FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Zoom - remote meeting on Wednesday, 24 February 2021

Present: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry (Chairman), Danny Brook, Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Laura Davison, Ray Field, Gary Fuller, Clive Goddard, David Godfrey, Anthony Hills, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Nicola Keen, Michelle Keutenius, Jim Martin, Philip Martin (Vice-Chair), Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Ian Meyers, David Monk, Terence Mullard, Stuart Peall, Tim Prater, Patricia Rolfe, Rebecca Shoob, Georgina Treloar, Douglas Wade, Lesley Whybrow, David Wimble and John Wing.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Peter Gane.

17. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Meyers made a voluntary declaration in respect of agenda item 5 (Opposition business) relating to Napier Barracks, due to his employment. He indicated that he would not speak or vote on the item.

Councillor Rolfe made a Declaration of Pecuniary interest in respect of agenda items 10 (Update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme), 11 (Capital Strategy 21/22) and 12 (Investment Strategy 21/22) due to her role as Chairman of Oportunitas. She advised that a dispensation had been granted. She also made a voluntary declaration due to her role as Town Councillor on New Romney Town Council.

Councillor Miss Carey made a voluntary declaration in respect of agenda item 5 (Opposition Business), relating to Napier Barracks, due to her husband's employment.

18. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman gave the following communications:

"It has been a fairly quiet period regarding attending functions since the last Full Council.

Nevertheless on 27 January 2021, Holocaust day, I visited the Holocaust Memorial in the Garden of Remembrance. As this was not advertised I read out a prayer that I had taken along and laid a wreath on behalf of the Folkestone & Hythe District Council. A few other people gathered as they usually do to lay their wreaths and flowers and place a stone on the Memorial. Social distancing and wearing of masks was observed.

Also on 27 January 2021, I was pleased to be invited to attend the Zoom meeting of the Installation of the new Priest at St John's Church Folkestone, Reverend Adam Denley. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson–Wilkin.

The Deputy Chairman, Councillor Philip Martin, and I continue to thank all those Officers, Staff, Councillors, Emergency Services, National Health Service and Volunteers who continue the hard and oft time-difficult task of managing the ever changing face of the Covid 19 Pandemic. It has been heartening to see how many have given their time and donations to feed those less fortunate than ourselves and to make sure that many children received a gift at Christmas.

We now look forward to seeing the ease of lockdown continue".

19. Announcements of the Leader of the Council

The Leader gave the following announcements:

"Good evening to you all.

We continue to help all of our businesses that are eligible to receive the Government business support grant by getting that grant to them quickly. In the six weeks up to 15 February our officers distributed a further £2.125m to around 950 businesses. If you have had your own business you will know how critical cash flow is, and how helpful these timely payments will have been. There are other councils around the country that have not even paid out the 2020 grants, so once again I thank our officers for their assiduity in setting up these grants.

I along with our MP, Damian Collins, and Dr Priest have had meetings with both the Home Secretary and separately the Archbishop of Canterbury about the unsuitability of using Napier Barracks as a holding centre for asylum seekers. As you may imagine the Archbishop is of the same opinion as us that it is not suitable. I do not know what the eventual outcome of these meetings will be.

You will have probably seen from our recent press release that the new business centre at Mountfield Road, a joint venture between us and the East Kent Spatial Development Company, assisted with funding from NDA, has had the first concrete poured and should be operational from January next year which will be a welcome boost for encouraging small businesses.

Across the district the NHS-led vaccination centres have done a wonderful job although they might slow down a little over the next couple of weeks due to appointment difficulties and an uncertain supply of vaccine.

Which brings me nicely on to the Road Map for Recovery. It would seem, barring a spate of bad data, that all restrictions on public meetings will be lifted by June so I have asked Dr Priest to arrange a physical Council Meeting for the latter part of June".

