

Cinque Port Town of New Romney



Town Clerk's Office
Town Hall
New Romney
Kent TN28 8BT

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TOWN AND PARISH OF NEW ROMNEY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Town Meeting of the above named Town is to be held in the Assembly Rooms, Church Approach, New Romney on **WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL 2023** commencing at 7.30 pm.

Only such persons as are registered as Local Government Electors for the Town will be entitled to vote at the meeting, but the meeting will be open to the public during the proceedings unless the Town Meeting, by Resolution, should otherwise direct.

WELCOME

1. Apologies
2. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 27th April 2022.
3. To receive presentations from local organisations and community groups, as advised.
 - Marsh Primary Care Network
 - New Romney in Bloom
 - JAM on the Marsh
 - CARM (Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh)
 - Sunflower Memory Café
4. Chairman to present the annual Town Council Financial Summary and respond to any questions from attending registered Local Government Electors as may be put.
5. To receive and note written questions submitted by any registered Local Government Elector and written responses supplied.
8. To receive the report of Kent Police / PCSO, if available.

9. To consider Resolutions, of which written notice has been delivered to the Town Clerk not less than one clear working day before the day of the Annual Assembly.
10. Pride of New Romney Awards 2022 /2023 – to be presented by the Town Mayor
11. Cheques for funding from the Mayor's Charity Fund to be presented to local deserving causes by the Town Mayor

DATED THIS 12TH DAY OF APRIL 2023

Mrs C Newcombe
Town Clerk
Town Hall
New Romney
TN28 8BT

MINUTES

of
The Annual Town Meeting
of New Romney Town Council
held remotely on Wednesday 27th April 2022
commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful The Mayor

Councillor P D Thomas

Town Ward

Councillors:

**A Rodriguez, D Wimble, J Rivers Mrs B Lonbay Kapoor,
Rev Cn S McLachlan, J Davies and P Carey, Mrs S Hodges**

Coast Ward

Councillors:

P J Coe, Miss J M Hiscock, Mrs P Metcalfe and Ms W Nevard

In Attendance:

Town Clerk:

Mrs C Newcombe

Finance Clerk:

Mrs C T Morris

KCC Councillor

Councillor A Hills

FHDC Councillor

Councillor P Rolfe

FHDC Councillor

Councillor D Wimble

Guest Speakers

5

Members of Public

19

WELCOME

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were conveyed as detailed below:

Mayor's Chaplain - due to a pastoral commitment
PCSO John Goreham - due to a prior commitment

Reasons for absence were duly received and noted.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 28th April 2021 were considered and by way of a show of hands,

the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 28th April 2021 were formally received and approved.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Five presentations were given, as follows:

- New Romney Skateboard Group – on the benefits of extending the New Romney Skate Park
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council – on the topic of Community Led Housing
- Romney Marsh Morris – on the history and activities of the Morris Side
- 1st New Romney Brownies – on the benefits of participating in Brownies, the need for volunteers and the benefits of volunteering
- 1st New Romney Scouts – on the benefits of scouting and the need for volunteers

Questions were put and answered on the afore-mentioned subjects.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

A copy of the Annual Report had been previously circulated to Councillors and made available to members of the public ahead of the meeting via the New Romney Town Council website. Hard copies of the report were also made available at the meeting.

The Mayor presented the Report, highlighting key items of interest, including progress of the proposed Community Hall and Sports Pavilion, success of the installation of protective bollards around St Martin's Field, the work of the Town Council's Parish Caretaker Team, the Council's work towards improved inclusivity and accessibility and becoming nett carbon neutral.

The Chairman of the Finance and New Romney Town Council General Purposes Committee then presented the Council's Financial Summary, highlighting expenditure on IT equipment to bring the Council into the 21st Century.

Questions on the content of the report were put and answered..

5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

It was confirmed that no written questions had been received from the public.

6. REPORT OF KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Kent County Councillor A R Hills presented his report, which included information on highways, climate change, re-use of Dungeness A Power Station and transport.

Councillor Hills' report was received and noted by those present, with questions having first been put and answered.

7. **REPORT OF SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

(i) **Councillor D Wimble**

Councillor Wimble presented his report, which included details of District Council responsibilities and local issues that he has been engaging with, details of grant funding for local businesses, development of the Mountfield Business Hub, planning matters and the work of community hubs within the District during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Councillor Wimble's report was received and noted by those present, with questions having first been put and answered.

(ii) **Councillor Mrs P S Rolfe**

Councillor Mrs Rolfe presented her report, which included details of work undertaken in respect of local health matters as well as Ward Grants awarded during the past 12 months and work undertaken with other outside agencies, including Opportunitas and Romney Marsh Partnerships, development of the Mountfield Business Hub and the work of the community hubs within the District during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Councillor Mrs Rolfe's report was received and noted by those present, with questions having first been put and answered.

8. **REPORT OF KENT POLICE/NEW ROMNEY COMMUNITY WARDEN**

The written report of PCSO J Goreham, which highlighted the low crime rates in the local area over the past two years and highlighted the 'MY COMMUNITY VOICE' app, was duly received and noted by those present.

9. **WRITTEN NOTICE OF RESOLUTIONS**

The Town Clerk confirmed that no written notices of resolutions had been received by her during the period stated.

10. **PRIDE OF NEW ROMNEY AWARDS**

The winners of this year's Awards, who had been selected from all nominations received, were announced at the meeting and received their respective Award from the present Mayor. The winners were:

Miss Mae Bovingdon – for outstanding service to the Community by a young person.

Mrs Ann Bidwell - for outstanding service to the Community by an individual.

