

MINUTES
Of
A Meeting of New Romney Town Council's
Health & Wellbeing Committee
Held in the Assembly Rooms, New Romney
on Tuesday 10th February 2026
Commencing at 10.00am

PRESENT: Councillors J Rivers, J Hiscock, J Davies, P Coe, P Thomas
and Rev Cn S McLachlan
NHS Representatives: 7

In the Chair: Councillor J Rivers

In Attendance: Town Clerk – Mrs C Newcombe

537/2025-26 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and noted, as follows:

Councillor Carey	-	For personal reasons
1x NHS Representative	-	For personal reasons

538/2025-26 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

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

539/2025-26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

540/2025-26 **MINUTES**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Health & Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2025, which were duly received and noted and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Coe

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hiscock

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Health & Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 25th November 2025 be hereby approved as a true and correct record.

1x NHS representative abstained from voting as they had not been present at the afore-mentioned meeting.

541/2025-26 HEALTH CENTRE FOR ROMNEY MARSH:

Having duly considered the Chairman's summary updates regarding the need for a purpose built Neighbourhood Health and Diagnostic Centre, discussion ensued, during which clarification was sought as to the willingness of local GP practices to work collaboratively to provide a broader range of services from any new Neighbourhood Health and Diagnostic Centre as a base. It was confirmed that local GP practices already work collaboratively to provide the broadest possible range of health services for the local area, limited by available space and staffing and that whilst individual practices would want to retain their own autonomy, they would, of course, be willing to continue and expand collaborative working to improve local health provision and would be amenable to relocating to a shared building, such as would be provided by any new Neighbourhood Health and Diagnostic Centre, subject to negotiation of the finer details and practicalities.

It was noted that the FOLCA project that was currently being progressed for the Folkestone area would bring together two GP practices in one building as a Neighbourhood Health Centre, providing a broader range of health services to the locality and that a similar approach would be needed for Romney Marsh.

It was agreed that it would be important to consult with local residents to ascertain their views as to what the priorities should be in terms of local health provision needs. It was further agreed that it would be as a next step, therefore, to call a public meeting, at which the Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Committee could explain the current Government position in respect of primary healthcare and the work that has been going on via this Committee to date in lobbying for improved healthcare provision for Romney Marsh. This meeting could also be utilised as an opportunity to consult with local residents in regard to local healthcare needs and priorities.

The Clerk agreed to raise an agenda item at the next meeting of Full Council in order to consider this proposal.

542/2025-26 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS:

Not applicable

543/2025-26 CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE SESSION:

Not applicable

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting concluded **@10.40AM.**

NB: All documents referred to herein are available 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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