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor McConville, stated that he echoed the praise for staff who are working with local business to ensure they can reopen when allowed to. Also to those staff working tirelessly behind the scenes with duties to do with the upcoming census and May local elections. He agreed that Napier Barracks are indeed unsuitable and looked forward to the outcome of

the inspection. He indicated that he hoped Leader would support asking the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to do whatever they could within their powers to provide accountability and offer answers to the questions of both the council and the community. He stated that vaccination is the route to normality, and he was pleased to see that some early teething problems at Folca have been ironed out. He stated that he was looking forward to be able to sit in a restaurant again, and have a haircut, but also missed being in the chamber and hoped to be back in it soon.

The Leader stated that he agreed with the points raised.

Proposed by Councillor Monk, Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

That the announcements of the Leader be noted.

20. Opposition Business

The Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor McConville, set out his Opposition Business which asked the council for various actions in relation to Napier Barracks.

Proposed by Councillor McConville, Seconded by Councillor Keutenius, and

RESOLVED:

That Option (b) (Refer the issue to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as the case may be for their observations before deciding whether to make a decision on the issue) be agreed for the business below;

- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, asking for the immediate closure of Napier Barracks as it is not fit for purpose. A sentiment also shared by the local MP, Damian Collins.
- To publish any correspondence sent and received as a result of the letter.
- To refer to the Overview and Scrutiny committee a request to establish an
 enquiry session where representatives of the home office, ClearSprings
 Ready Homes, local charities, local residents and residents of the barracks
 can provide evidence in response to questions from both members and the
 general public.

(Voting figures: 23 for, 2 against, 4 abstentions).

21. Motions on Notice

There were no motions on notice at the meeting.

22. Corporate Plan - Creating Tomorrow Together 2021-2030

The report set out the proposed Corporate Plan which provided strategic direction to the Councils activities for the period 2021 – 2030.

Proposed by Councillor Prater, Seconded by Councillor Whybrow;

That the following recommendation be inserted as recommendation two (and subsequent recommendations be renumbered):

To remove the words "at Princes Parade" from page 12 of the proposed Corporate Plan.

(Voting figures: 13 for, 16 against, 0 abstentions).

The motion was therefore LOST.

Proposed by Councillor Monk, Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/20/10 be received and noted.
- 2. That the Corporate Plan Creating Tomorrow Together 2021 2030 be approved.

(Voting figures: 16 for, 13 against, 0 abstentions).

23. General Fund Budget and Council Tax 2021/22

The report concluded the budget setting process for 2021/22. It set out recommendations for setting the Council Tax after taking into account the district's Council Tax requirement (including town and parish council requirements and special expenses in respect of the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity), the precepts of Kent County Council, the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Service.

Proposed by Councillor Monk, Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/20/08 be received and noted.
- 2. That the District Council's budget for 2021/22 as presented in Appendix 1 to this report and the Council Tax requirement for 2021/22, to be met from the Collection Fund, of £13,128,209, be approved.

- 3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2021/22 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act) be approved:
 - a) £101,485,462 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act (as in Appendix 2).
 - b) £88,357,253 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act (as in Appendix 2).
 - c) £13,128,209 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year (as in Appendix 2).
 - d) £341.13 being the amount at 3(c) above divided by the tax base of 38,484.69 calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
 - e) £3,152,977 being the aggregate of all special items (including parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - f) £259.20 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the tax base of 38,484.69.15 calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates, ie Old Romney and Snargate.
 - g) Part of the Council's area

Folkestone	355.70	Being the amounts given
Sandgate	337.12	by adding to the amount
Hythe	318.49	at 3(f) above the special
Lydd	317.99	items relating to
New Romney	390.28	dwellings in those parts
		of the Council area
Acrise	261.49	mentioned here divided in
Elham	321.57	each case by the
Elmsted	271.29	appropriate tax base
Hawkinge	385.19	calculated by the Council,
Lyminge	318.84	in accordance with
Lympne	314.58	Section 34(3) of the Act,
Monks Horton	269.08	as the basic amounts of
Newington	308.09	its council tax for the year
Paddlesworth	270.02	for dwellings in those
Postling	288.16	parts of its area to which
Saltwood	286.07	one or more special items

