

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 Maude Community Centre**, Station Road, New Romney on **TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 2026** commencing at **7.00 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.

AGENDA

Prayers led by the Mayor's Chaplain

WELCOME

1. Apologies
2. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 30th April 2025.
3. Pride of New Romney Awards Presentation: Community Group
4. The Chairman to present the New Romney Town Council Annual Report and receive any questions thereon as may be put by attending registered Local Government Electors for New Romney.
5. To receive a presentation from Southern Water Bathing Water Partnership Manager
6. Pride of New Romney Awards Presentation: Individual Over 18 years.

7. The Chairman to receive any written question submitted by any registered Local Government Elector for New Romney regarding any other business of New Romney Town Council, having been received not less than one clear working day* before the day of the Annual Assembly and provide a response thereto or confirm when a response shall be provided (normally within 28 days).
8. To receive a presentation from Guest Councillor, FHDC Cllr Tony Hills, on the subject of Romney Marsh Flood Prevention
9. Pride of New Romney Awards Presentation: Individual Under 18 years.
10. 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.
11. (i) To receive a presentation from Mayor's nominated charity for 2025-26: Last Chance Animal Rescue Centre.

(ii) Mayor to present a cheque for funding from the Mayor's Charity Fund to Last Chance Animal Rescue Centre representatives.
12. (i) To receive a presentation on behalf of Mayor's nominated charity for 2025-26: 'With Grace'

(ii) Mayor to present a cheque for funding from the Mayor's Charity Fund to 'With Grace' representatives.
13. Pride of New Romney Awards Presentation: Mayoral Star
14. Conclusion of formal business of the meeting and 'Marketplace' Public Question Time / Meet and Greet session to commence. Light Refreshments available. Session and Town Meeting concludes at 9.00pm.

Confirmed Participating Organisations for Public Question Time and Meet & Greet Session (List to be updated if further confirmations of attendance are received prior to the meeting):

New Romney Town Council
Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Kent County Council
Kent Police
New Romney Old School Trust
Marsh Marigolds WI
New Romney in Bloom
New Romney Dementia Friends / Sunflower Memory Cafes
Last Chance Animal Rescue Centre, New Romney
With Grace

DATED THIS 14TH DAY OF APRIL 2026

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

** One clear working day excludes the day of the Annual Town Meeting and the day on which notice is received (therefore, if the day of the Annual Town Meeting is a Wednesday, for instance, notice of question or resolution must be received on or by the preceding Monday).*

***If any comment or concern is put in the form of a question relating to the general business of the Town Council, no immediate response to such question may necessarily be expected, but in such case, the Chairman shall confirm when a response shall be provided (normally within 28 days), subject to contact details being provided at the end of the meeting.*

MINUTES

of
The Annual Town Meeting
of New Romney Town Council
held remotely on Wednesday 30th April 2025
commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful The Mayor of New Romney
Councillor J Rivers

Town Ward

Councillors: P Carey, J Davies,

Coast Ward

**Councillors: P J Coe, J M Hiscock, P Thomas, S O'Hare,
K Terry, P Peacock**

In Attendance:

Town Clerk:	Mrs C Newcombe
Finance Clerk:	Mrs C T Morris
KCC Councillor	Councillor A Hills
FHDC Councillor	Councillor P Thomas
Guest Speakers	4
Members of Public	20

WELCOME

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were conveyed as detailed below:

Cllr S Hodges	-	for personal reasons
Cllr E Carr	-	due to work commitments
Cllr L Phillips	-	who was unwell
Cllr S McLachlan	-	for personal reasons

Apologies for absence were duly received and noted.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 24th April 2024 were considered and it was:

2.

PROPOSED BY: Cllr Coe
SECONDED BY: Cllr O'Hare

And by way of a show of hands, it was AGREED

- **that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 24th April 2024 be formally received and approved as a true and correct record.**

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

Four presentations were given, as follows:

- Marsh Apiaries – on the work of the beekeeper in protecting bees on the Romney Marsh and expansion of beekeeping activities in New Romney, in particular.
- New Romney in Bloom – on the work of the community group to bring colour to the Town and make New Romney more pollinator friendly.
- Marsh Marigolds – on the activities of the Women's Institute in New Romney which raise funds for a range of charities and brings local women together in companionship.
- Romney Marsh Rotary Club – on the work of the Rotary Club locally to raise funds for local charities and organisations and giving back to the local community.

A number of questions were put to the presenters by interested parties.

4. **ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL REPORT**

The Town Mayor presented New Romney Town Council's Annual Report, highlighting the range of projects that had been undertaken by the Council during the past year, which included further work on tackling some of the objectives highlighted within the Council's Strategic Plan 2023-27, campaigning for a bespoke local medical centre, further progress on the New Romney Highway Improvement Plan and the construction of the new Maude Community Centre, which is due to be completed in June 2025.

There were no questions on the content of the Town Council report.

5. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

A number of public questions had been received in writing ahead of the meeting regarding (i) minutes of Annual Town Meetings, (ii) the demise of the New Romney Coastal Community Team (NRCCT); (iii) status and funding of the Maude Community Centre Project and project funding in general; (iv) sea water quality and (v) Strategic Plan progress and progress of other projects in general. Responses to all questions had been published in writing.

6. **PUBLIC SESSION**

One member of public enquired as to why an alternative site had now been put forward for a medical centre as opposed to that originally identified. An explanation was provided by the Town Mayor, highlighting issues with underground services at the originally identified site.

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

There was no Kent Police report on this occasion.

8. **WRITTEN NOTICE OF RESOLUTIONS**

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

9. **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 Town Mayor. The winners were:

Mstr Bradley Fox – for outstanding service to the Community by a young person.

Mr John Kenny (RNLI Littlestone) - for outstanding service to the Community by an individual.

New Romney in Bloom - for service to the Community by a local organisation.

The 'Mayoral Star' award winner, personally chosen by the Mayor, was King's Scout, Oakley Davies.

10. **CHEQUE PRESENTATIONS**

The Town Mayor presented cheques for funding from the Mayor's Charity Fund to:
Oliver Steeper Foundation – in the amount of £2,500.00
Holding On Letting Go – in the amount of £2,500.00

11. **THANKS**

The Town Mayor thanked everyone present for attending.

The meeting then concluded at 8.30pm.

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

AGENDA ITEM 4

Annual Report of New Romney Town Council to follow.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

1) Kent County Council Councillor Report

NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT (KENT COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE)

Cllr David Wimble

As I approach the 12-month anniversary of my election to Kent County Council, I would like to provide New Romney Town Council with an overview of the work undertaken, key achievements, and ongoing priorities during what has been a very busy and productive year.

Following the election, I was honoured to be appointed to the Cabinet as Cabinet Member for the Environment. One of the early initiatives I was particularly proud to deliver locally was the introduction of the first **Reuse Shop** at the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Mountfield Road, New Romney. This scheme enables residents to give a second life to items that would otherwise be discarded, with proceeds supporting children's charities. Due to its success, the model has since been rolled out across additional sites in Kent.

During my time in the environment portfolio, I was also responsible for overseeing the future of eight historic windmills owned by the county council. Recognising both their heritage value and the significant public investment already made in their restoration, I initiated plans for these assets to be transferred into community ownership through the creation of a **Kent Windmill Heritage Trust**, ensuring they remain preserved for future generations.

Environmental improvement has been a key focus throughout the year. Under initiatives such as **Plan Bee**, we have expanded efforts to support pollinators across the county through the installation of beehives and the planting of hundreds of acres of wildflower meadows. In addition, **Pam Tree**, over **6,000 trees** have been planted as part of the Green Canopy programme, with the long-term ambition of planting one tree for every resident in Kent.

I have also worked closely with farmers, landowners, the NFU, and DEFRA to tackle the persistent issue of fly-tipping. This has included developing proposals to make it easier for residents to dispose of certain types of waste particularly building materials thereby reducing the financial burden on both landowners and the public purse.

Waste disposal remains one of the most significant pressures on the county council. While district councils manage collections, Kent County Council is responsible for disposal. Currently, Kent processes at least **220,000 tonnes of waste annually**, with an additional 50,000 tonnes at peak levels. At a cost of approximately **£160 per tonne**, this represents an annual expenditure of around **£88 million**. Increasing recycling rates and reducing waste remains a critical priority.

Alongside this, I have been leading the development of a new **Kent Energy Policy**, replacing the previous framework which is now over 12 years old. The emerging policy sets out a clear position: opposition to large-scale solar developments on high-grade (Class A1) agricultural land and resistance to industrial battery storage facilities in rural locations. However, it strongly supports renewable energy in appropriate settings such as rooftops, schools, hospitals, and brownfield sites. Importantly, it also proposes that no energy

development should proceed without a confirmed grid connection. This policy is due to be presented to Cabinet in May and, subject to approval, will become formal council policy later this year.

Since Christmas, my role has expanded, and I have taken on additional responsibilities as Cabinet Member for **Economic Development and Special Projects**. In this capacity, I have been actively promoting the case for **new nuclear development at Dungeness**, including participation in national discussions at Westminster. Proposals under consideration include not only new generation capacity but also manufacturing facilities to support modular nuclear construction bringing the potential for hundreds of skilled jobs to Romney Marsh.

In parallel, I am in early discussions with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) regarding the establishment of a **Decommissioning Skills College**, which would build on existing work with EDF and significantly enhance local training and employment opportunities.

As part of my economic development responsibilities, I chair the **Kent and Medway Economic Partnership**, a key body for securing investment and supporting business growth. I also sit on a number of grant panels and alternate as chair of the Business Advisory Board, helping to direct funding into local enterprises.

To support the tourism sector, particularly in light of proposed national tourism taxes, I have developed proposals for a **Kent Pass**. This initiative would provide residents and visitors with discounted access to attractions, hospitality venues, and experiences across the county. The pass would cost £10, with a portion supporting local businesses and the remainder funding the new “Growth in Kent” programme. It would also be supported by a digital platform, allowing businesses to promote offers free of charge.

