

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LYDD TOWN COUNCIL

Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber at the Guild Hall

Present: Town Mayor, R.S. Jones, Councillors, Maria Beach, Mrs Sadie Crump, Thomas Dawes, Clive Goddard, Mrs Pippa Harston, Tony Hills, Mrs Jean Jones, Della Lewis, Anthony May, Mrs Kim Rye and Paul Rye

Angela Alexander- Town Clerk
Mrs Diane Cavey Assistant Town Clerk

Kent County Councillor David Wimble
7 members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that as Fr Jack Greenhalf was not in attendance there would not be prayers.

56. **APOLOGIES** Cllr Darren Chapman due to urgent work commitments

57. **ABSENT** Cllr Mrs Ann Duncan

58. MAYORS UPDATE

- a) The Mayor said that he had attended a Retirement dinner in honour of Ian Russell former Registrar to the Cinque Ports held at the Mermaid Inn Rye on 13th February
- b) The Mayor attended the anniversary service at the Methodist Church which he said was well attended

59. MINUTES

- a) **RESOLVED; That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th January 2026 be approved and signed as a true record**
Proposed by Cllr May and seconded by Cllr Paul Rye
Unanimous
- b) **RESOLVED: To receive and note the already approved minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1st December 2025, 12th January 2026**
- c) **RESOLVED: To receive and note the already approved minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 20th October 2025 and 26th January 2026**

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Clive Goddard declared an interest in any matters relating to Folkestone and Hythe District Council and Lydd Club Day as he donates money from his District Council ward budget
Cllr Tony Hills declared an interest in matters relating to Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Cllrs Crump, Lewis and Beach declared an interest in Lydd Club Day

61. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The meeting was adjourned

There were two questions submitted from Martin Hooper

1. *Would it be possible for Lydd Town Council to put on their website post codes for all 24-hour accessible defibrillators in Lydd?*
It was advised that the website has had a recent MOT by our website providers and the postcodes of the defibrillators belonging to Lydd Town Council have been added. It was advised that when someone calls 999 and a defibrillator is needed that the operator will provide the location of the nearest Defibrillator and the access code if required.
2. *Having visited the Banks Sport Area recently the access road which I believe is supposed to be maintained by Lydd Town Council needs urgent repairs – can this be done ASAP*

The Mayor said that his secretary, Diane, had requested pea shingle which is donated annually by Bretts, and this is due to be delivered between 4th and 6th March and the holes in the unmade road will be filled before the Brett Marathon
Martin Hooper asked if it could be done properly at some point and the Mayor replied that he would mix sand and cement with the shingle, and this will require closing off the road whilst the work is carried out.

The meeting was reconvened

62. FINANCES (Appendix A page 46 to 62)

- a) **RESOLVED: To receive and approve or ratify the income and expenditure as circulated Proposed by Cllr Mrs Jean Jones and seconded by Cllr Paul Rye
Unanimous**
- b) **RESOLVED: To receive and note the bank reconciliations and supporting bank statements**
- c) **RESOLVED: To receive the budget monitor**
- d) **RESOLVED: Following the recommendations and consideration Councillors approved the virement from the Small Grants budget head to the Stairlift and Defibrillator budget head of £785 and transfer of £500 to Lydd Centenary Bursary Account**
- e) **RESOLVED: Councillors considered a letter from Forvis Mazars – minor scope for improvement recommendations from their review of 2024/25 AGAR and noted that this will be built into the training for the newly appointed finance officer.**

63. SMALL GRANTS

- a) Councillors received and considered the small grants briefing note and recommendations of the Panel as follows:

Lydd Town Council makes small grants available to local charitable and voluntary organisations on an annual basis.

The small grants awarded in the forthcoming financial year will be funded from the donation made to the Town Council by Lydd Municipal and Other Charities and the Chairman and Clerk of the Charities met and considered the applications and submitted their comments and recommendations which were then provided to the Small Grant Panel for consideration along with the applications received and their supporting documentation in line with the Small Grants Policy.

