

MINUTES
of
A Meeting of New Romney Town Council
Held in the Assembly Rooms, New Romney
on Monday 9th February 2026
Commencing at 6.45pm

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

Town Ward:

Councillors: P Carey, J Davies and Rev Cn S McLachlan

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
Mayor's Chaplain

IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor – Councillor J Rivers

The Chairman read out a Privacy Statement regarding the live-streaming and recording of the meeting, following which recording commenced and the Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

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

512/2025-26 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted, as follows:

Councillor L Phillips	-	for personal reasons
Councillor J Houston	-	for personal reasons
Councillor E Carr	-	due to work commitments
Councillor W D Wimble	-	who was attending another Meeting

NB: Apologies were subsequently received from Councillor Hodges for personal reasons.

513/2025-26 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

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

514/2025-26 **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: 525/2025-26 refers)

515/2025-26 **REPORT OF THE KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

The report of the KCC Councillor was not available on this occasion.

516/2025-26 **REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

FHDC Councillor Thomas' report, which included details of meetings attended, updates regarding current District Council business, attendance data and details of grant funding awarded to date, was duly received and noted with questions having first been put and answered.

517/2025-26 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

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

518/2025-26 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

519/2025-26 **RE-CONVENING OF MEETING**

Not applicable.

520/2025-26 **MINUTES**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on **12th January 2026**, copies of which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Terry

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peacock

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12th January 2026 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

NB: Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan abstained from voting as she had not been present at the afore-mentioned meeting.

The Chairman subsequently signed the afore-mentioned minutes.

521/2025-26 **MAYOR'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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

522/2025-26 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

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

MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL – 9TH FEBRUARY 2026 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Actions completed since the Full Council meeting held on 12th January 2026

- 1) The Town Council's **Precept requirement for 2026-27**, in the amount of £509,123.00, was duly submitted to Folkestone & Hythe District Council by the due deadline.

Regrettably, the Council subsequently received a communication from the District Council's accountant to advise that due to policy decision made on 10th December 2025 to increase Council tax support for the most vulnerable from 75% to 100% – which was not communicated to Town and Parish Councils at that time (or indeed until after Precept Demands had been submitted) – the calculated impact of the New Romney Town Council Precept on Band D council tax bills will now increase by approximately £2.00 per annum. The Town Council was offered a deadline by which it could re-submit a precept demand in order to mitigate this increase. However, the deadline was such that there was not even time to send a legal summons out to Councillors to call an especial meeting at which to adjust the precept requirement (ie it was not possible to issue an agenda for a meeting with three clear days' notice), noting that this is a decision that can only lawfully be made by the Full Council.

The Town Council's extreme disappointment at this situation was duly conveyed to the District Council, together with a request that it formally notes the necessity to convey important information such as the afore-mentioned policy decision that would increase any financial impact on local tax-payers in a timely manner so that a similar situation is not repeated in the future.

It is of note that no response to that communication has been received.

Additional Items of Report:

- 1) The Town Clerk is delighted to have been nominated by KALC to attend the **King's Royal Garden Party** at Buckingham Palace on 12th May 2026 in recognition of long service and support to New Romney Town Council. It will be a great honour and a pleasure to attend.

Town Clerk

2nd February 2026

Further Items of Report:

- 1) The Town Clerk verbally reported that a communication had been received from Folkestone & Hythe District Council Electoral Services to advise that, contrary to speculation linked to Local Government Reorganisation, the scheduled **2027 town and parish council elections** would go ahead and have been scheduled to take place on 6th May 2027.

523/2025-26 **STANDING ORDER NO.14**

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

524/2025-26 **STANDING COMMITTEES**

(i) The minutes of the **Planning & Environment Committee** meeting held on **7th January 2026**, which were duly received and noted.

(ii) Councillor Thomas presented the minutes of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** meeting held on **21st January 2026**, which were duly received and noted.

525/2025-26 **RFO'S FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2025-26**

The RFO presented bank reconciliations for the month of **December 2025**, which were duly received and noted and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers
SECONDED BY: Councillor Davies

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the finance report for the month of December 2025 be hereby received and approved, as below:

New Romney Town Council Current Year

Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 December 2025

<u>Confirmed Bank & Investment Balances</u>			
<u>Bank Statement Balances</u>			
31/12/2025	Nat West Current A/c		500.00
31/12/2025	Unity Trust A/c		68,352.51
31/12/2025	Lloyds Bank Business A/c		203,312.21
31/12/2025	Nat West Business Reserve A/c		66,038.20
31/12/2025	Petty Cash		247.29
31/12/2025	Corporate Card		0.00
31/12/2025	Lloyds Bank I/A Online Saver		405,010.29
			743,460.50
<u>Other Cash & Bank Balances</u>			
			10,453.00
			753,913.50
<u>Unpresented Payments</u>			
			502.84
			753,410.66
<u>Receipts not on Bank Statement</u>			
			0.00
<u>Closing Balance</u>			
			753,410.66
<u>All Cash & Bank Accounts</u>			
1	Nat West Current A/c		500.00
2	Unity Trust Current A/c		68,352.51
3	Lloyds Bank Business A/c		203,312.21
4	Nat West Business Reserve A/c		66,038.20
5	Petty Cash		247.29
6	Corporate Card		-502.84
7	Lloyds Bank I/A Online Saver		405,010.29
	Other Cash & Bank Balances		10,453.00
	Total Cash & Bank Balances		753,410.66

526/2025-26 **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

None.

527/2025-26 **CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT**

None.

528/2025-26 **LITTLESTONE BATHING WATER**

The scheduled brief presentation by the Southern Water Bathing Water Partnership Manager was postponed as a result of the unavailability of the presenter due to unforeseen reasons.

529/2025-26 **REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS**

Having duly received and noted the Clerk's report regarding proposed amendments to Standing Orders for reasons of clarity, to revise numbering and to take account of NALC recommendations, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas

SECONDED BY: Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that (i) it be hereby confirmed that the Town Council has undertaken a review of its Standing Orders and (ii) noting revisions to Standing Orders as appended to the meeting agenda, amended Standing Orders be hereby approved and adopted with immediate effect, as presented.

530/2025-26 **NRTC STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-27**

The Town Council's adopted Strategic Plan for 2023-27, with latest updates, was duly received and noted.

531/2025-26 **MAUDE COMMUNITY CENTRE ALARM MONITORING SERVICE**

The Town Council considered issues with the afore-mentioned fire alarm monitoring system and, noting that an order for a replacement fire head sensor had been placed, which, once fitted, may resolve the current situation, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Coe

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peacock

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that, following installation of the replacement fire head sensor, the Clerk may, at her discretion, place an order for removal of the alarm monitoring device and cancellation of monitoring subscription, dependant on the outcome of the afore-mentioned mitigating action.

532/2025-26 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

533/2025-26 **ON-GOING MATTERS**

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

534/2025-26 **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

535/2025-26 **LAND AND TENANCY MATTERS**

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

536/2025-26 **CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE SESSION**

Not applicable.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting concluded **@ 7.24PM.**

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