

**MINUTES**  
**of**  
**The Annual Meeting**  
**of New Romney Town Council**  
**held on**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 commencing at 6.45pm**

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

**Town Ward Councillors:**

P Carey, J Davies, J Houston, D W Wimble, S Hodges,  
L Phillips

**Coast Ward Councillors:**

P D Thomas, J M Hiscock, P J Coe, K Terry, S O'Hare,  
A Meredith, E Carr

**In Attendance:**

Town Clerk	-	Mrs C Newcombe
Town Sergeant	-	Mrs C T Morris
Mayor's Sergeant	-	Mr S Woolgar
Members of Public and Civic Guests	-	Approx 45

**IN THE CHAIR:**    **Councillor J Rivers**

**WELCOME AND PRAYERS**

The outgoing Chairman welcomed those present and, in the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, Superintendent Minister Adrian Roux then led the meeting in prayer.

**@6.45PM** the formal business of the meeting then commenced.

001/2025-26 **ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIRMAN & TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor/Chairman called for nominations for Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council for 2025-26 and it was:

**PROPOSED BY:**    Councillor Thomas

**SECONDED BY:**   Councillor Coe

That Councillor Rivers be re-elected to the office of Chairman of the Council and Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Having first ascertained that there were no further nominations, and with the Proposer and Secunder having reserved their right to speak, each then spoke in favour of their nomination. A vote ensued, and by way of a show of hands, it was:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Councillor J R Rivers be and is hereby elected to the position of Chairman of New Romney Town Council and Town Mayor for the ensuing year.**

Councillor Rivers read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, declaring his agreement to observe the Council's Code of Conduct and to fulfil his role to the best of his ability.

Councillor Rivers next took the Oath of Allegiance and Official Oath.

Councillor Rivers thanked Councillors for his election to office.

#### 002/2025-26 **ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

The newly elected Mayor/Chairman called for nominations for Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor and it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Terry  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Thomas

That Councillor Coe be re-elected to the office of Vice-Chairman of the Council and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Having first ascertained that there were no further nominations, and with the Proposer and Secunder having reserved their right to speak, each then spoke in favour of their nomination. A vote ensued, and by way of a show of hands, it was:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Councillor P J Coe be and is hereby elected to the position of Vice-Chairman of New Romney Town Council and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.**

Councillor Coe read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, declaring his agreement to observe the Council's Code of Conduct and to fulfil his role to the best of his ability.

Councillor Coe next took the Oath of Allegiance and Official Oath.

Councillor Coe thanked Councillors for his election to office.

Councillor Rivers confirmed that Mrs Anita Rivers would, once again, be supporting him as Mayoress.

003/2025-26 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence, as detailed below, were duly received and noted.

Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan	-	for personal reasons
Councillor Peacock	-	due to work commitments

004/2025-26 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

The Clerk advised that Dispensation to Participate and vote in any matters relating to the annual setting of the precept and any matters relating to St. Martin's Field Charity had been granted to Councillor Peacock.

005/2025-26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

006/2025-26 **CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

It was confirmed that Reverend Chris Hodgkins had confirmed his willingness to continue in the role of Mayor's Chaplain for the ensuing year.

007/2025-26 **CONFIRMATION OF TOWN COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES**

The draft composition of Standing Committees, a copy of which had been previously circulated, was received and noted.

It was:

(i)

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Terry  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor O'Hare

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the composition of the Planning and Environment Committee for 2025-26, as presented, be hereby confirmed and approved.**

(ii)

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Hiscock  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Davies

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the composition of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for 2025-26, as presented, be hereby confirmed and approved.**

(iii)

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Coe  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Carey

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the composition of the Health and Wellbeing Committee for 2025-26, as presented, be hereby confirmed and approved.**

(iv)

**Personnel Committee**

It was reported and duly noted that, in accordance with Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee, which provides that the maximum membership shall be restricted to 5 Members – of which one must be the Chairman of the Council and one must be the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, the composition of this Committee would be approved at the ensuing Full Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025, once the elected Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee was known.

008/2025-26 **CONFIRMATION OF BANK MANDATE SIGNATORIES**

It was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Hiscock

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Coe

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that it be formally confirmed that Councillor Rivers, Councillor Coe, Councillor Thomas, Councillor Hiscock, Councillor Terry and Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan shall continue to act as Town Council bank mandate signatories for 2025-26.**

009/2025-26 **FINANCIAL CHECKS 2025-26**

It was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Coe

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Wimble

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Councillor Meredith and Councillor Davies be hereby appointed to undertake monthly financial and procedural checks for the 2025-26 civic year.**

010/2025-26 **KALC COMMUNITY AWARD**

The Town Mayor read out the citation on the KALC Community Award certificate, which was awarded to and received by Mr Kosh and Mrs Uri Patel.

011/2025-26 **CONFIRMATION OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Town Mayor confirmed that the next ordinary meeting of the Town Council would take place in the Assembly Rooms at 6.45pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

012/2025-26 **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chairman thanked the Councillors, civic guests and members of public for their attendance and the meeting then concluded **@ 7.02PM.**

NB: All documents referred to herein are freely available for perusal on the Town Council website: [www.newromney-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newromney-tc.gov.uk) or 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 Town Clerk

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