

MINUTES
of
A Meeting of New Romney Town Council
Held in the Assembly Rooms, New Romney
on Monday 12th January 2026
Commencing at 6.45pm

PRESENT: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney,
Councillor John Rivers

Town Ward:

Councillors: P Carey, J Davies, L Phillips and W D Wimble

Coast Ward:

Councillors: P Thomas, P Coe, J Hiscock, K Terry, S O' Hare,
A Meredith and P Peacock

In Attendance:

Town Clerk	-	Mrs C Newcombe
Responsible Financial Officer	-	Mrs C T Morris
Mayor's Chaplain		
Members of Public	-	2

IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor – Councillor J Rivers

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

The formal business of the meeting commenced **@6.47PM.**

456/2025-26 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted, as follows:

Councillor Rev Cn S McLachlan	-	for personal reasons
Councillor S Hodges	-	for personal reasons
Councillor E Carr	-	due to work commitments

457/2025-26 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

No new applications for Dispensation to Participate had been processed by the Town Clerk.

458/2025-26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

@6.47PM Councillor Hiscock declared a Personal Interest in respect of Town Council finance reports due to her employment of a contractor who is also employed by the Town Council. (Minute Ref: 469/2025-26 refers)

All Councillors present declared a DPI (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) in respect of the setting of the Annual Precept, stating that they had Dispensation to participate and vote in respect of this matter.

459/2025-26 **REPORT OF THE KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

The report of the KCC Councillor, which had been circulated separately to Council Members and published separately under the meeting agenda on the Town Council website due to late receipt, was received and noted.

460/2025-26 **REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

FHDC Councillor Thomas' report, which included details of meetings attended, updates regarding current District Council business, attendance data and details of grant funding awarded to date, was duly received and noted.

461/2025-26 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was not necessary to adjourn the meeting as no public questions or statements had been received in writing.

462/2025-26 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

463/2025-26 **RE-CONVENING OF MEETING**

Not applicable.

464/2025-26 **MINUTES**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on **15th December 2025**, copies of which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Davies

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hiscock

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th December 2025 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

NB: Councillors Phillips and Wimble abstained from voting as they had not been present at the afore-mentioned meeting.

The Chairman subsequently signed the afore-mentioned minutes.

465/2025-26 **MAYOR'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor's report regarding civic engagements attended since the last meeting was duly received and noted.

466/2025-26 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk's report was received and noted and read as under:

MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL – 12TH JANUARY 2026 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Actions completed since the Full Council meeting held on 15th December 2025

None.

Further Items of Report:

- 1) The audited AGAR for 2024-25 was received on 19th December 2025 (during the period of office closure) and was published on the Town Council website on Monday 5th January 2026, this being the first working day following the office closure. The **Notice of Conclusion of Audit** was also published online and in the Town Hall window on 5th January 2026 and a Facebook message was posted to advise the public of this action and to explain that the lateness of publication was due to Mazars' lateness in concluding the external audit and issuing the output documents to the Town Council.
- 2) Following discussion with the relevant FHDC Officer regarding **transfer of Station Road Play Area** to New Romney Town Council and as a result of further negotiation regarding the term of any associated Lease Agreement, the District Council has now agreed that the transfer can proceed on the same basis as previously discussed (ie incorporating an identified area for use as an overflow car park for the Maude Community Centre) but with a longer 99 year lease term applicable.

Information has also been provided regarding s106 monies which it may be possible to allocate to any refurbishment project, subject to meeting identified criteria.

The Clerk will now make arrangements to progress and complete this transfer, subject to formal approval of the Deed of Transfer by the Town Council when it is available.

Town Clerk

6th January 2026

467/2025-26 **STANDING ORDER NO.14**

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 14.

468/2025-26 **STANDING COMMITTEES**

(i) Councillor Thomas presented the minutes of the **Personnel Committee** meeting held on **17th December 2025**, which were duly received and noted.

(ii) The minutes of the **Planning & Environment Committee** meeting held on **7th January 2026**, which were not yet available.

469/2025-26 **RFO'S FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2025-26**

The RFO presented bank reconciliations for the month of **November 2025**, which were duly received and noted and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peacock

SECONDED BY: Councillor Davies

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the finance report for the month of November 2025 be hereby received and approved, as below:

