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FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 24 May 2023

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Mike Blakemore, Polly Blakemore, James Butcher, Bridget Chapman, Tony Cooper, Laura Davison, Gary Fuller, Clive Goddard, Liz Grant, Anthony Hills (Vice-Chair), Rich Holgate, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Anita Jones, Nicola Keen, Adrian Lockwood, Alan Martin, Elaine Martin, Jim Martin, Philip Martin (Chairman), Connor McConville, Liz McShane, Jackie Meade, Tim Prater, Stephen Scoffham, Rebecca Shoob, Jeremy Speakman, Paul Thomas, Belinda Walker, David Wimble and John Wing

Apologies for Absence: Councillors David Godfrey

1. **Election of Chairman of the Council**

Proposed by Councillor McConville,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin; and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Akuffo-Kelly be elected as Chair of the District Council of Folkestone and Hythe until the next annual meeting of the Council, and until the acceptance of office by her successor.

(Voting figures: 24 for, 0 against, 5 abstentions).

Councillor Akuffo-Kelly made and signed the declaration of acceptance of office, as required by Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972, and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

The Chair of the Council then formally thanked the Council for electing her to office, and thanked her proposer and seconder.

2. **Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council**

Proposed by Councillor P Martin,
Seconded by Councillor McConville; and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Jones be elected as Vice-Chair of the District Council of Folkestone and Hythe until the next annual meeting of the Council, and until the acceptance of office by her successor.

(Voting figures: 29 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

Councillor Jones made and signed the declaration of acceptance of office, as required by Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972, and also thanked her proposer and seconder.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 4 May 2022 were submitted, approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman of the Council.

5. **Election of the Leader of the Council**

Proposed by Councillor Prater
Seconded by Councillor Shoob; and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Jim Martin be elected Leader of the Council of the District Council of Folkestone and Hythe until the next annual meeting of the Council following the district elections to be held in 2027.

(Voting figures: 14 for, 0 against, 15 abstentions).

6. **Statement from the Leader of the Council including delegation arrangements**

The Leader made the following statement:

"I would firstly like to welcome all of the new Councillors to the Chamber, I hope you quickly find your way around and if I can be of any help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I also want, very much, to welcome back so many familiar faces from all parties, I genuinely hope that we will all be able to work together to manage the functions of the Council well, improve our local environment, and give a great service to the people of the District.

The Greens, and the LibDems have agreed to work in coalition to form the Council's administration.

We have a great deal of agreement between the coalition partners, and we will be working together to provide all of the portfolio holders: seven Greens, and two Lib Dems.

The portfolio holders will be as follows:

- Cllr Jim Martin – Otterpool Park and Planning Policy
- Cllr Tim Prater – Finance and Governance
- Cllr Gary Fuller – Resident Engagement and accountability
- Cllr Mike Blakemore – Community and Collaboration
- Cllr Rebecca Shoob – Housing and homelessness
- Cllr Stephen Scoffham – Climate Change and Transport
- Cllr James Butcher – Regulatory Services, building control and civic duty
- Cllr Rich Holgate – Place Plan, Heritage, Tourism and District Economy
- Cllr Jeremy Speakman – Assets and Operations

There is much for us to do, we have many repairs to make and a great deal of debris to clear up.

There is a large cumulative deficit of £18.499mill over the next four year period to fill in the accounts, there is a significant loss of £4.3million to find for Princes Parade and the council is indebted because of the Otterpool Park Project. We need to take immediate action on a number of fronts to ensure the Council can continue to function.

I can, however, give you a clear indication of three things that are going to happen:

In line with our emphasis on democratic process, the coalition has agreed to move towards a Committee System and away from the current Leader and Cabinet system. Individual Councillors will have more say and be more able to influence Council policy. This will mean greater responsibility and a lot more work, but the democratic process will be enhanced and reinforced through greater participation.

I am very grateful to our Labour colleagues for their hard work on the committee system. In line with our greater co-operation, the committee system will allow the sharing of key responsibilities including leader.

Those of you who remember the meeting of the Council in June 2019 will recall that Councillor Prater's motion to withdraw the planning permission for Prince's Parade was successful, but this democratic decision was never included on the agenda for ratification by the Cabinet. This flagrant breach of the democratic process has led to the waste of millions of pounds of local peoples money. We are determined to enhance and reinforce the democratic process within the Council and the organisations that it owns or funds.

There are a very complexed set of obstacles to remove, and this will take some time, but I can state, this evening, very clearly, that Prince's Parade is Saved!