Their recommendations were to support the applications from the following: 1 Lydd Club Day 4 Lydd Scouts 5 CARM 6 Lydd Museum 7 Litter Picking Watch 11 Lydd Youth Football 12 Lydd Dementia Cafe

The sum that we have received at the end of 2025 is £5,000 and the total amount requested for small grant applications if all had been supported was £5,315.63.

The application from Litter Picking Watch was withdrawn before the panel meeting as the work they had requested funding for had been carried out and the funding is not awarded retrospectively.

The small grant panel this year was made up of the four longest serving councillors on the Municipal Charities, Cllrs Clive Goddard, Bob Jones, Darren Chapman and Mrs Jean Jones The recommendations from the Small Grant Panel are presented to this meeting of full Council on 2nd March 2026 for ratification.

Once approved payments will be made to the successful applicants at the beginning of the new financial year after 1st April 2026.

All applications were considered in accordance with the Small Grants Policy and any Councillors attached to an organisation applying for a grant declared an interest and left the room for the considerations at the Panel meeting.

The Council has passed a Resolution that any underspend remaining in a financial year be used for community benefit and that a sum is transferred to the Lydd Centenary Bursary account to ensure the continuation of this Charity for the benefit of young people of Lydd in accordance with the policy. There was an underspend from last year's round of applications

of £1,350 which it is recommended that a virement be made and be used for the purchase of the two new defibrillators agreed at the January meeting which is £785 (exc. VAT) as we were fortunate that the sum of £1,000 was awarded towards the cost of these. In addition, it is recommended that the sum of £500 be transferred to the Bursary account and there will be £65 remaining in this financial year. The virements to enable this to be actioned have been approved as part of the financial decisions earlier this meeting.

A summary of the recommendations for ratification was also included for Councillors with their agenda paperwork for this Council meeting as follows:

ORGANISATION	PROJECT SUMMARY	Total project Cost	Amount requested	GRANT AGREED BY PANEL	
Lydd Club Day	2 Rider Motorcross display for Lydd Club Day 2026	£3,970.00	£500.00	£500.00	
With Grace	Training in and around the local area	£3,125.00	£500.00	£0.00	
Lydd Community Hall	Replace blinds in the Community Hall	£727.27	£500.00	£500.00	
Lydd Scouts	Activity equipment and materials	£380.00	£380.00	£380.00	
CARM	To go towards the cost of the venue hire for Lydd Meeting p	£750.00	£500.00	£500.00	
Lydd Museum	To refresh a number of exhibits in the museum	£750.00	£500.00	£500.00	
Litter Picking Watch	To adapt and make road worthy a box trailer	£500.00	£450.00	£0.00	withdrawn
* Lydd Twinning Associ	Contribution for minibus hire	£900.00	£250.00	£0.00	
* Lydd Twinning Associ	Insurance cover for the association	£275.00	£250.00	£275.00	* full amount
* Lydd Snowflake	Insurance, road closure and tombola	£485.63	£485.63	£0.00	
Lydd Youth Football	End of season presentation and Community Fun Day	£2,000.00	£500.00	£500.00	
Lydd Dementia Café	Take to group on an outing	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	
TOTALS			£5,315.63	£3,655.00	

* Did not meet Policy - more than one application submitted in this financial year
 ** Did not meet Policy - re two related signatories only for bank account

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the Panel as set out in the table above are agreed and the amounts awarded as set out to the organisations from the small grant fund money available from 1st April 2026.

**Proposed by Cllr Dawes and seconded by Cllr Mrs Harston
 Unanimous**

b) RESOLVED: That the sum of £785 to be used towards the cost of two defibrillators for Lydd Coronation Square and Taylor Road Lydd on Sea as agreed for purchase at the January 2026 Council meeting

Proposed by Cllr Paul Rye and seconded by Cllr Mrs Harston

Cllr Goddard said that further to his report about a plan B alternative where a local construction worker had offered to donate money to the defibrillators if this money was unavailable that this offer still stands for the future.

