

**MINUTES**  
**of**  
**A Meeting of New Romney Town Council**  
**Held in the Assembly Rooms, New Romney**  
**on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**  
**Commencing at 6.45pm**

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

**Town Ward:**

**Councillors:** J Davies, J Houston, P Carey, L Phillips and  
 S Hodges

**Coast Ward:**

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

**In Attendance:**

Deputy Town Clerk	-	Mrs T Morris
Mayor's Chaplain		
KCC Councillor	-	Cllr A Hills
Members of the Public	-	1

**IN THE CHAIR**

The Mayor – Councillor J Rivers

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

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

**567/2024-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted, as follows:

Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan - for personal reasons

Apologies for absence were subsequently received from Councillor  
 Meredith.

**568/2024-25 DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

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

**569/2024-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**@6.47PM** Councillors Hiscock and Thomas declared a Personal Interest  
 in respect of Town Council finance reports due to their employment of a  
 contractor who is also employed by the Town Council. (Minute Ref  
 580/2024-25 refers)

570/2024-25 **REPORT OF THE KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

KCC Councillor Hills presented his written report, which included information and updates relating to plans for a large-scale solar farm on Romney Marsh and updates in relation to funding for pothole repairs. The afore-mentioned report was duly received and noted.

571/2024-25 **REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

FHDC Councillor Thomas presented his written report, which included details of meetings attended and work supporting local residents as well as an update in respect of bathing water quality. The afore-mentioned report was duly received and noted.

572/2024-25 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

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

573/2024-25 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

574/2024-25 **RE-CONVENING OF MEETING**

Not applicable.

575/2024-25 **MINUTES**

(i) The Chairman presented the minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on **10<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, copies of which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, and it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Thomas

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor O'Hare

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.**

Councillors Hodges and Peacock abstained from voting as they had not been present at the afore-mentioned meeting.

The Chairman subsequently signed the afore-mentioned minutes.

576/2024-25 **MAYOR'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor's report regarding civic engagements attended since the last meeting was duly received and noted.

577/2024-25 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

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

**MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL – 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025**  
**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**Actions completed since the Full Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

1) In light of the newly adopted policy on livestreaming of Town Council meetings, the purchase of recording/filming equipment and portable wi-fi box is in hand with a view to implementing the **live-streaming of Town Council meetings** from April 2025.

**Additional Items of report**

1) The **by-election for Coast Ward Member** of New Romney Town Council was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February and Councillor Paul Peacock was duly elected to the Council.

2) Emergency **repairs to a drainage pipe to the rear of the Assembly Rooms** have been completed and the car parking surface made good.

Town Clerk 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

578/2024-25 **STANDING ORDER NO.14**

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

**@7.10PM** the Mayor's Chaplain left the meeting.

579/2024-25 **STANDING COMMITTEES**

(i) Councillor Rivers presented the minutes of the **Health & Wellbeing Committee** meeting held on **11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, which were duly received and noted.

(ii) Councillor Thomas presented the minutes of the **Personnel Committee** meeting held on **12<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, which were duly received and noted.

(iii) Councillor Terry presented the minutes of the **Planning & Environment Committee** meeting held on **19<sup>th</sup> February 2025**, which were duly received and noted.

580/2024-25 **RFO'S FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2024-25**

The Clerk presented final payments and receipts and final bank reconciliation for the month of **January 2025**, which were duly received and noted and it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Davies  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Terry

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the finance reports for the month of January 2025 be hereby received and approved.**

Payments and receipts for the month of **January 2025** being in the amounts as detailed below:

<b>January 2025</b>	<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>Payments:</b>
NatWest Current Account	£2,022.81	£2,022.81
Unity Trust Current Account:	£61,264.69	£100,325.88
Lloyds Bank Business Account:	£250,031.61	£363,281.55
NatWest Business Reserve Account:	£1,293.32	£803.81
Petty Cash:	£0.00	£56.58
Lloyds Bank Corporate Card:	£126.10	£453.36
Lloyds Bank Instant Access Online Saver	£3,004.21	£150,000.00
NSIB	£0.00	£0.00

581/2024-25 **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

None.

582/2024-25 **CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT**

**(i)** The Maude Community Centre Project Update Report was duly received and noted.

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

583/2024-25 **EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

The report of the external auditor for 2024-25 was duly received and noted and it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Rivers  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Davies

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that it be formally confirmed that there were no matters of concern raised and no actions were required to be taken as a result of the external audit.**

584/2024-25 **COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Having duly considered the draft schedule of Town Council meetings for the 2025-26 Civic Year, it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Thomas

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Terry

**RESOLVED – that the commencement time of meetings of St Martin’s Field Charity be changed to 6.15pm**

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Thomas

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Terry

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that, subject to the above-mentioned amendment to the start times for meetings of St Martin’s Field Charity, the draft schedule of Town Council meetings for the 2025-26 Civic Year, as presented, be approved.**

585/2024-25 **2025 EVENTS**

**(i)** Having duly considered the budget and cost centre for the forthcoming VE Day 80 celebration, it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Peacock

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Coe

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that (i) a budget in the maximum amount of £1,200.00 to cover costs incurred in respect of VE Day 80 Celebrations, to be allocated from the Festivities Reserve Fund, be approved; (ii) the Clerk be authorised to undertake all actions required to deliver the afore-mentioned celebrations and settle all associated invoices, once received, first having ascertained all is in order.**

**(ii)** Having duly considered the budget and cost centre for the forthcoming Maude Community Centre Official Opening celebrations, it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Thomas

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Houston

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that (i) a budget in the maximum amount of £2,500.00 to cover costs incurred in respect of the Maude Community Centre Official Opening Celebrations, to be allocated from the Festivities Reserve Fund, be approved; (ii) the Clerk be authorised to undertake all actions required to deliver the aforementioned celebrations and settle all associated invoices, once received, first having ascertained all is in order.**

586/2024-25 **CONEY BANKS APIARY**

Due consideration was given to increasing the maximum agreed capacity for beehives at land in Church Road known as Coney Banks from 20 hives to 30 hives, it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Thomas

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Davies

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the maximum number of hives to be accommodated at Town Council land in Church Road known as Coney Banks be increased from 20 to 30 hives.**

587/2024-25 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

588/2024-25 **ON-GOING MATTERS**

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

589/2024-25 **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

590/2024-25 **LAND AND TENANCY MATTERS**

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

591/2024-25 **CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE SESSION**

Not applicable.

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