

MINUTES

of

**A Meeting of New Romney Town Council's
Finance and General Purposes Committee
Held in the Assembly Rooms on
Wednesday 28th May 2025 commencing at 6.45pm**

PRESENT: Councillors J Rivers, J Davies, P Coe,
K Terry, J Hiscock, P Carey and P Peacock

In Attendance:

RFO	-	Mrs C T Morris
Member of the Public	-	1

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Davies

044/2025-26 **ELECTION OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Having duly considered the previously approved membership of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for 2025-26 and having also considered the requisite skills, knowledge and understanding for relevant Committee leadership, the Chairman called for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for 2025-26. It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers

SECONDED BY: Councillor Coe

That, having previously ascertained his willingness to be nominated, Councillor P Thomas be elected as Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year.

There were no further nominations.

The Chairman called for a show of hands in favour of the nomination for Councillor Thomas

Vote: 7 For 0 Against 0 Abstentions

It was:

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Councillor P Thomas be hereby elected as Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year.

045/2025-26 **ELECTION OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN**

Having duly considered the previously approved membership of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for 2025-26 and having also considered the requisite skills, knowledge and understanding for relevant Committee leadership, the Chairman called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for 2025-26. It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers

SECONDED BY: Councillor Terry

That Councillor P Peacock be elected as Vice Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year.

There were no further nominations.

The Chairman called for a show of hands in favour of the nomination for Councillor Peacock

Vote: 7 For 0 Against 0 Abstentions

It was:

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Councillor P Peacock be hereby elected as Vice Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year.

In the absence of the Chairman Councillor Peacock took the chair.

046/2025-26 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted, as below:

Councillor P Thomas – who was attending a European nuclear conference

047/2025-26 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

The RFO advised that no new Dispensations to Participate had been granted.

048/2025-26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

@6.49PM 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.

049/2025-26 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was not necessary to adjourn the meeting as no questions had been received in writing by the Clerk.

050/2025-26 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

051/2025-26 **RE-CONVENING OF MEETING**

Not applicable

052/2025-26 **MINUTES**

The Chairman presented the Minutes of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting** held on **19th March 2025**, a copy 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 Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 19th March 2025 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

Councillor Rivers abstained from voting as he had not been in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Peacock abstained from voting as he had been at the meeting as an observer.

The Chairman subsequently signed the Minutes.

053/2025-26 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(i) 2024/2025 Budget Comparison and Income & Expenditure reports

The 2024/2025 Budget Comparison and Income and Expenditure Reports were received and noted.

(ii) Schedule of Payments Approved under Financial Regs, SPAA and/or Delegated Authority

The RFO presented the detailed schedule of Payments Approved under Financial Regs, SPAA and/or Delegated Authority. Following due consideration it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Terry

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hiscock

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that, noting the following typographical errors:

Entry 13.3.25 Kent Pension Fund in the sum of £3,304.51 had been included in error.

Entry 15.4.25 Kent Pension Fund in the sum of £3,304.51 should have read Pension Fund Contributions M12 and not Month 1.

the afore-mentioned detailed schedule of Payments Approved under Financial Regs, SPAA and/or Delegated Authority, in the amended sum of £85,105.80 exc. VAT, be received and noted and identified cost centres be approved.

NB: The RFO advised that she would correct the typographical errors prior to publication of the report on the Town Council website.

(iii) Schedule of Fund Transfers

The Schedule of Transfers between Town Council Bank Accounts was received and noted.

054/2025-26 **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)**

The RFO presented her Community Infrastructure report, which was received and noted.

055/2025-26 **RFO'S REPORT**

The RFO's report, which read as under, was received and noted:

RFO's Report – F&GP Meeting on 28th May 2025

Actions completed since the F&GP Committee meeting held on 19th March 2025:

1. Following their confirming acceptance of the award, the payment for grant funding to New Romney Country Fayre has been made (*Minute Ref: 617/2024-25(i) refers*).
2. Following their confirming acceptance of the award, the payment for grant funding to New Romney in Bloom has been made (*Minute Ref: 617/2024-25(ii) refers*).
3. Following their confirming acceptance of the award, the payment for grant funding to Romney Marsh Community Hub has been made (*Minute Ref: 617/2024-25(iii) refers*).
4. A 3-year index linked agreement with Zurich Municipal, in respect of Town Council insurance cover, has been entered into w.e.f 1.4.25 (*Minute Ref: 616/2024-25(i) refers*).
5. An order has been placed to carry out herbicide spraying on the Sports Field (*Minute Ref: 616/2024-25(iii) refers*).

Other Matters of Report:

None:

This concludes my report – RFO 13th May 2025

056/2025-26 **GRANT FUNDING/ DONATIONS**

None.

057/2025-26 **TOWN HALL – AIR CONDITIONING**

The verbal report of the RFO, in respect of the proposed air conditioning system for the Town Hall, was received and noted. Following due consideration it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers

SECONDED BY: Councillor Coe

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that,

i) due to the difficulties encountered in obtaining planning/listed buildings consent from FHDC, work be ceased on the provision of an air conditioning system at the Town Hall and the related application be withdrawn.

ii) the RFO seek a quotation to install additional radiators to the existing central heating system.

058/2025-26 **ALLOTMENT GARDENS - DRAINAGE**

The report regarding drainage issues at the Allotment Gardens was received and noted.

Having duly considered the options as presented and the single quotation provided, it was:

(i)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers

SECONDED BY: Councillor Davies

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that, due to the specialist nature of the work required, Standing Orders be waived to allow consideration of the single quotation provided.

ii)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Terry

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hiscock

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that i) the quotation as presented to provide additional drainage for the Allotment Gardens in the sum of £4,920.00 exc VAT, be accepted; ii) this to be funded from the Play & Miscellaneous Equipment Reserve Fund; iii) the RFO be authorised to settle all invoices, once received, first having ascertained all is in order.

NB: The contract was, therefore, awarded to Ostridge Contractors Ltd.

iii)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Terry

SECONDED BY: Councillor Davies

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the Planning & Environment Committee be asked to investigate the ownership and liability of the adjacent land, where a drainage ditch has been filled in and take any such action deemed necessary.

059/2025-26 **ASSEMBLY ROOMS CAR PARK**

Extensive consideration was given to the request received for use of the Assembly Rooms car park. It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Terry

SECONDED BY: Councillor Davies

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that, the request be declined.

060/2025-26 **HUT & WINCH SITES**

Due consideration was given to the impact of the temporary closure of the Hut & Winch Site access road. It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Coe

SECONDED BY: Councillor Terry

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that, i) boat siting fees received for 2025/2026, be refunded; ii) Hut & Winch Site tenants with a valid blue badge, be offered a 50% refund on 2025/2026 fees.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their attendance and the meeting then concluded **@ 7.20PM.**

NB: All documents referred to herein are freely available for perusal on the Town Council website: 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 Responsible Financial Officer.