

**MINUTES**  
**of**  
**A Meeting of New Romney Town Council**  
**Held in the Assembly Rooms, New Romney**  
**on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025**  
**Commencing at 6.45pm**

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

**Town Ward:**

**Councillors:** J Davies, P Carey, Rev Cn S McLachlan, W D Wimble and L Phillips

**Coast Ward:**

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

**In Attendance:**

Town Clerk	-	Mrs C Newcombe
Members of the Public	-	2

**IN THE CHAIR**

The Mayor – Councillor J Rivers

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, Cllr Rev Cn S McLachlan led the Council in prayer.

The formal business of the meeting commenced **@6.47PM**.

115/2025-26 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted, as follows:

Councillor J Houston	-	who was unwell
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116/2025-26 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

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

117/2025-26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**@6.47PM** 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. (Minute Ref 127/2025-26 refers)

**@7.53PM** Councillor Terry declared a Personal Interest in respect of an enquiry regarding future use of the toilet block at The Greens, Littlestone, as the applicant is known to her. (Minute Ref 132/2025-26 refer

#### 118/2025-26 **REPORT OF THE KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

The report of the KCC Councillor, which included details of meetings attended and updates regarding development of County Council environmental policies, was received and noted.

#### 119/2025-26 **REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

FHDC Councillor Thomas' report, which included details of meetings attended, updates regarding current District Council business and the future of the Romney Marsh Visitor Centre, as well as details of grant funding awarded to date, was duly received and noted.

#### 120/2025-26 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

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

#### 121/2025-26 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

#### 122/2025-26 **RE-CONVENING OF MEETING**

Not applicable.

#### 123/2025-26 **MINUTES**

(i) The Chairman presented the minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on **9<sup>th</sup> June 2025**, copies of which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, and it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor O'Hare

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Terry

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.**

Councillors Meredith, Hiscock, Rev Cn McLachlan and Wimble abstained from voting as they had not been present at the afore-mentioned meeting.

The Chairman subsequently signed the afore-mentioned minutes.

(ii) The Chairman presented the minutes of the **Especial Full Council Meeting** held on **23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025**, copies of which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, and it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Peacock

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor O'Hare

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Especial Full Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.**

Councillors Rivers, Thomas, Davies, Terry, McLachlan, Meredith, Phillips and Wimble abstained from voting as they had not been present at the afore-mentioned meeting.

The Chairman subsequently signed the afore-mentioned minutes.

#### 124/2025-26 **MAYOR'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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

It was also reported that the Town Mayor, together with the Mayoress and the Town Clerk had been invited to Walmer Castle where, as representatives of the Cinque Ports Confederation, they were presented to King Charles III during his recent visit to Walmer and Deal. They were accompanied by representatives from the Romney Marsh Litter Picking Watch, New Romney Old School and Romney Marsh Tweed.

#### 125/2025-26 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

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

### **MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL – 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025** **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

#### **Actions completed since the Full Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

- 1) Details of **NRTC Representatives on Outside Bodies** for 2025-26 have been published on the Town Council website.
- 2) **Approved amendments to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** have been applied to the relevant documents, including additional amendments as per Full Council resolution (Minute ref: 077/2025-26 refers); the afore-mentioned documents, as amended, will now be published on the Town Council website.
- 3) **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)** was submitted for external audit ahead of the official deadline. The 'Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return' was duly published on or by 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025, as required, and the Statutory Period for Exercise of Public Rights to inspect Annual Town Council Accounting Records for 2023-24 commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and concludes on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

Town Clerk

7<sup>th</sup> July 2025

126/2025-26 **STANDING ORDER NO.14**

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

127/2025-26 **STANDING COMMITTEES**

(i) Councillor Terry presented the minutes of the **Planning & Environment Committee** meeting held on **18<sup>th</sup> June 2025**, which were duly received and noted.

(ii) Councillor Thomas presented the minutes of the **Personnel Committee** meeting held on **25<sup>th</sup> June 2025**, which were duly received and noted.

128/2025-26 **RFO'S FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2025-26**

The RFO presented final payments and receipts and final bank reconciliation for the month of **April 2026**, which were duly received and noted.

It was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Thomas

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Peacock

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

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

	Receipts:	Payments:
NatWest Current Account	£5,267.34	£5,267.34
Unity Trust Current Account:	£53,828.21	£109,455.07
Lloyds Bank Business Account:	£402,622.08	£317,846.98
NatWest Business Reserve Account:	£1,285.73	£4,048.34
Petty Cash:	£0.00	£21.14
Lloyds Bank Corporate Card:	£296.65	£702.29
Lloyds Bank Instant Access O/L Saver:	£2,008.87	£75,000.00
NSIB:	£0.00	£0.00

129/2025-26 **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

Reports from recent meetings of (i) Lydd Airport Consultative Committee (LACC) and (ii) Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board (RMAIDB), which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to this meeting, were duly received and noted.