Cllr Mrs Beach said that a defibrillator could be installed at the Manor Road Pavilion

- c) **RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 to be transferred to the Lydd Centenary Bursary Account to ensure that the fund continues to be available to young people in Lydd Proposed by Cllr Paul Rye and seconded by Cllr Mrs Harston.**

64. DEFIBRILATOR REPLACEMENTS

The Town Clerk updated Councillors on the purchase and installation of two new defibrillators – Coronation Square Lydd and Taylor Road Lydd on Sea as follows:

Following the approval for the purchase of two new defibrillators at a cost of £892.50 + VAT each at the last Council meeting Lydd Town Council has received a generous and anonymous donation of £500 towards each defibrillator meaning that we have a £1,000 discount on the invoice total.

The new defibrillators have now been installed at Coronation Square and Taylor Road and are fully up and running and this newer version is suitable for both adults and children. Following the one at Coronation Square being the Town Clerk reported at the last meeting that a temporary one had been put in place on free of charge loan and remained in service until the new defibrillators were installed. This was because it was the most cost-effective option rather than servicing the older defibrillator which would have meant a cost to the Council which was unnecessary as the new defibrillators had been ordered. Once a defibrillator has been used it is removed from use for cleaning and servicing before being put back into use.

The Town Clerk said that on calling 999 you are directed to the nearest defibrillator and given an access code to the box if necessary.

The Town Clerk reassured those present that we have a service level agreement covering the defibrillators owned by the Town Council and they registered with the ambulance service and are regularly checked and we receive full reports and photographs for our records.

65. ROMNEY MARSH FORUM REPORT

Cllr Clive Goddard reported as Chairman of the Romney Marsh Forum that Cllr John Rivers the Mayor of New Romney Town Council had been the guest speaker at a meeting held on 29th January and was doing an excellent job in campaigning for the building of a Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) in Romney Marsh to improve local healthcare access and reduce hospital pressure.

Cllr Goddard said that he has pledged to support the improvement to healthcare across the Marsh for many years since his first years as a Councillor. New Romney Town Council has 13 acres of land and Cllr Rivers came to the Romney Marsh Forum to ask for the support of the Councils across the Marsh and that he supports this initiative and hopes that it will become a reality.

The Town Mayor added that letters from residents who have had bad experiences in accessing health care will also help.

Overview of the Proposal

New Romney Town Council, supported by local leaders and partners, calls for government backing to establish a modern, integrated health centre on Romney Marsh. The area faces significant health inequalities, an aging population, high rates of long-term conditions, and transport barriers that hinder access to hospital and urgent care services. The proposed CDC aims to bring diagnostics, primary care, mental health, rehabilitation, pharmacy, and community services under one roof, aligning with national and local health strategies to deliver care closer to home and support early intervention.

Key Features and Benefits

The centre would include modern GP facilities with same-day digital booking, urgent primary care including evenings and weekends, a diagnostic hub for scans and tests, and spaces for community wellbeing activities. It would serve residents, workers, and visitors, especially from surrounding villages, and support voluntary groups. The location in New Romney is strategic due to its accessibility, existing infrastructure, and community support, making it ideal for serving over 25,000 residents and seasonal visitors.

Rationale and Strategic Context

Romney Marsh is one of the most isolated and underserved areas in East Kent, with long travel times to hospitals, poor transport links, and a high prevalence of long-term conditions. The area's older demographic and health inequalities make local diagnostics and community-based care essential. The proposal aligns with NHS policies emphasizing integrated, community-focused services, and aims to reduce hospital pressures, improve early diagnosis, and address rural deprivation.

Community and Policy Support

Local leadership, active councils, and land availability support delivery. The centre would alleviate pressure on hospitals like William Harvey in Ashford and Folkestone, by providing local diagnostics, walk-in minor injury services, and faster triage. It also supports government priorities for levelling up rural communities and expanding community health infrastructure, with the potential to open within the pilot phase of East Kent's Neighbourhood Health Service.

