Crayford, Eyre, Gibson, Golding, Jones, and Perkin.**

664. Declarations of Interest

None.

665. Town Council Minutes

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 Town Council meeting dated 13th July 2026.**

Councillors reviewed the Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting dated 28th July 2026. Cllr Saunders felt Minute Item 662 was unclear and required rewording.

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to defer the approval of the Minutes to the next meeting to allow for them to be amended.***

666. Mayor's Announcements

Cllr C Martin reported on recent engagements including:

- Millfield Allotment Open Day and Scarecrow Competition
- Family Jamboree Day at Front Brents
- New Bird Hide opening at Abbey Physic Community Garden

667. Report from Community Police Officers

No report had been received but Cllr C Martin advised that it had been arranged for the Community Police Officers to attend the next meeting.

Cllr Newman advised that a Walk around surgery had also been cancelled that day.

668. Policy and Resources Committee

Cllr Saunders referred to a debate held at the meeting regarding potentially targeting community grants, which he felt should have been included in the minutes.

Subject to the inclusion of the debate, it was proposed by Cllr C 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 30th July 2026.***

669. Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee

Cllr Saunders referred to a matter raised under Minute Item 228 concerning a memorial plaque on the site of the former foundry that had not been recorded in the minutes despite the request to do so. Borough Councillors had offered to provide funding towards the cost of the plaque, but the Committee had wanted to investigate other funding sources.

Subject to the inclusion of the discussion under Minute Item 228, 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 Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee dated 27th July 2026.***

670. Environment Committee

Cllr Rowlands referred to Minute Item 269 and clarified that the e-newsletter that Cllr Perkin had requested to reintroduce was entitled "Buzz".

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 16th July 2026.***

671. Staffing Committee

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Staffing Committee dated 20th July 2026.***

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr B Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Staffing Committee dated 24th July 2026.***

In response to a query from Cllr Newman, it was clarified that an exit interview had been conducted with the former Town Clerk, although the notes had not been made available to Cllr C Martin.

672. Community Committee

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED for Cllr C Martin on behalf of the Town Council to write to South Eastern expressing its concern on the lift and seeking a timescale on when it will be operational.***

Cllr Coniam confirmed the lift was still not operational.

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 20th July 2026.***

673. NHS Kent & Medway

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the Survey on NHS Intentions in 2027/28 be promoted via the Town Council website and social media channels.***

674. Accreditations

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Coniam assumes responsibility for Faversham In Bloom.***

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Rowlands assumes responsibility for the White Ribbon accreditation.***

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Perkin assumes responsibility for the Dementia Friendly accreditation.***

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Perkin assumes responsibility for Disability Friendly accreditation.***

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Rowlands assumes responsibility for Faversham Community Networking Group.***

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr T Martin assumes responsibility for Faversham Charters.***

The following were deferred until the next meeting:

- Age Friendly Faversham
- Digital Inclusion
- Neighbourhood Watch

675. Receipts and Payments

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr B Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the receipts and payments for August 2026.***

676. Guildhall Works

There were no further actions to agree. Arrangements for the road closure were progressing, and the project was on track to commence on 7th September.

677. Bank Signatories

It was clarified that further signatories were sought for the main Lloyds account.

Cllr Newman advised he would be happy to be added as a signatory.

It was agreed to retain the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

678. Visit Faversham Website

The Office Manager provided an update to the meeting paper. An SBC meeting due to take place on 28th July had been postponed until 18th August, so no further information was available.

It was agreed to defer the item to the Policy and Resources Committee on 7th September.

Cllr T Martin left the meeting at 7.48pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.49pm and resumed at 7.50pm.

679. Staffing Committee

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr B Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to defer this item until the next meeting.***

The meeting closed at 7:50pm.