### 130/2025-26 **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.

### 131/2025-26 **COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

Councillor Terry presented a discussion paper regarding Councillor Surgeries, within which an alternative approach was put forward. Having duly considered this paper, it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Rivers

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Thomas

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that this matter be deferred to a future meeting of the Council to allow Councillor Terry to investigate potential Councillor Surgery models further and re-submit a discussion paper for further consideration.**

### 132/2025-26 **RESPONSE TO SSE RENEWABLES PROPOSALS**

Having duly considered a request from KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils) for all local councils to respond to the SSE Renewables Proposals in respect solar farms on Romney Marsh, it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Peacock

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Wimble

**RESOLVED – that the Town Council submit comments to SSE Renewables as below:**

- *New Romney Town Council is not opposed to solar energy in general. However, it believes that solar panel installations should be restricted to sites such as rooftops, industrial and retail sites, motorway sidings and railway sidings and similar – and not using prime agricultural land*
- *Food security is just as important as energy supply for Romney Marsh residents and in general*
- *The difficulty in disposing of solar panels and batteries at the end of their useful life creates a huge long-term ecological problem*
- *Any requirement for fire-fighting at a solar farm site poses risks of soil contamination due to battery chemicals being washed into the soil by water being used to fight a fire*
- *In this area, the preference is for nuclear energy (now in the form of small nuclear reactors) as opposed to solar energy taking up agricultural land*

Councillor Thomas did not participate in discussion and abstained from voting as he did not wish to pre-determine his position as a Member of the Folkestone & Hythe District Council Planning Committee.

### 133/2025-26 **THE GREENS TOILET BLOCK**

Having duly considered an enquiry regarding the future of the toilet block on The Greens, Littlestone, which included a proposal to re-develop /

adapt the block for use as a café under a lease or purchase option, it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Thomas  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Wimble

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the Council agrees, in principle, to consider the future use of the afore-mentioned building as proposed – but that as there is a need to understand the financial implications of any lease or sale agreement and any legal issues that may arise regarding access or other associated matters, to allocate £2,000.00 from the Legal and Professional Fees Budget to undertake relevant investigations before considering this matter further.**

#### 134/2025-26 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**@8.11PM** having duly considered the nature of matters to be discussed, it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Peacock  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Terry

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that due to the sensitive legal and contractual nature of information about to be considered, it is advisable in the public interest that the Public and Press be temporarily excluded and they are now instructed to withdraw.**

The two members of public left the meeting at that time.

#### 135/2025-26 **ON-GOING MATTERS**

The Clerk reported on a matter relating to a s106 Agreement pertaining to the Maude Community Centre project. An update, which was circulated to all Councillors ahead of this meeting, was provided in relation to a matter that arose regarding the Community Contribution payable by the District Council to the Town Council in accordance with the afore-mentioned deed. This information was duly received and noted and it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Thomas  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Wimble

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that this matter be escalated to the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer of Folkestone & Hythe District Council to request payment of the s106 indexation sum which is payable in accordance with the s106 Agreement by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.**

**@8.26PM** Councillor Peacock conveyed his apologies and left the meeting.

136/2025-26 **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

137/2025-26 **LAND AND TENANCY MATTERS**

Having duly considered financial matters associated with the Maude Community Centre Ground Floor Sports Pavilion Lease, it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Thomas

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Wimble

**RESOLVED – that, subject to an ‘Open Book’ arrangement being agreed with New Romney Football Club, New Romney Youth Football and New Romney & Littlestone Cricket Club, New Romney Town Council is agreeable to (i) issue of an initial 12 month lease\* in respect of the Maude Community Centre Ground Floor Sports Pavilion (as circulated to all Councillors and subject to the solicitor’s amendment of the lease term); (ii) hereby approves a stepped approach to application of rent charges, as below:**

- Year One: £120.00 per month (under temporary 12 month lease arrangement)
- Year Two: £200.00 per month (under new 10 year lease arrangement)
- Year Three: £280.00 per month (second year of 10 year lease arrangement)
- Subject, thereafter, to annual rent increases in line with inflation

**And (iii) the Clerk be hereby authorised to take all such actions as are required to request and receive accounting information from each of the afore-mentioned sports clubs; instruct the Town Council’s solicitor to prepare amendments to the Ground Floor Pavilion lease to facilitate issue of a temporary, fixed-term lease with a term of 12 months; to facilitate the signing and sealing of the lease (subject to the umbrella association currently known as the Maude Pavilion Facilities Association first being registered as a legal entity).**

\*Initial 12 month fixed-term lease offered as an alternative to the 10 year fixed-term lease.

NB: Councillor Phillips conveyed his apologies and left the meeting  
**@8.46PM**

138/2025-26 **CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE SESSION**

**@9.02PM** it was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Rivers

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the private session be hereby Concluded.**

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 Town Clerk