New Romney Town Council Current Year			
Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 30 November 2025			
Confirmed Bank & Investment Balances			
<u>Bank Statement Balances</u>			
30/11/2025	Nat West Current A/c	500.00	
30/11/2025	Unity Trust A/c	219,069.36	
30/11/2025	Lloyds Bank Business A/c	45,654.67	
30/11/2025	Nat West Business Reserve A/c	66,146.24	
30/11/2025	Petty Cash	45.78	
30/11/2025	Corporate Card	0.00	
30/11/2025	Lloyds Bank I/A Online Saver	504,689.50	
			836,105.55
<u>Other Cash & Bank Balances</u>			
			10,453.00
			846,558.55
<u>Unpresented Payments</u>			
			599.06
			845,959.49
<u>Receipts not on Bank Statement</u>			
			0.00
<u>Closing Balance</u>			
			845,959.49
<u>All Cash & Bank Accounts</u>			
1	Nat West Current A/c	500.00	
2	Unity Trust Current A/c	219,069.36	
3	Lloyds Bank Business A/c	45,654.67	
4	Nat West Business Reserve A/c	66,146.24	
5	Petty Cash	45.78	
6	Corporate Card	-599.06	
7	Lloyds Bank I/A Online Saver	504,689.50	
	Other Cash & Bank Balances		10,453.00
	Total Cash & Bank Balances		845,959.49

470/2025-26 **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

A brief update from Lydd Airport Action Group regarding airport activity and financial performance was duly received and noted.

471/2025-26 **CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT**

None.

472/2025-26 **PRECEPT REQUIREMENT 2026-27**

Having duly considered the draft budgetary requirement and resulting Precept requirement for 2026-27, and having noted that the proposed Budget requirement and output Precept requirement had been vigorously debated by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, it was:

(i)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Coe
SECONDED BY: Councillor Wimble

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that New Romney Town Council’s net budget requirement for 2026-27, in the amount of £509,123.00, be hereby confirmed and approved.

(ii)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Wimble
SECONDED BY: Councillor Thomas

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that New Romney Town Council’s Precept requirement for 2026-27, in the amount of £509,123.00 be hereby confirmed and approved.

(iii)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hiscock
SECONDED BY: Councillor Terry

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the Town Clerk and / or the RFO be authorised to submit the formal Precept demand to Folkestone & Hythe District Council by the due deadline and, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, to issue an associated press release.

The Cost Breakdown relating to the Town Council’s approved Net Budget and output Precept Requirement for 2026-27 compared to the previous year was as below:

	2025/26	2026/27
Net Budget / Annual Precept	£429,562.00	£509,123.00
Band D Council Tax Charge	£139.60 per year	£163.51 per year Increase of £23.91 per year £1.99 per month £0.46 per week
Cost Breakdown		
Gross Expenditure	£415,257.00	£497,676.00
Income	£37,845.00	£46,653.00
Net Expenditure	£377,412.00	£451,023.00
Addition to Ring-Fenced Reserves (required for specified purposes)	£52,150.00	£58,100.00
Council Tax Requirement (Precept)	£429,562.00	£509,123.00

473/2025-26 **CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR 2024-25**

Having duly noted the significant delay in receiving the Notice of Conclusion of Limited Review (External Audit) from the Government's appointed External Auditors, it was:

(i)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers
SECONDED BY: Councillor Peacock

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that conclusion of external audit for 2024-25 be hereby formally acknowledged.

(ii)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas
SECONDED BY: Councillor Coe

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the audited AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) be hereby received and noted and that it be formally confirmed that no output points of note were identified thereon and no resultant actions were, therefore, required.

474/2025-26 **NRTC STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-27**

The Town Council's adopted Strategic Plan for 2023-27, with latest updates, was duly received and noted and, in light of a recent resolution of the Planning and Environment Committee to request that Objective PHE5 be withdrawn from the Strategic Plan 2023-27 as there were currently no environmental actions required at any Town Council open space, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Terry
SECONDED BY: Councillor O'Hare

RESOLVED – that Objective PHE5 be hereby withdrawn from the Town Council's adopted Strategic Plan 2023-27.

475/2025-26 **EVENTS WORKING PARTY**

The Town Council considered a staff request to form an Events Working Party to assist Town Council Staff with planning, organisation, implementation and manning of Town and Civic events, as required and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peacock
SECONDED BY: Councillor Meredith

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that an Events Working Party be hereby established, with terms of reference being to assist Town Council Staff with planning, organisation, implementation and manning of Town and Civic Events when called upon to do so. The afore-mentioned Working Party Members for the 2026-27 civic year to be Councillors Rivers, Coe, Thomas, Carey, Peacock, Meredith and Phillips.

476/2025-26 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Clerk confirmed that it was not necessary to exclude members of public and press on this occasion.

477/2025-26 **ON-GOING MATTERS**

The Clerk confirmed that there were no matters of report on this occasion.

478/2025-26 **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

The Clerk confirmed that there were no matters of report on this occasion.

479/2025-26 **LAND AND TENANCY MATTERS**

The Clerk confirmed that there were no matters of report on this occasion.

480/2025-26 **CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE SESSION**

Not applicable.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting concluded **@ 7.29PM.**

NB: All documents referred to herein are available at the Town Hall for perusal on request, except for those documents of a sensitive / legal nature discussed in private session, including documents relating to staff matters which remain Private and Confidential in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

Minutes prepared by the Town Clerk