Sellindge	319.82	relate.
Stanford	301.44	
Stelling Minnis	283.16	
Stowting	276.55	
Swingfield	313.37	
Brenzett	302.18	
Brookland	337.93	
Burmarsh	295.15	
Dymchurch	323.39	
lvychurch	311.93	
Newchurch	297.09	
Old Romney	259.20	
St Mary in the Marsh	298.34	
Snargate	259.20	

(h) Part of the Council's area

	Valuation Bands								
	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	
	A £	B £	£	£	£	£	G £	H £	
Parish									
Folkestone	237.13	276.66	316.18	355.70	434.74	513.79	592.83	711.40	
Sandgate	224.75	262.20	299.66	337.12	412.04	486.95	561.87	674.24	
Hythe	212.33	247.71	283.10	318.49	389.27	460.04	530.82	636.98	
Lydd	211.99	247.33	282.66	317.99	388.65	459.32	529.98	635.98	
New Romney	260.19	303.55	346.92	390.28	477.01	563.74	650.47	780.56	
Acrise	174.33	203.38	232.44	261.49	319.60	377.71	435.82	522.98	
Elham	214.38	250.11	285.84	321.57	393.03	464.49	535.95	643.14	
Elmsted	180.86	211.00	241.15	271.29	331.58	391.86	452.15	542.58	
Hawkinge	256.79	299.59	342.39	385.19	470.79	556.39	641.98	770.38	
Lyminge	212.56	247.99	283.41	318.84	389.69	460.55	531.40	637.68	
Lympne	209.72	244.67	279.63	314.58	384.49	454.39	524.30	629.16	
Monks Horton	179.39	209.28	239.18	269.08	328.88	388.67	448.47	538.16	
Newington	205.39	239.63	273.86	308.09	376.55	445.02	513.48	616.18	
Paddlesworth	180.01	210.02	240.02	270.02	330.02	390.03	450.03	540.04	
Postling	192.11	224.12	256.14	288.16	352.20	416.23	480.27	576.32	
Saltwood	190.71	222.50	254.28	286.07	349.64	413.21	476.78	572.14	
Sellindge	213.21	248.75	284.28	319.82	390.89	461.96	533.03	639.64	
Stanford	200.96	234.45	267.95	301.44	368.43	435.41	502.40	602.88	
Stelling Minnis	188.77	220.24	251.70	283.16	346.08	409.01	471.93	566.32	
Stowting	184.37	215.09	245.82	276.55	338.01	399.46	460.92	553.10	
Swingfield	208.91	243.73	278.55	313.37	383.01	452.65	522.28	626.74	
Brenzett	201.45	235.03	268.60	302.18	369.33	436.48	503.63	604.36	
Brookland	225.29	262.83	300.38	337.93	413.03	488.12	563.22	675.86	
Burmarsh	196.77	229.56	262.36	295.15	360.74	426.33	491.92	590.30	

Council - 24 February 2021

Dymchurch	215.59	251.53	287.46	323.39	395.25	467.12	538.98	646.78
lvychurch	207.95	242.61	277.27	311.93	381.25	450.57	519.88	623.86
Newchurch	198.06	231.07	264.08	297.09	363.11	429.13	495.15	594.18
Old Romney	172.80	201.60	230.40	259.20	316.80	374.40	432.00	518.40
St Mary in the Marsh	198.89	232.04	265.19	298.34	364.64	430.94	497.23	596.68
Snargate	172.80	201.60	230.40	259.20	316.80	374.40	432.00	518.40

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. To note that for the year 2021/22 Kent County Council, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Service have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	A £	B £	£	£	£	F £	G £	£
Kent County Council	945.84	1,103.48	1,261.12	1,418.76	1,734.04	2,049.32	2,364.60	2,837.52
Kent Police Crime & Commissioner	145.43	169.67	193.91	218.15	266.63	315.11	363.58	436.30
Kent Fire and Rescue	53.88	62.86	71.84	80.82	98.78	116.74	134.70	161.64

Major preceptor amounts remained subject to confirmation at the time of preparing this report.

