

MINUTES
of
A Meeting of New Romney Town Council
Held in the Council Chamber, New Romney
on Monday 10th June 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, P Carey and L Phillips

Coast Ward:

Councillors: P Thomas, J Hiscock, P Coe, K Terry, S O'Hare and L Glover

In Attendance:

Finance Clerk

- Mrs J Field

KCC Councillor

- Cllr Hills

IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor – Councillor J Rivers

Prayers were led by Councillor Reverend Cannon McLachlan

The formal business of the meeting commenced **@6.46PM.**

043/2024-25 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted, as follows:

Councillor A Meredith

- for personal reasons

044/2024-25 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

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

045/2024-25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

@6.50PM Councillor Hiscock declared a personal interest in respect of Town Council finance reports due to her employment of a contractor who is also employed by the Town Council.

046/2024-25 **REPORT OF THE KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

The written report from the Kent County Councillor, which included updates relating to Highways, power generation at Dungeness, Green News, Climate Change, Seawater Quality, Bus Transport and the Romney Marsh Visitor Centre was duly received and noted with questions having first been put and answered.

047/2024-25 **REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

FHDC Councillor Thomas' written report, which included details of meetings attended, Ward Grant funding awarded and matters pertaining to Planning and local resident concerns, was duly received and noted.

048/2024-25 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

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

049/2024-25 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

050/2024-25 **RE-CONVENING OF MEETING**

Not applicable.

051/2024-25 **MINUTES**

(i)The Chairman presented the minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on **10th April 2024**, copies of which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rev Cannon McLachlan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Davies

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th April 2024 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

Councillor O'Hare abstained from voting as she had not been present at the afore-mentioned meeting.

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

(ii)The Chairman presented the minutes of the **Annual Statutory Meeting** held on **13th May 2024**, copies of which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Terry

SECONDED BY: Councillor Thomas

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on 13th May 2024 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

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

052/2024-25 **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.

053/2024-25 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

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

Nothing of significant concern to report.

The Clerk expressed thanks and gratitude to the Councillors for their support during this difficult time and asked for their continued support.

It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Coe

SECONDED BY: Councillor Thomas

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that, formal thanks be given to the Clerks and Caretakers for their hard work and efforts in the preparation of the recent Town Council Events surrounding the Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

054/2024-25 **STANDING ORDER NO.14**

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

055/2024-25 **STANDING COMMITTEES**

- (a) Councillor Thomas presented the minutes of the **Personnel Committee Meeting** held on **1st May 2024**, which were duly received and noted.
- (b) Councillor Thomas presented the minutes of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** meeting held on **22nd May 2024**, which were duly received and noted.
- (c) i. Councillor Coe presented the minutes of the **Planning and Environment Committee** meeting held on **8th May 2024**, which were duly received and noted.

- ii. Councillor Coe presented the minutes of the **Planning and Environment Committee** meeting held on **29th May 2024**, which were duly received and noted.
- iii. The Council duly considered the requirements of the Terms of Reference in respect of the Town Council's **Personnel Committee**, which require that the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, together with a further three Councillors – to a maximum of five Committee Members – shall form the Committee.

Following a paper ballot, the outcome of which was that the three additional Members, from a list of those Members who had put themselves forward to sit on the Personnel Committee, with the greatest number of votes were:

Councillor Coe
Councillor Davies
Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan

A paper ballot was taken from the remaining Councillors to appoint a formal reserve and the Councillor with the greatest number of votes was:

Councillor Hiscock

This matter to be formerly resolved at the July meeting of Full Council.

056/2024-25 **RFO'S FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2024-25**
 No Financial Reports were available.

057/2024-25 **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS**

(i) There were no Council Representatives' reports on this occasion.

(ii) Having duly considered appointments for Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies for 2024-25, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rev Cannon McLachlan
SECONDED BY: Councillor O'Hare

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Town Council Representatives on Outside Bodies for 2024-25 as detailed below, be hereby confirmed and approved.

ORGANISATION	NRTC REPRESENTATIVE
Steward for Damian Collins MP	Cllr K Terry (Reserve : Cllr P Coe)
Attendants – Town and Coast Ward Surgery Attendants	Cllr K Terry, Cllr A Meredith Cllr W D Wimble (District Councillor)
Emergency Contacts for Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC)	The Mayor and Deputy Mayor
Floodline Contacts for Environment Agency	Cllr J Hiscock, Cllr P Thomas, Cllr J Rivers, Cllr P Carey
Shepway Committee of Kent Association Of Local Councils	Cllr J Rivers, Cllr P Coe
Shepway District and Parish Councils Joint Committee	(Decided by Members of Above)
Lydd Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr P Coe, Cllr J Davies
Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group	Cllr P Coe, Cllr D Wimble, Cllr Meredith
NHS/ South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group	Cllr J Rivers, Cllr J Hiscock
Southlands Almshouse Charity	Cllr P Coe
Confederation of Cinque Ports	Town Mayor, Town Clerk, Cinque Ports Champion (4 year term): Cllr Rev Cn S McLachlan
Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board	Cllr P Coe, Cllr P Carey
Environment Agency	Cllr P Coe, Cllr J Hiscock
Allotment Association	Cllr A Meredith, Cllr J Hiscock
Romney Marsh Forum	Cllr J Hiscock, Cllr D Wimble
Mayoral Representative	No permanent representative- appointed as and when required at the discretion of the Mayor
New Romney Coastal Community Team	To be deleted for 2024-25
New Romney in Bloom	Vacant

058/2024-25 **CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT**

(i) The Maude Community Centre Project:

- (a)** Councillor Thomas gave a brief verbal update
- (b)** The Contractors site report was received and noted.

(ii) The Maude Community Centre Project Financial Update Report was duly received and noted.

059/2024-25 **REVIEW APPENDICES TO STANDING ORDERS**

(i)(a)

Having duly considered the Schedule of Payments Approved in Advance for financial year 2024-25 as circulated to all Councillors and as presented, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Coe

SECONDED BY: Councillor Terry

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Appendix (i)(a) Schedule of Payments Approved in Advance for financial year 2024-25, as presented, be hereby approved.

(b) Having duly considered the Statement of Intent for 2024-25 as circulated to all Councillors and as presented, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas

SECONDED BY: Councillor Houston

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Appendix (i) (b) Statement of Intent for 2024-25 be hereby approved.

060/2024-25 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

At 7.55 p.m. having duly considered the nature of matters to be discussed, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor O'Hare

SECONDED BY: Councillor Davies

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that due to the sensitive personal information about to be considered, which may serve to identify one or more individuals, it is advisable in the public interest that the Public and Press be temporarily excluded and they are now instructed to withdraw.

KCC Councillor Hills left the meeting at that time.

061/2024-25 **ON-GOING MATTERS**

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

062/2024-25 **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

The Chairman gave a brief verbal update regarding staffing matters which was duly noted and received.

063/2024-25 **LAND AND TENANCY MATTERS**

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

064/2024-25 **CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE SESSION**

At 8.00 p.m. it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Davies

SECONDED BY: Councillor Thomas

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the private session be hereby Concluded.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their attendance and the meeting then concluded **@ 8.00 p.m.**

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 Finance Clerk