Light Up New Romney - for service to the Community by a local organisation.

The 'Mayoral Star' award winners, personally chosen by the Mayor, were Miss Charlotte Snooks and Mr Nick Sanderson.

The Mayor also recognised the service of the Mayor's Cadet – Callum Beard and the two Mayor's Scouts – Mae Bovingdon and Oakley Davies.

11. **CHEQUE PRESENTATIONS**

The Town Mayor presented cheques for funding from the Mayor's Charity Fund to:
New Romney Country Fayre Committee – in the amount of £2,000
Light Up New Romney – in the amount of £750.00 (having already received £1,000 from the Mayor's Charity Fund).

THANKS

The Mayor thanked everyone present for attending.

The meeting then concluded at 9.43pm.

NB **Copies of all reports and documents referred to within these Minutes are appended to the relevant agenda and available for perusal on the Town Council website or on request to the Town Clerk at the Town Hall.**

Minutes Prepared by the Town Clerk

NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2022/23 Budget Analysis

The Town Council's income and expenditure for the year 2022/23 is on target to balance. The cost of New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the financial year was £131.01 equating to £10.92 per month or £2.52 per week. The Town Council's Precept for the year 2023/24 in the amount of £374,894.00 represents an annual cost of £127.40 for New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the year – which is a 2.76% DECREASE on the previous year.

Analysis of Proposed Income and Expenditure for 2023/24

<u>Income</u>	£
New Romney Town and Coast Tax Payers	374,894.00
Hire of Land and Properties	19,593.00
Allotment Rents	2,500.00
Hut & Winch Site Rents	6,200.00
Other Income	<u>10,021.00</u>
Total Income	<u>413,208.00</u>

Expenditure

Finance & General Purposes Committee	
Sports Field and Maude Pavilion	2,458.00
Fairfield Road Recreation Ground	3,952.00
The Greens	13,106.00
Flagstaff Land	1,412.00
Allotment Gardens	2,522.00
Land at Coney Banks	50.00
Town Square	80.00
Garden of Remembrance	300.00
Assembly Rooms	9,143.00
Community Hall	2,340.00
Town Hall	17,448.00
Town Hall House	3,449.00
Insurances	6,500.00
Legal & Professional Fees	10,000.00
Donations	6,000.00
Subscriptions	4,000.00
Office Equipment	2,750.00
Computer Maintenance	7,000.00
Phone/Internet	2,500.00
Printing & Stationery	750.00
Public Clock	300.00
Postage and Petty Cash	1,500.00
Admin & Miscellaneous (inc. Mayor's/Civic Allowance)	15,487.00
Bank Charges	500.00
Payroll Outsourcing	650.00
Reserve Fund Contributions	46,000.00
Councillor Training	4,000.00
Contingency	10,000.00
PWLB Loan Repayment inc Interest	57,337.00
Other	100.00

Personnel Panel 182,900.00

Planning Committee 250.00
Total Expenditure **413,208.00**

The Town Council is fully accountable to residents each year at the Annual Town Meeting at which time any questions may be raised.

The fully audited accounts for 2021/22 are available at the Town Hall for perusal by prior arrangement.

The Town Council has an approved Capital Spending Plan and an approved Investment Policy which are reviewed annually, details of which are available from the Town Hall by prior request.

KENT POLICE - PCSO REPORT

It has been a busy time on the Romney Marsh as always – There is a wonderful community spirit that I often see in my work.

Speeding is a great concern to many residents and Kent Police. Life for everyone is so hectic and everyone is so busy or working to a tight time schedule that often rules of the road are forgotten. We are conducting local Policing Operations to try and address this, giving vehicle users driving at excess speed suitable advice about the dangers they are putting themselves and other road users in. At the same time, we will be looking at the road worthiness of vehicles, again giving advice and taking appropriate action if vehicles are dangerous.

Metal theft is another issue here on the Romney Marsh with reports of catalytic converter thefts becoming a problem. We ask if residents can also be pro-active in trying to prevent such thefts that are extremely inconvenient to vehicle owners. Often the cost to replace such parts is more than the entire value of the vehicle. If you have a garage, please use it when parking your vehicle at home. This can often help reduce your insurance premiums too. Thieves also do not like being seen or identified. Consider fitting wireless security cameras near areas where you park your vehicle at home and vehicle on-board CCTV cameras when parked out and about.

We have many older residents living within our community and fraud is now becoming a very common issue – scams vary from phone calls, door knockers to scam emails. May I ask, in such circumstances – remain calm and contact us via online chat, telephone, in person at the Police Station, or using the 24/7 yellow phone at the front of the Police Station where you will be connected direct to a Kent Police operator. We are here to help, advise and protect.

Often it is forgotten that we at Kent Police work closely with other agencies. Kent County Council local Community Warden covers New Romney and its surrounding area. Police, Police Staff and Wardens often work closely together to resolve and manage local issues and problems and it is reassuring that residents have this outlet too to raise concerns and problems in a more informal way. We will continue to work with other agency staff to protect and serve our community.

We now have a new online messaging service called My Community Voice. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves. My Community Voice is more than just a messaging service, it allows you to reply to the alerts we send you, share information and tell us about the issues affecting you. For more information and to sign up for the free service please visit our online page at www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk

Finally later in the year we will be holding our annual Kent Police Open Day in Maidstone. This is a very interesting day where residents can see lots of examples of the types of work we do. Visit www.kent.police.uk later this year to find details of the annual event and in the meantime visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@kentpolicevideos to see clips from last years event and other examples of work we do.



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