- 5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:
 - (i) Part of the Council's area

	valuation bands										
	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			
Parish											
Folkestone	1,382.28	1,612.67	1,843.05	2,073.43	2,534.19	2,994.96	3,455.71	4,146.86			
Sandgate	1,369.90	1,598.21	1,826.53	2,054.85	2,511.49	2,968.12	3,424.75	4,109.70			
Hythe	1,357.48	1,583.72	1,809.97	2,036.22	2,488.72	2,941.21	3,393.70	4,072.44			
Lydd	1,357.14	1,583.34	1,809.53	2,035.72	2,488.10	2,940.49	3,392.86	4,071.44			
New Romney	1,405.34	1,639.56	1,873.79	2,108.01	2,576.46	3,044.91	3,513.35	4,216.02			
Acrise	1,319.48	1,539.39	1,759.31	1,979.22	2,419.05	2,858.88	3,298.70	3,958.44			
Elham	1,359.53	1,586.12	1,812.71	2,039.30	2,492.48	2,945.66	3,398.83	4,078.60			
Elmsted	1,326.01	1,547.01	1,768.02	1,989.02	2,431.03	2,873.03	3,315.03	3,978.04			
Hawkinge	1,401.94	1,635.60	1,869.26	2,102.92	2,570.24	3,037.56	3,504.86	4,205.84			
Lyminge	1,357.71	1,584.00	1,810.28	2,036.57	2,489.14	2,941.72	3,394.28	4,073.14			
Lympne	1,354.87	1,580.68	1,806.50	2,032.31	2,483.94	2,935.56	3,387.18	4,064.62			
Monks Horton	1,324.54	1,545.29	1,766.05	1,986.81	2,428.33	2,869.84	3,311.35	3,973.62			
Newington	1,350.54	1,575.64	1,800.73	2,025.82	2,476.00	2,926.19	3,376.36	4,051.64			
Paddlesworth	1,325.16	1,546.03	1,766.89	1,987.75	2,429.47	2,871.20	3,312.91	3,975.50			

Valuation Rands

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Postling	1,337.26	1,560.13	1,783.01	2,005.89	2,451.65	2,897.40	3,343.15	4,011.78
Saltwood	1,335.86	1,558.51	1,781.15	2,003.80	2,449.09	2,894.38	3,339.66	4,007.60
Sellindge	1,358.36	1,584.76	1,811.15	2,037.55	2,490.34	2,943.13	3,395.91	4,075.10
Stanford	1,346.11	1,570.46	1,794.82	2,019.17	2,467.88	2,916.58	3,365.28	4,038.34
Stelling Minnis	1,333.92	1,556.25	1,778.57	2,000.89	2,445.53	2,890.18	3,334.81	4,001.78
Stowting	1,329.52	1,551.10	1,772.69	1,994.28	2,437.46	2,880.63	3,323.80	3,988.56
Swingfield	1,354.06	1,579.74	1,805.42	2,031.10	2,482.46	2,933.82	3,385.16	4,062.20
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Brenzett	1,346.60	1,571.04	1,795.47	2,019.91	2,468.78	2,917.65	3,366.51	4,039.82
Brookland	1,370.44	1,598.84	1,827.25	2,055.66	2,512.48	2,969.29	3,426.10	4,111.32
Burmarsh	1,341.92	1,565.57	1,789.23	2,012.88	2,460.19	2,907.50	3,354.80	4,025.76
Dymchurch	1,360.74	1,587.54	1,814.33	2,041.12	2,494.70	2,948.29	3,401.86	4,082.24
lvychurch	1,353.10	1,578.62	1,804.14	2,029.66	2,480.70	2,931.74	3,382.76	4,059.32
Newchurch	1,343.21	1,567.08	1,790.95	2,014.82	2,462.56	2,910.30	3,358.03	4,029.64
Old Romney	1,317.95	1,537.61	1,757.27	1,976.93	2,416.25	2,855.57	3,294.88	3,953.86
St Mary in the Marsh	1,344.04	1,568.05	1,792.06	2,016.07	2,464.09	2,912.11	3,360.11	4,032.14
Snargate	1,317.95	1,537.61	1,757.27	1,976.93	2,416.25	2,855.57	3,294.88	3,953.86

6. To determine that the District Council's basic amount of council tax for 2021/22 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The motion was put to a recorded vote in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as set out below:

FOR: COUNCILLORS MRS BERRY, BROOK, MRS CAREY, COLLIER, FIELD, FULLER, GODDARD, GODFREY, HILLS, MRS HOLLINGSBEE, J MARTIN, P MARTIN, MEYERS, MONK, MULLARD, PEALL, PRATER, ROLFE, SHOOB, TRELOAR, WADE, WHYBROW, WIMBLE and WING (24).

