

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