Conclusion

Awarding Romney Marsh a Neighbourhood Health Centre would address longstanding health inequalities, improve access for an aging, complex population, and serve as a flagship for rural health reform, fulfilling national and local policy commitments.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent in support of the proposals to bring a Community Diagnostic Centre to New Romney

66. **REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO USE THE RYPE (Appendix B page 63)**
RESOLVED: To support the request from Lydd Club Day Committee for the use of the Rype on Saturday 20th June 2026.
Proposed by the Town Mayor, Cllr Bob Jones and seconded by Cllr Goddard
For: 9
Abstentions: 3 Cllrs Beach, Crump and Lewis
67. **STANDING ORDERS (Appendix C page 64 to 88)**
RESOLVED: Following the previous review of adopted NALC Standing Orders 2018 which were updated 2022 and a further review carried out on 20th May 2024 the Standing Orders as circulated were again reviewed by Councillors and it was agreed that no changes are to be made.
Unanimous
68. **LETTER FROM THE GURKHA WELFARE TRUST (Appendix D page 89 90)**
 Councillors received and noted the letter of gratitude for the donation from Lydd Town Council of £2,500 to the Gurkha Welfare Trust following the Lydd Town Council Christmas concert 2025 performed by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas
Received and noted
69. **COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODY REQUEST FORMS**
 Councillors received paper copies of the preference forms for appointment to Committees and Outside Bodies on their table which were requested be completed by Councillors and returned to the Town Clerk by 30th March 2026
Received and noted

70. MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

Councillors received the nomination forms for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor elections which will be held at the May Annual Meeting. The Town Clerk requested that nomination forms are to be returned to the Guild Hall by 30th March 2026

71. NOTICE OF ELECTION (Appendix E page 91)

Councillors were advised that following the notice of election published on 29th January 2026 that there were no nominations received and therefore a poll scheduled for 5th March will not be taking place.

Received and noted

72. KCC MEMBERS REPORT (Appendix F page 92 to 93)

The Town Mayor thanked Cllr David Wimble for attending the meeting and providing a report and advised that Councillors had received the KCC members report which had been circulated by email and that it was available on the Town Council website for the public to view. Councillors did not raise any questions for Cllr Wimble

Received and noted

73. CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS (Appendix G page 94)

The civic engagements at which the Town Council has been represented were circulated with the agenda paperwork

Received and noted

74. PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RESOLVED: that public and press are excluded from the following confidential and sensitive agenda item being exempt as defined in Schedule 12 of the Local Gov Act 1972.

Proposed by Cllr Paul Rye and seconded by Cllr Mrs Jean Jones

For: 11

Against: 1 Cllr May

75. FINANCE POSITION

As the Chairman of Personnel Committee, Cllr Darren Chapman was not in attendance at the meeting the Mayor asked the Town Clerk to report on the appointment of the new Finance Officer to Lydd Town Council.

The Town Clerk advised that following the resignation of Caroline Livesey from the role of Finance Officer the position was advertised in The Looker and the Association of Local Councils job section from mid November 2025.

There were five expressions of interest in the position and interviews were held on 14th January 2026 when the preferred candidate was selected. The Town Clerk met with the preferred candidate on 16th January to discuss the details of the pay scale being offered, days of work and the priorities for the role.

Claire Whiting accepted the role and started with Lydd Town Council on 2nd February and will work in the Guild Hall on Monday and Wednesday mornings and flexible working on either Tuesday or Thursday mornings at home.

The pay scale is SCP 24 and there will be a six-month probationary period.

Received and noted

76. CONCERN RAISED WITH THE HSE BY A RESIDENT

Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Cllr Darren Chapman, to report on a complaint made by a resident to the HSE regarding the gas leak following Lydd Club Day in June 2025.

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred as Cllr Chapman was not in attendance at the meeting

- 77. **POLICY FOR DEALING WITH HABITUAL OR VEXATIOUS COMPLAINANTS**
RESOLVED: Following a review at the Personnel Committee meeting held on 23rd February 2026 Councillors received the updated policy for adoption.

The meeting closed at 19.29

Chairman _____

Date _____

DRAFT