AGAINST: COUNCILLORS DAVISON, KEEN, KEUTENIUS, MCCONVILLE AND MEADE (5).

ABSTENTIONS: NONE (0).

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

24. Housing Revenue Account Revenue and capital original budget 2021/22

The report set out the Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Budget for 2021/22 and proposed an increase in weekly rents and an increase in service charges for 2021/22.

Proposed by Councillor Godfrey, Seconded by Councillor Monk; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/21/09 be received and noted.
- 2. That the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2021/22 be approved (Refer to paragraph 2.1 and Appendix 1).
- 3. That the increase in rents of dwellings within the HRA on average by £1.27 per week, representing a 1.5% increase with effect from 5 April 2021 be approved (Refer to paragraph 3.2).
- 4. That the increase in service charges be approved (Refer to section 3.5).
- 5. That the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme budget 2021/22 be approved (Refer to paragraph 4.1 and Appendix 2).

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

25. Update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme and budget monitoring 2020/21

The report updated the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme for the five year period ending 31 March 2026. The report also provided an updated projected outturn for the General Fund capital programme in 2020/21, based on expenditure to 30 November 2020. The General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme is required to be submitted to full Council for consideration and approval as part of the budget process. The Finance and Performance Scrutiny Sub-Committee considered this report on 12 January 2021 ahead of Cabinet approving it for submission to full Council on 20 January 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Prater, Seconded by Councillor Whybrow;

That the following recommendation be inserted as recommendation two (and subsequent recommendations be renumbered):

The Princes Parade (Princes Parade Leisure and Housing development) future allocated budget of £28.358m be deleted and that a future capital programme considers the required budget for a leisure centre on an alternative site, probably at Martello Lakes.

(Voting figures: 13 for, 16 against, 0 abstentions).

The motion was therefore LOST.

Proposed by Councillor Monk, Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/20/06 be received and noted.
- 2. That the updated General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme as set out in appendix 2 to the report be approved.

(Voting figures: 16 for, 13 against, 0 abstentions).

26. Capital Strategy 21/22 and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2021/2022

The report set out the Council's proposed strategy in relation to capital expenditure, financing and treasury management in 2021/22 to be approved by full Council. The report also set out the Prudential Indicators for capital expenditure and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2021/22 to be approved by full Council. The report was considered and approved by Cabinet at their meeting on 24 February 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Monk, Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/20/05 be received and noted.
- 2. That the 2021/22 Capital Strategy, including the Prudential Indicators, set out in appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- 3. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2021/22 set out in appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

(Voting figures: 19 for, 9 against, 1 abstentions).

27. Investment Strategy 21/22

The report set out the Council's proposed strategy for its service and commercial investments in 2021/22 to be approved by full Council. The report was considered and approved by Cabinet for submission to full Council on 24 February 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Whybrow, Seconded by Councillor Prater; and

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations be amended to include the addition of a clause to the Investment Strategy to state that in accordance with the climate and ecological emergency motion that was passed in Full Council on 24 July 2019 all new investments will be assessed to ensure that they are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.

(Voting figures: 14 for, 12 against, 3 abstentions).

Proposed by Councillor Monk, Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report C/20/07 be received and noted.
- 2. That a clause be added to the Investment Strategy to state that in accordance with the climate and ecological emergency motion that was passed in Full Council on 24 July 2019 all new investments will be assessed to ensure that they are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.
- 3. That the 2021/22 Investment Strategy, including the Investment Indicators, set out in the appendix to the report, be approved.

(Voting figures: 25 for, 0 against, 4 abstentions).