

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

13 July 2026 at 7:00pm

The Guildhall

Present: Cllr C Martin (Chair), Cllr Saunders, Cllr Crayford, Cllr T Martin, Cllr Coniam, Cllr Perkin, Cllr Newman, Cllr Rowlands, Cllr Cook.

Apologies: Cllr Eyre, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Golding, Cllr Jones, Cllr B Martin

In attendance: Sarah Muteham (Town Clerk)

Public Questions: Maria Newman asked for the tabled papers to be posted online.

641. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

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

642. Declarations of Interest

None.

643. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on 11th May 2026 and 8th June 2026.**

644. Mayor's Announcements

Cllr C Martin provided a report of her engagements over the past month.

645. Report from the Community Police Officers

The latest report from the Community Police Officers was tabled and received.

Cllr Rowlands disputed that there was nothing of note in Abbey Ward within the report. He also requested that the Police Officers attend the next meeting as there hadn't been a presence for a few months. It was felt that some items were not listed on the report.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would feedback the comments on the report.

646. Policy and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 6th July 2026 subject to the following amendments:**

Minute 341.a to read "...RESOLVED to defer the review to the next scheduled meeting and seek to implement best practice".

Minute 345 to read "...RESOLVED by the Mayor that the motion was invalid and to add an agenda item for the next meeting to review what future group

structure is required”.

Minute 347 to read “Community grants, Campaign Working Group, Security and safety of meetings”.

647. Active Travel Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee held on 1st July 2026.**

648. Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee

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 held on 22nd June 2026 subject to the following amendment:**

Minute 215 to read “It was proposed by Cllr J Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin...”.

649. Community Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Committee held on 15th June 2026.**

650. Faversham Fire Station/Kent Fire & Rescue Service Consultation

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

Council Notes:

- **Recent media reports have suggested that Kent Fire & Rescue Service is reviewing aspects of its on-call fire station provision due to financial pressures.**
- **Faversham Fire Station provides an important emergency response function for the town and surrounding rural communities.**
- **Firefighters play a critical role in responding to house fires, road traffic collisions, flooding incidents and major emergencies, including significant incidents such as the fire at Standard Quay.**
- **The safety and wellbeing of residents must remain the overriding priority in any future decisions affecting local fire and rescue services.**
- **The reports have caused concern amongst residents and there remains a lack of clarity regarding any potential implications for Faversham.**
- **Whilst recognising that no formal proposals affecting Faversham Fire Station have been announced, the draft proposal states that the on-call section at the 24-hour stations in Faversham could face the axe.**

The Town Council believes it is appropriate to seek clarification and reassurance on behalf of local residents.

Council Resolves To:

- 1. Write to Kent Fire & Rescue Service seeking clarification regarding the recent reports and requesting confirmation of any current or proposed changes that could affect fire cover in Faversham and the wider Swale area.**
- 2. Invite the Chief Executive Officer of Kent Fire & Rescue Service, or an appropriate senior representative, to attend a future meeting of Faversham Town Council to provide an update and answer questions from Councillors and residents.**
- 3. Request assurance from Kent Fire & Rescue Service that any future proposals affecting fire cover in Faversham or the surrounding area will be subject to meaningful public consultation with community safety remaining the overriding consideration. That any reduction in on call cover at Faversham should be clearly explained and the number of personnel affected be published as soon as possible.**
- 4. Request that the Town Council re-establishes the Campaign Working Group, and once membership has been agreed, convene at the earliest opportunity to consider the matter on behalf of the wider Town Council, monitor developments, co-ordinate engagement with relevant stakeholders, and bring recommendations back to Council as appropriate.**
- 5. Reaffirm the Council's support for firefighters and emergency service personnel and its commitment to ensuring that Faversham continues to receive the fire and rescue cover that residents expect and deserve.**

651. Armed Forces Day

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

This Council notes:

- That Armed Forces Day provides an important opportunity for communities across the United Kingdom to recognise and thank the serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans, reservists, cadets, and their families for their dedication, sacrifice, and service to our nation.**
- That many local authorities and communities mark Armed Forces Day through civic events, flag raisings, and acts of remembrance and appreciation.**

- *That formally recognising Armed Forces Day demonstrates the Council's commitment to supporting those who have served and continue to serve in our Armed Forces.*

This Council believes:

- *That it is important for our town to publicly acknowledge the contribution made by our Armed Forces and the wider Armed Forces community.*
- *That an annual civic recognition helps strengthen community awareness, encourages participation, and shows our appreciation for those who have defended our freedoms.*

This Council resolves:

1. *To request that the Community Committee formally recognises Armed Forces Day each year.*
2. *That this recognition should take place on, or as close as practicable to, the official Armed Forces Day each year.*
3. *That the Community Committee considers the appropriate activities to mark the occasion, which may include a flag raising, civic ceremony, community event, or other suitable acts of recognition.*
4. *That the Council reaffirms its support for serving personnel, veterans, reservists, cadets, and their families through this annual recognition.*

652. Receipts and Payments

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

653. Visit Faversham Website

Following a discussion regarding future hosting of the "Visit Faversham" website via a Swale Borough Council platform, it was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to write to Swale Borough Council seeking clarification whether the decision to cease hosting was reliant on LGR before the Town Council agreed further action.***

654. Action Plan

It was agreed that each Committee would review its part of the Action Plan at their next meeting with the updated Action Plan to be reviewed by the Policy and Resources Committee.

655. Private Session

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin 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 items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

656. Guildhall Works

Members received an update on the Guildhall works. Following discussion on the proposed works, it was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Crayford and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Mayor would publish a statement in reference to the works.***

The meeting closed at 9:21 pm.

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