

Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee

Held at:	Remote Meeting
Date:	Thursday, 14 September 2023
Present:	Councillors, Michael Boor (In place of Beales), Anthony Burgess, Jane Darling, Frank Hobbs, Tim Prater, Kirsten Terry and Paul Thomas.
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors Graham Allison, Ann Beales, Mike Blakemore and Roger Joyce.
Officers Present:	Paul Butler (Elections Manager) and Jake Hamilton (Committee Services Officer).
Others Present:	

7. Appointment of Chair

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

Proposed by Councillor Paul Thomas,
Seconded by Councillor Frank Hobbs; and

Resolved:

That Councillor Tim Prater 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).

8. Declarations of interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

9. **Minutes**

The minutes of the last Folkestone and Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee held on 27 July 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

10. **May 2023 Parish/Town Election reflections.**

Paul Butler, Democratic Services and Elections Lead Specialist delivered a presentation to the Committee, reflecting on the May 2023 Parish/Town Elections.

Members made several comments to points raised in the presentation, including, voter ID and ballot paper refusal list statistics, the Council's recharge policy, nominations and whether the duration and times (10:00hrs to 16:00hrs) could be more inclusive for those who work during the day. And whether parish//town clerks could be provided with more nomination literature, so that they can better support those who wish to stand for election.

It was noted that feedback from the Committee that is within the parameters of electoral legal framework would be considered by the Returning Officer in the forward planning of elections.