

MINUTES
of
A Meeting of New Romney Town Council
Held in the Assembly Rooms, New Romney
on Wednesday 13th March 2024
Commencing at 6.45pm

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

Town Ward:

Councillors: J Davies, Rev Cn McLachlan, J Housten and L Phillips

Coast Ward:

Councillors: P Thomas, J Hiscock, P Coe, K Terry, A Meredith and
E Carr

In Attendance:

Deputy Town Clerk	-	Mrs C T Morris
KCC Councillor	-	Cllr Hills
1 Member of the Public		

IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor – Councillor J Rivers

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain the formal business of the meeting commenced **@6.45PM.**

565/2023-24 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted, as follows:

Councillor O'Hare	-	who had a prior commitment
Councillor Hodges	-	for personal reasons
Councillor Wimble	-	who was attending a District Council meeting

Apologies were also subsequently received from Councillor Carey who had a prior commitment that over ran.

566/2023-24 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

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

567/2023-24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

@6.46PM Councillor Hiscock declared a personal interest in Town Council finance reports due to her employment of a contractor who is also employed by the Town Council. (Minute Ref 579/2023-24 refers.)

568/2023-24 **REPORT OF THE KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

The written report from the Kent County Councillor, which included updates relating to flooding, Kent's Plan B and highways matters, was duly received and noted.

569/2023-24 **REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

FHDC Councillor Wimble's written report for February 2024, which was circulated at the 7th February meeting, and included matters relating to budgets and staff redundancies, was duly received and noted.

FHDC Councillor Thomas' written report, which included details of meetings attended, recent surface water flooding issues, budgets and matters pertaining to the Romney Marsh Partnership, was duly received and noted.

570/2023-24 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

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

571/2023-24 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

572/2023-24 **RE-CONVENING OF MEETING**

Not applicable.

573/2023-24 **MINUTES**

(i) The Chairman presented the minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on **7th February 2024**, copies of which had been previously circulated to all Councillors and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas

SECONDED BY: Councillor Terry

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 7th February 2024 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

Councillors Rev Cn McLachlan, Houston and Meredith abstained from voting as they had not been present at the afore-mentioned meeting.

(ii) The Chairman presented the minutes of the **Especial Full Council Meeting** held on **28th February 2024**, copies of which had been previously circulated to all Councillors and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Terry

SECONDED BY: Councillor Coe

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Especial Full Council Meeting held on 28th February 2024 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

Councillors Thomas, Phillips, McLachlan, Houston, Carr, Hiscock and Meredith abstained from voting as they had not been present at the afore-mentioned meeting.

The afore-mentioned minutes were subsequently signed by the Chairman of the Council.

574/2023-24 **MAYOR'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- (i) The Mayor's report regarding civic engagements attended since the last meeting of Full Council was duly received and noted.
- (ii) No additional communications of note had been received by the Town Mayor.

575/2022-23 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

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

MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL – 13th MARCH 2024
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Actions completed since the Full Council meeting held on 7th February 2024

1) A Letter of Intent was duly issued to the identified 'preferred contractor' in respect of the Maude Community Centre contract award. The construction contract will have been signed and issued at the time of this meeting and the details of the contract award will have been published.

Additional Items of report

1) The request to hold a community music event on St. Martin's Field has been withdrawn by the applicant.

Town Clerk

28th February 2024

Further Items of Report

The Clerk verbally reported that the Design & Build Contract in respect of the Maude Community Centre had been formally signed and issued.

576/2023-24 **CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT**

- (i) The Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery Project Financial Report was duly received and noted.
- (ii) The Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery Project Update Report was duly received and noted.

577/2023-24 **STANDING ORDER NO.14**

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

578/2023-24 **STANDING COMMITTEES**

(i) Councillor Coe presented the minutes of the **Planning and Environment Committee** meeting held on **14th February 2024**, which were duly received and noted.

(ii) Councillor Rivers presented the minutes of the **Health and Wellbeing Committee** meeting held on **20th February 2024**, which were duly received and noted and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas

SECONDED BY: Councillor McLachlan

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the recommendation made under Minute Ref: 548/2023-24, in respect of Committee meeting dates, be approved.

579/2023-24 **RFO'S FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2023-24**

(i) The Clerk presented final payments and receipts and final bank reconciliation for the month of **January 2023**, which were duly received and noted and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Coe

SECONDED BY: Councillor Davies

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the finance reports for the month of January 2024 be hereby received and approved.

Payments and receipts for the month of **January 2024** being in the amounts as detailed below:

January 2024	Receipts:	Payments:
NatWest Current Account	£53,056.76	£53,056.76
Unity Trust Current Account:	£8,970.40	£164.67
Lloyds Bank Business Account:	£50,697.40	£1,032,301.47
NatWest Business Reserve Account:	£3,717.81	£51,882.36
Petty Cash:	£0.00	£54.72

Lloyds Bank Corporate Card:	£124.98	£193.34
Lloyds Bank Instant Access Online Saver	£1,000,518.39	£0.00

580/2023-24 **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

There were no Council Representatives' reports on this occasion.

581/2023-24 **NRTC MEETING DATES 2024-25**

Having duly considered returning all Town Council meetings to the Town Hall Council Chamber and the draft schedule of Town Council meetings for the 2024-25 Civic Year, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Terry
SECONDED BY: Councillor Davies

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that (i) with effect from the beginning of the 2024-25 Civic Year, all Town Council meetings will return to the Town Hall Council Chamber: (ii) the draft schedule of Town Council meetings for the 2024-25 Civic Year, as presented, be approved.

NB: The Annual Town Meeting is not a Council meeting, therefore, it will remain at the Assembly Rooms.

582/2023-24 **NRTC COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

The report of the Facilities and Communications Clerk, regarding Councillor Surgeries, was received and noted. Following due consideration it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers
SECONDED BY: Councillor Terry

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that, changes in the process for hosting monthly New Romney Town Council Councillor Surgeries, be approved as presented, with the exception of item 4 which will have the number 13 removed. These changes are to take effect from the beginning of the forthcoming Civic Year.

583/2023-24 **STATION ROAD SPORTS FIELD – EVENT REQUEST**

Due consideration was given to the request to hold a Youth Football Presentation Event on Station Road Sports Field. It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hiscock

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that, subject to the caveats as detailed below, permission be granted to hold a Youth Football Presentation Event on Station Road Sports Field:

- (i) The use of bouncy castles or other inflatables is not permitted.**
- (ii) The applicant will be required to provide their own power source.**
- (iii) The applicant to be responsible for obtaining a Temporary Events Notice.**
- (iv) The applicant to provide evidence of relevant event insurance.**
- (v) The applicant to be responsible for providing adequate toilet facilities.**

584/2023-24 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

585/2023-24 **ON-GOING MATTERS**

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

586/2023-24 **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

587/2023-24 **LAND AND TENANCY MATTERS**

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

588/2023-24 **CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE SESSION**

Not applicable.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their attendance and the meeting then concluded @ **7.49PM**.

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 Deputy Town Clerk