

MINUTES

of

The Annual Town Meeting
of New Romney Town Council
held remotely on Wednesday 24th April 2024
commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful The Mayor of New Romney
Councillor J Rivers

Town Ward

**Councillors: P Carey, Rev Cn S McLachlan, J Davies,
J Houston, L Phillips**

Coast Ward

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

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 | 3 |
| Members of Public | 23 |

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 D Wimble | - | due to a work commitment |

Apologies for absence were duly received and noted.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 26th April 2023 were considered and it was:

2.

PROPOSED BY: KCC Cllr Hills
SECONDED BY: Mrs J Thomas

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

- **that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 26th April 2022 be formally received and approved as a true and correct record.**

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

Three presentations were given, as follows:

- Holding On Letting Go – on the work of the charity providing bereavement services to local children through a wide range of therapeutic activities in a broad range of settings.
- Mr K Clerk (Independent Metal Detectorist) – on the range of historic finds unearthed at Coney Banks, Church Road through metal detecting with the consent of New Romney Town Council.
- Romney Marsh Community Hub (RMCH) - on the Dial-a-Ride initiative soon to be delivered by the Community Hub with KCC funding support to provide community transport which will improve local access to GP and Hospital appointments as well as access to clubs and social activities, which assist in improving local health and wellbeing.

There were no questions put to the presenters on this occasion.

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 becoming a Dementia Friendly Council and improving accessibility to Town Council services, supporting local biodiversity and developing a Parish Highway Improvement Plan as well as awarding a Design and Build Contract for the Construction of the Maude Community Centre.

Questions on the content of the report were received and responses thereto provided.

5. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Two public questions had been received in writing ahead of the meeting regarding (i) poor bathing water quality and (ii) the Maude Community Centre Project. Responses to both questions had been published in writing and were conveyed at the meeting.

6. **PUBLIC SESSION**

One member of public put several questions to the Chairman regarding (i) New Romney Town Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and (ii) the Maude Community Centre Project. Responses to all questions put were provided thereto.

7. **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, local transport and bathing water quality. Councillor Hills' report was received and noted by those present. There were no questions on this occasion.

8. **REPORTS OF SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Councillor P D Thomas

Councillor Thomas presented his report, which highlighted his 100% attendance record at District Council meetings and included information on local nuclear energy and distribution of Ward Grant funding. He also commented on the issue of bathing water quality.

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

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

The Kent Police Romney Marsh Newsletter for April 2024 was duly received and noted by those present.

10. **WRITTEN NOTICE OF RESOLUTIONS**

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

11. **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:

Miss Nicole Baker – for outstanding service to the Community by a young person.

Ms Caroline Wire - for outstanding service to the Community by an individual.

CARM Bridge Meeting Point Volunteers - for service to the Community by a local organisation.

The 'Mayoral Star' award winner, personally chosen by the Mayor, was Mr Derek Ruby.

4.

12. **CHEQUE PRESENTATIONS**

The Town Mayor presented cheques for funding from the Mayor's Charity Fund to:

Touched by Cancer – in the amount of £2,000.00

New Romney Counselling Services – in the amount of £2,000.00

13. **THANKS**

The Town Mayor thanked everyone present for attending.

The meeting then concluded at 8.56pm.

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