

Folkestone Town Council



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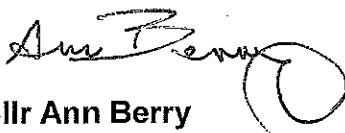
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AGENDA

Meeting: **Annual Assembly for the Town of Folkestone**
Date: **29 May 2018**
Time: **7.00 p.m.**
Place: **Town Council Offices, 1/2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone**

To: **All Folkestone Town Councillors**

YOU ARE HEREBY INVITED to attend the Annual Assembly for the town of Folkestone on the date and at the time and place shown above to transact the business shown on the agenda below. The meeting will be open to the press and public.


Cllr Ann Berry
Town Mayor

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of either personal or prejudicial interest that Members may wish to make.
3. **MINUTES**
Minutes of the Town Meeting of 30th May 2017 (attached).
4. **OPENING OF PROCEEDINGS BY THE TOWN MAYOR**

5. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

To provide an opportunity for the Town's Electors to ask questions to elected representatives and visiting service personnel.

6. REPORTS BY KENT POLICE

Kent Police will provide an update on matters and issues affecting the Town.

7. REPORTS BY KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Kent Fire Service will provide an update on matters and issues affecting the Town.

8. TIMES AND DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS OF FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

14 June 2018 at 6.30 p.m. – Extra-Ordinary Full Council Meeting

12 July 2018 at 7.00 p.m. – Ordinary Full Council Meeting, Town Hall

28 May 2019 – (Provisional Town (Electors) Annual Assembly)

Folkestone Town Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Assembly of the Town Meeting for the Parish and Town of Folkestone held at the Town Hall, Folkestone on Tuesday, 30th May 2017 at 7 p.m.

TOWN COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Emily Arnold, Ann Berry, John Collier, Neil Jones, Martin Salmon, Richard Theobald, Rodica Wheeler, Pat West and Roger West.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS: Chief Inspector Kevin Stephens - Folkestone Police, David Escudier, Group Commander – Kent Fire and Rescue, Mrs Christine Pledger, Mrs Rose Watson and 7 Folkestone Electors.

IN ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Childs - Town Clerk, Ian Bishop - Town Sergeant, Georgina Wilson – Administrative Officer.

ABSENT: Councillor Danny Brook

Prayers

Prayers were led by the Mayors Chaplain, Reverend Eileen Webb.

1401. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Peter Gane, Claire Jeffrey, Mary Lawes, David Monk, Carol Sacre, Sue Wallace and Richard Wallace.

1402. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1403. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 5th April 2016 previously agreed and adopted were noted.

1404. OPENING OF PROCEEDINGS BY THE TOWN MAYOR

The Town Mayor welcomed Councillors, electors and guests to the meeting held in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Roger West reported that the last year has been very busy for the Town Council with the Museum opening, over the opening weekend over 1000 people visited.

Councillor Martin Salmon, Town Mayor for 2016/17 also reported that it was a very successful year and an honour and a privilege to carry out this role.

1405. BESTOWAL OF FOR MERIT AWARDS

The Mayor congratulated Mrs Christine Pledger and Mrs Rose Watson and presented them with their For Merit awards.



Mrs Pledger was awarded the For Merit award for services to communities and charities of Folkestone.

Mrs Watson was awarded the For Merit award for over 60 years' service to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

1406. OPEN FORUM AND QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

Mr Moulard asked Council why two healthy horse chestnut trees at Radnor Park were completely removed to make way for the extension of the play area.

Councillor Ann Berry responded that she didn't know these trees were going to be removed until they had come down, more space was needed to enlarge the play area and more planting will be done around the new park area.

Mr Knight had three issues to raise, firstly was around the Town Sprucer scheme needing additional funding to continue.

The Town Mayor asked the Town Clerk to provide an update on Council's current position.

The Town Clerk responded that the Town Council had funded this scheme significantly in the past, however, the last funding agreed was to help them carry out their proposed exit strategy, and it was therefore resolved at a previous Council meeting that this would be our final offer of funding for the scheme. If Council wishes to provide additional funding a new motion would be need to be brought forward by a Councillor for the resolution to be re-considered.

Secondly, Mr Knight asked what the Town Council can do with regards to speeding cars in the area around Christchurch School; ideally this area needs a crossing.

The Town Mayor responded that this would be an issue for the local KCC Councillor, however, the Police representative may be able to speak about the cars speeding and what can be done from their point of view.

Finally, Mr Knight reported that a flower bed in Cheriton Road has been left to fall apart with grass and weeds growing it, the structure needs rebuilding and replanting at the same time as the other flowerbeds are planted.

The Town Mayor responded that again this is more of a KCC issue than a Town Council issue.

The Town Clerk reported that Shepway District Council are responsible for the majority of green spaces within the town but Council does support them by providing annual funds to SDC to support the planting of certain flowerbeds, Councillors can request an increase in the amount of funding we give to SDC to enable them to plant more flowerbeds.



Councillor Emily Arnold added that she is working with the team who raise funds for the planting of flowers on The Leas and that they are looking to expand this scheme to cover other areas, will speak with Mr Knight directly after the meeting.

1407. REPORTS BY KENT POLICE

CI Keven Stephens started by reporting that there are now around 500 less Police Officers across Kent than there were 4/5 years ago, they are now more focussed on priorities, and these are currently around protecting the vulnerable and high impact crime. Domestic violence and serious crime is always high on the agenda. The busiest times for Police in this area are around the Town Centre, Tontine Street and The Old High Street on Friday and Saturday nights. They are also still working on combating gang activity in the area. Due to the tragic events in Manchester they have to engage in more Counter Terrorism and preventative strategies. Overall Shepway is mid-way in the crimes per thousand tables.

Councillor Ann Berry reported that she had received a letter from a concerned resident of Broadmead ward regarding the recent spate of burglaries, the resident in question had not been kept informed with the Police investigation.

CI Stephens reported that all victims of crime would have been kept informed of the progress. This particular group of burglaries are currently being investigated under the name "Operation Harvest", the houses were targeted as gold was kept at the houses rather than money in the bank.

Cllr Berry will pass on the details of the resident who had not been kept informed.

1408. REPORTS BY KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

David Escudier, Group Commander gave an update on the appliances at the Folkestone station, the response time for whole time appliances is 60 seconds and on call appliances is 5 minutes. Last year there were 149 fires, 41 road traffic collisions, 21 water related and 50 medical emergencies on behalf of the Ambulance Trust.

Co-responding is a new initiative with the Police and Ambulance to help provide savings for all services. The world's first Road Safety Experience has been opened in Rochester, providing youth groups, school children and other groups access to practical education to reduce road traffic collisions. In the future there will be more co-responding with the Ambulance Trust and delivery of new safe and well home safety visits, as well as sharing some operational tasks such as predictive policing (predpol), searching for high risk missing persons, responding to medical calls and the ongoing work involved with new threats.

1409. TIMES AND DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS OF FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

27 July 2017 – Ordinary Full Council Meeting, Town Hall

29 May 2018 - (Provisional Town (Electors) Annual Assembly)

The Meeting concluded at 8pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RC', written over a horizontal dotted line.

**.....Town Mayor
27 July 2017**