I am looking forward to many interesting debates and I hope that everyone in this chamber will feel able to contribute. My greatest hope is that all members will feel able to come and discuss matters with me regardless of their political allegiance because it is only by working together, will we be able to deliver the services our community needs".

7. **Appointments to Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (including the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen)**

The report listed the committees and sub-committees of the Council. The report had been circulated to Members at the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Prater,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin; and

RESOLVED:

1. **That report A/23/07 be received and noted.**
2. **That the necessary appointments to the committees and sub-committees of the Council for the municipal year 23/24, as set out in the report before members, but with Councillor Paul Thomas as the independent member appointed to the available seat on the Planning and Licensing Committee, be agreed.**

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

Proposed by Councillor McConville,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin; and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor McShane be elected Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year 23/24.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

Proposed by Councillor McConville,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin, and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor P Blakemore be elected Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year 23/24.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

Proposed by Councillor McConville,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin; and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Meade be elected Chair of the Planning and Licensing Committee for the municipal year 23/24.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

Proposed by Councillor McConville,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin; and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Keen be elected Vice-Chair of the Planning and Licensing Committee for the municipal year 23/24.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

Proposed by Councillor Davison,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin; and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor McConville be elected Chair of the Personnel Committee for the municipal year 23/24.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

Proposed by Councillor McConville,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin; and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Holgate be elected Vice-Chair of the Personnel Committee for the municipal year 23/24.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

8. Delegation of non-Executive functions

The Council's constitution requires that the scheme of delegations be agreed by the Council at its annual meeting. The report set out the scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Prater,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/23/03 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the scheme of delegation be agreed in so far as it relates to the non-executive functions of the Council.**

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

9. Schedule of meetings for 2023/24

The Council is required to approve the annual schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2023/2024. The proposed annual schedule of meetings for 2023/24 was appended to the report, including dates for the whole of May for the following municipal year, as per the Council Procedure rules set out in part 4.2, paragraph 1.1.2(i) of the constitution.

Proposed by Councillor Prater,
Seconded by Councillor McConville;

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/23/01 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the updated schedule of meetings for 2023/24 (appended to these minutes) be adopted.**

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

10. Annual report on policies and strategies adopted by Cabinet and update on urgent decisions 2022/23

The report was the annual report of policies and strategies that have been adopted, by Cabinet, during the 2022/23 municipal year.

Proposed by Councillor Prater,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/23/02 be received and noted.**

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

11. Annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2022/23

The report summarised the achievements of the Audit and Governance Committee against the terms of reference for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and detailed the impact that it has made on the overall system of internal control in operation.

Proposed by Councillor J Martin,
Seconded by Councillor Prater; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/23/06 be received and noted.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

12. **Annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022/23**

The report set out the work that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Finance and Performance Sub-Committee have completed during 2022/2023.

Proposed by Councillor McConville,
Seconded by Councillor J Martin; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/22/04 be received and noted.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

13. **Annual Scrutiny work programme 2023/24**

This report presented recommendations for the work programme for the overview and scrutiny committee for 2023/24.

Proposed by Councillor J Martin,
Seconded by Councillor Prater; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/23/05 be received and noted.
2. That the annual scrutiny programme for 2023-24 attached to the report be approved.

(The recommendations were agreed by affirmation of the meeting).

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Addendum to agenda Item 7 – Delegations of the Leader of the Council

ANNEXE A – MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Name
<u>Councillor Jim Martin (Leader)</u>
<u>Councillor Tim Prater (Deputy Leader)</u>
Councillor Gary Fuller
Councillor Mike Blakemore
Councillor Rebecca Shoob
Councillor Stephen Scoffham
Councillor James Butcher
Councillor Rich Holgate
Councillor Jeremy Speakman

ANNEXE B – CABINET PORTFOLIOS

B1 Cabinet Portfolios

Cllr Jim Martin – Otterpool Park and Planning Policy

Special Projects, planning policy, property development, emergency planning and business continuity.

Cllr Tim Prater – Finance and Governance

Strategic budget, financial management, corporate debt, treasury management, revenues and benefits, business rates, business rates relief, business rates collection, corporate policy, write-off's, contract management, HR and OD, corporate governance, legal and risk management.

Cllr Gary Fuller – Resident Engagement and accountability

Information technology, Resident Service, elections and electoral registration, audit (internal and external), anti-fraud and corruption, information access and security, RIPA,

Cllr Mike Blakemore – Community and Collaboration

Community safety, community engagement, arts and culture, leisure and sport, young people, voluntary sector, town and parish liaison, equality and diversity, safeguarding, health and wellbeing, lifeline, partnership development, communications and public relations.