Finally, I have been progressing a proposal for a **Kent Lorry Environmental Levy**, similar to systems already in place across parts of Europe. This would see foreign-registered HGVs entering the UK via Dover or the Channel Tunnel pay a daily charge of approximately £35. The revenue estimated at up to **£50 million annually** would be ring-fenced for highways maintenance, including road repairs and drainage improvements, directly benefiting Kent residents.

In summary, the past year has been one of significant progress, with strong foundations laid across environmental protection, economic growth, and infrastructure investment. I remain committed to ensuring that the interests of New Romney and the wider Romney Marsh are fully represented at county level.

I look forward to continuing this work over the coming year and to working closely with New Romney Town Council on shared priorities.

Cllr David Wimble
Kent County Council
Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Special Projects

2) Folkestone & Hythe District Council Councillor Report

District Councillor Report for Annual Town Meeting

I have represented the New Romney Ward as an Independent Councillor at Folkestone and Hythe District Council since May 2023. I sit on the following Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Parties and Outside Bodies. I am also a Director of Oportunitas. I provide a comprehensive monthly report to New Romney Town Council on both my activities and those of the Council/Committees I sit on and these reports are attached to the New Romney Town Council agenda.

Member of Planning and Licensing Committee (including Licensing Act Sub-Committee), Member of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), Member of OSC Finance & Performance Scrutiny Sub-Committee, Member of Audit & Governance Committee, OSC Otterpool Task & Finish Group, Member of Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee, Chair of Romney Marsh Partnership, Vice Chair of Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF)

My attendance is as follows (from May 2023 to April 2026):

Council/Committee	Possible	Actual	Apols	Absent	%
Full Council	27	26	1	0	96%
Planning & Licensing Comm.	38	37	1	0	97%
Overview & Scrutiny Comm.	10	9	1	0	90%
OSC Finance & Resources S/Comm.	6	6	0	0	100%
Oportunitas	3	3	0	0	100%
OSC – Otterpool T & F Group	1	1	0	0	100%
Audit and Governance	1	1	0	0	100%
OVERALL	85	82	3	0	96%

I have used my ward grant money to support the following organisations in 2025/26.

Organisation	Reason	Grant Allocation	Remaining
New Romney Country Fayre	Biggest free event on Romney Marsh and a Community Event Revitalising Community Spirit.	£500	£2,2,500
Strange Cargo	Support for Charivari Community Carnival 2025.	£150	£2,350
New Romney In Bloom	Support for work in West Street Car Park, New Romney	£150	£2,200
Strange Cargo	Support for Marsh Academy students to take part in Charivari Carnival 2025.	£100	£2,100
Litter Picking Watch Romney	Purchase of materials and PPE for graffiti removal around the Marsh	£150	£1,950

Marsh			
Light Up New Romney	Street entertainment for LUNR Parade	£400	£1,550
Strange Cargo	Support for Marsh Academy students to participate in Charivari festival 2026.	£150	£1,400
JAM on the Marsh	Marsh Academy and St Nicholas Academy students to participate in JAM on the Marsh 2026.	£400	£1,000
Romney Marsh Community Hub	Signage for the Marsh Bee service and outdoor equipment for the Hub on the Beach.	£845.84	£154.16
Litter Picking Watch Romney Marsh	Graffiti removal equipment and safety equipment.	£152.46	£1.70

I continue to support the work of Hand Off Our Marsh (HOOM) and voted against the Solar Farm application in St Marys Road. I also seconded the motion to refer the HOOM petition to the OSC, to ensure ongoing oversight of the large, National Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) which include the three large solar farms that are currently being proposed.

One of my main focuses has been to work with local groups and the District Council Officers to engage with Southern Water and the Environment Agency to improve the bathing water quality at Littlestone. We are now entering our third year of POOR bathing water quality. We have challenged Southern Water at the quarterly community engagement meetings to identify and correct the root cause of the problem. I would like to thank the excellent work of local resident Mark Rose in putting forward compelling arguments for Southern water to change their modelling, which they have agreed to do. We have lobbied them to enhance their testing regime, which they have agreed to do and with the help of the leader of FHDC, Cllr Jim Martin, we have the University of Surrey carrying out additional testing. All with the aim of identifying and correcting the issues causing the poor water quality. FHDC have also agreed to carry out testing across the Marsh, to identify other potential sources of pollution from Southern Water premises.

Finally, I was invited to speak at the International Atomic Energy Agency conference in Vienna in May 2025 on Stakeholder Engagement in Nuclear Communities and I took the opportunity to get support for new nuclear at Dungeness, as well as petitioning for continued funding for future decommissioning activities at Dungeness A.

My contact details are on the FHDC website and, as those residents who have contacted me know, I will endeavour to get solutions to the issues they bring to me.

Cllr Paul Thomas – 13th April 2026.

3) Kent Police Local Policing Report

See separate report

END