



Agenda

Meeting: **Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee**
Date: **18 January 2024**
Time: **6.00 pm**
Place: **Remote Meeting**

To: **All members of the Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils Joint Committee**

The committee will consider the matters listed below at the date, time shown above. The meeting is open to the press and public and will be streamed live at bit.ly/YouTubeMeetings

Members of the committee who wish to have information on any matter arising on the agenda which is not fully covered in these papers are requested to give notice prior to the meeting to the Chairman or appropriate officer.

1. **Appointment of Chair**

The Chair alternates between a District Councillor and a Parish/Town Councillor every meeting. The Committee must appoint a District Councillor as the Chair of this meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

3. **Declarations of interest (Pages 3 - 4)**

Members of the Council should declare any interests which fall under the following categories:

- a) discloseable pecuniary interests (DPI)
- b) other significant interests (OSI)
- c) voluntary announcements of other interests

4. **Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)**

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Jake Hamilton – Tel:
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our
website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2023.

5. Update from the Leader

Councillor Jim Martin, Leader and Cabinet Member for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy will be providing members with an update in relation to the following:

- On-going discussions with Stagecoach; and
- Southern Water.
- Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP).

Declarations of Interest

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

Note to the Code:

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

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Minutes

Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee

Held at:	Remote Meeting
Date	Thursday, 16 November 2023
Present	Councillors Graham Allison, Anne Beales, Mike Blakemore, Frank Hobbs, Roger Joyce, Tim Prater, Kirsten Terry and Paul Thomas.
Apologies for Absence	Councillor Anthony Burgess.
Officers Present:	Rebecca Chittock (Planning Policy Specialist), Jake Hamilton (Committee Services Officer) and Adrian Tofts (Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist)
Others Present:	None.

11. **Appointment of Chair**

The Chair alternates between a District Councillor and a Parish/Town Councillor every meeting. The Committee must appoint a Parish/Town Councillor as the Chair of this meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Paul Thomas
Seconded by Councillor Tim Prater; and,

Resolved:

That Councillor Frank Hobbs be appointed as Chair for the Folkestone and Hythe District and Parish Councils Joint Committee held on 14 September 2023.

(As there was no dissent the nomination was approved by affirmation of the meeting).

12. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

13. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2023 were submitted, approved, and signed by the Chair.

14. **Planning Reforms and Design Codes**

Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist introduced the item and provided the committee with a presentation about changes to the planning system arising from the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act, which received Royal Assent on 26 October 2023.

The presentation focused on new local plans and district-wide Design Codes, which are requirements of the new legislation.

Members were asked to note the requirements arising from the Act and comment on implications for Parish and Town Councils.

<https://youtu.be/mC8klgHmV6Q?si=KgFbJXbgK8lCUJSA>

After the presentation, members raised several points, including, engagement with parish and town councils, how any changes would affect conservation areas and neighbourhood plans, will there be any early briefings for those parish/town councils that are already in the process of making plans, and will parish/towns that have plans be expected to review said plans in light of the changes.

Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy and Performance Lead Specialist and Rebecca Chittock, Planning Policy Specialist responded to the comments raised by members:

It was explained that the council only has a broad outline of the requirements of the new Act, however, the council does not expect the fundamentals regarding neighbourhood plans to change, as the Government strongly supports neighbourhood planning. As for the designation of conservation areas, this is a district council function, and the council would work with parish and town councils on heritage issues where it has capacity, but it has no dedicated heritage resource so it must be selective in the project it supports. The council is still waiting on more information from government on the upcoming changes, however, the Government has said that secondary legislation and guidance will follow, to allow authorities to begin their new local plans from next year (2024).

As for the design codes, it was advised that from officers' understanding, and the 'path-finder' authorities that have attempted area codes, there would need to be some strategic area-wide requirements and this would allow more local

guidance, such as on building materials and local character, to fit within the overarching framework. The council would need to determine its priorities and framework. In preparing the area-wide code we would look to learn from existing guidance, such as the Sandgate Design Statement. From what we know at present, the Council's area-wide code would set the framework within which more detailed design codes for parishes and towns could sit.

Please see attached presentation.

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