MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

28 July 2026 at 7:00pm

The Guildhall

Present: Cllrs L Coniam, P Cook, R Crayford, C Gibson, K Golding, B J Martin, C Martin (Chair), T Martin, R Newman, H Perkin, J Rowlands and J Saunders

Apologies: None

In attendance: Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

Public Questions: Maria Newman queried the costs on the Ham Farm Judicial Review. Cllr Rowlands replied that it was around £85,824, including the £40,000 from donations. Alison Reynolds asked what more the community could do. Further discussion was held under Minute Item 659.

657. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

The Deputy Town Clerk had not received any apologies prior to the meeting. It is noted that Cllr Eyre had emailed her apology at 6.29pm.

658. Declarations of Interest

None.

659. Ham Farm

Councillors noted the outcome of the Judicial Review, and a discussion was held on the options available.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to go to appeal on the outcome of the Judicial Review.***

Cllr J Rowlands requested a recorded vote.

Cllr T Martin	For
Cllr Crayford	Against
Cllr Saunders	Against
Cllr Golding	Against
Cllr Cook	For
Cllr Newman	Against
Cllr Coniam	For
Cllr Perkin	For
Cllr Gibson	For
Cllr Rowlands	For
Cllr B Martin	Abstained
Cllr C Martin	Abstained

660. The Guildhall

Councillors received an update on The Guildhall project.

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

1) ***That the contract between the appointed Guildhall Contractor and the Town Council should be signed***
2) ***That the first invoice from the contractor should be paid.***
3) ***That the Mayor should write directly to the Contractor requesting that they speed up communications between the Project Administrator and themselves.***

Cllr R Newman requested a recorded vote.

Cllr T Martin	For
Cllr Crayford	For
Cllr Saunders	For
Cllr Golding	For
Cllr Cook	For
Cllr Newman	Against
Cllr Coniam	For
Cllr Perkin	For
Cllr Rowlands	For
Cllr Gibson	For
Cllr B Martin	Abstained
Cllr C Martin	Abstained

661. Private Session

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin seconded by Cllr Rowlands 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.***

662. Staffing

The resignation of the Town Clerk was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr J Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to separate the role of Town Clerk and RFO for a temporary period and offer the post of Responsible Finance Officer to the Finance Officer on a temporary basis.**

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr J Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to provide 10 hours per week for an initial period of 3 months for accountancy support to the RFO to undertake a***

review of the Asset Register, reporting to the Policy and Resources Committee on a monthly basis.

Cllr R Crayford left the meeting before the vote on RFO support.

The Deputy Town Clerk left the meeting at 21:12

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to offer the position of Town Clerk to the Deputy Town Clerk for a period of 4 months. The pay scale is deferred to the Staffing Committee.**

Thanks was expressed to Sarah Muteham for her efforts in a smooth handover.

The meeting closed at 21:31