



Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held at the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Office

78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RF

on Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 7.00pm

Present:

Cllr David Donaldson (Chair)
Cllr Clive Veck (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Donna Carr
Cllr Sarah Jarman
Cllr Tom King
Cllr Mike Livesey
Cllr Alice Mulinya
Cllr Matthew Scott
Cllr David Wallin

Ms Nabila Yakub (Town Clerk)

5 Members of Public

FC/26/75 Welcome from the Chairperson

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

FC/26/76 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Fenning, Cllr Evans (Kent County Council) and Jason Gordon, Community Warden.

FC/26/77 Members' Interests

Cllr King declared an interest with respect to Agenda Item 11, Councillors' Reports.

FC/26/78 Public Right to Speak

A resident, regular user of West Bay, raised concerns about the ongoing closure of the public toilets, reporting no response from Thanet District Council to her complaint and stating that the single portaloos provided is inadequate. She criticised the lack of information about reasons for closure and alternative facilities and warned of potential public health risks based on past issues during COVID. A resident highlighted a worsening problem of fly-tipping on Station Road, describing recent incidents involving significant quantities of mixed domestic and food waste, possibly linked to short-term lets such as Airbnbs. The resident warned of environmental, public health and reputational impacts on the town. The resident asked the Town Council to work proactively with Thanet District Council to manage the issue with a faster, better-coordinated local response.

FC/26/79 Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 11th March 2026 were received and approved as an accurate record.

FC/26/80 Calendar of Meetings

The Clerk proposed a revised Calendar of Meetings with Full Council every six weeks to allow working parties and committees time to develop clear proposals before they reach Council, improving efficiency and use of staff resources. Planning and Events would remain monthly, HR/Finance/Local Transport would be spread more evenly across the year with meetings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, there would be no meetings in August (and no Events meetings in December and May), and extraordinary meetings could be called as needed. The Clerk also suggested holding the Annual Town Meeting on a Saturday lunchtime to increase public accessibility.

The Council agreed that a revised meetings calendar, based on the proposed new structure, will be brought to the Annual Council Meeting for consideration and possible adoption, modification or rejection; no calendar changes were formally adopted at the meeting.

FC/26/81 Policies

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the following policies:

- Whistleblowing;
- Training and Development;
- Social Media, with an amendment to the title of Section 5 from “Libel” to “What Should Not be Published”;
- Press and Media.

FC/26/82 Council Association Memberships

The Council **RESOLVED** to renew its membership of the Kent Association of Local Councils (and associated NALC membership) for the coming year.

FC/26/83 Committees

The Council **RESOLVED** that Westgate-on-Sea Town Council will advertise for and co-opt up to two community members to serve on the Events, Tourism and Development Committee.

FC/26/84 Annual Town Meeting

The Council reviewed and broadly agreed the proposed structure for the Annual Town Meeting, mirroring last year’s format with brief reports and partner updates, but emphasised keeping guest speakers limited and presentations short to allow substantial time for residents’ questions, discussion and feedback.

FC/26/85 Councillors’ Reports

Cllr Donaldson highlighted the upcoming Councillor Surgery (to be covered by Cllrs Carr and Jarman), the Westgate and Garlinge Action Group open day on 18 April, his attendance at the Thanet Area Committee meeting where TDC’s Chief Executive confirmed 31 March 2028 as the target date for the new unitary authority, and progress on the new play area working group with two local residents joining.

Cllr Wallin noted he was dealing with several resident matters but had nothing further to report at the time.

Cllr Scott left the meeting early, having previously passed his apologies for doing so.

FC/26/86 County and Thanet District Councillors’ Reports

None.

FC/26/87 Reports from Steven England, Beat Officer for Westgate and Birchington, and/or Jason Gordon, Community Warden

None.

FC/26/88 Clerk’s Correspondence

The Clerk reported the success of the Chase the Easter Bunny event (thanking Cllr Fenning for acting as the Bunny), confirmed that committee memberships will be agreed at the Annual Council Meeting following an email to Councillors, and advised that the internal audit is scheduled for 12 May with external audit guidance received from Forvis Mazars. She reminded members of the upcoming Councillor Surgery (11 April), the Annual Council Meeting on 6 May, the Annual Town Meeting on 13 May, and that the Town Council offices will host an information hub on 18 April as part of the Community Planning Alliance National Day of Action, organised by the Westgate and Garlinge Action Group.

FC/26/89 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 6th May 2026, 7pm – Annual Council Meeting.

FC/26/90 Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Council was requested to pass a resolution to exclude Press and Public from the remainder of the meeting pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting Act) 1960. Because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press may be asked to leave the meeting during consideration of the following items:

- To consider confidential staffing matters.
The Clerk reported that an external HR provider has now attended the office in relation to an ongoing staffing matter, in line with the process previously agreed by Council, and that their written recommendations would be forthcoming; Council will be updated once this advice is received.

Signed: _____

Date: _____