Cllr Rebecca Shoob – Housing and homelessness

Strategic housing, LA housing management, housing allocation, street homelessness, homelessness, private sector housing.

Cllr Stephen Scoffham – Climate Change and Transport

Recycling, coastal protection and strategy, contaminated land, air quality, traffic management, on and off street parking.

Cllr James Butcher – Regulatory Services, building control and civic duty

Licensing, building control, planning enforcement, health and safety, food safety, dog and pest control, environmental enforcement.

Cllr Rich Holgate – Place Plan, Heritage, Tourism and District Economy

Economic development and growth, regeneration, tourism, heritage.

Cllr Jeremy Speakman – Assets and Operations

Waste management and street cleansing, property and estate management, corporate health and safety, grounds maintenance, area officers.

B2 Collective decision making

The executive shall, unless the Leader decides otherwise, collectively take decisions on the following:

- a) all key decisions;
- b) matters falling outside any identifiable portfolio, unless otherwise allocated to a portfolio holder by the Leader;
- c) issues referred to the executive by either a portfolio holder or one of the Council's statutory officers;
- d) where a virement of money is required, to implement a proposed decision;
- e) departures from the Budget and Policy Framework;
- f) decisions on matters that are not solely executive functions (e.g. that require the Council to make a decision).

Annual meeting – 24 May 2023

Addendum to Agenda item 8 - Appointment to Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (including the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen)

The nominations put forward by Group Leaders are set out below:

Personnel Committee

	Nominated Member	Group
1	Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee	Cons
2	Cllr Rich Holgate	Green
3	Cllr Elaine Martin	Green
4	Cllr Connor McConville	Labour
5	Cllr Nicola Keen	Labour

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	Nominated Member	Group
1	Cllr David Godfrey	Cons
2	Cllr Liz Grant	Cons
3	Cllr John Wing	Green
4	Cllr Anita Jones	Green
5	Cllr Polly Blakemore	Green
6	Cllr Elaine Martin	Green
7	Cllr Connor McConville	Labour
8	Cllr Laura Davison	Labour
9	Cllr Bridget Chapman	Labour
10	Vacancy	Lib Dem

Audit and Governance

	Nominated Member	Group
1	Cllr Alan Martin	Cons
2	Cllr Polly Blakemore	Green
3	Cllr John Wing	Green
4	Cllr Liz McShane	Labour
5	Cllr Adrian Lockwood	Labour
6	Vacancy	Independent

Planning and Licensing

	Nominated Member	Group
1	Cllr Clive Goddard	Cons
2	Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee	Cons
3	Cllr John Wing	Green
4	Cllr James Butcher	Green

5	Cllr Polly Blakemore	Green
6	Cllr Rebecca Shoob	Green
7	Cllr Jackie Meade	Labour
8	Cllr Nicola Keen	Labour
9	Cllr Tony Cooper	Labour
10	Cllr Belinda Walker	Labour
11	Councillor Fuller	Lib Dem
12	Councillors Thomas and Wimble*	Independent

*As both independent Members have requested this seat, a vote will need to be taken on who takes this seat.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023/24

	COUNCIL 7pm	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 6pm	FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY - SUB COMMITTEE 6pm	CABINET 5pm	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 6pm	PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE 6pm	PERSONNEL COMMITTEE 2pm	FH&JPC 6pm	JTB 6pm
	WEDNESDAY	TUE	TUE	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	THURSDAY	MONDAY
2023									
MAY	24-May								
JUN	21-Jun	27-Jun		14-Jun		06-Jun			
JUL	26-Jul		04-Jul	12-Jul	20/07/2023 (thu)	11-Jul	13-Jul	27-Jul	03-Jul
AUG						08-Aug			
SEPT	20-Sep	26-Sep		20-Sep	13-Sep	05-Sep		14-Sep	11-Sep
OCT		31/10/2023 - this date is for community safety/prevent items only	10-Oct	18-Oct		03-Oct			
NOV	29-Nov	14-Nov		15-Nov		07-Nov		16-Nov	20-Nov
DEC			05-Dec	13-Dec	06-Dec	12-Dec			
2024									
JAN	24-Jan	30-Jan	23-Jan	31-Jan		16-Jan	25-Jan	18-Jan	
FEB	28-Feb	27-Feb		28-Feb		20-Feb			26-Feb
MAR			12-Mar	20-Mar	13-Mar	19-Mar		14-Mar	
APR	03-Apr	23-Apr		17-Apr		16-Apr			
MAY	08-May			22-May		21-May			

