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 15th July 2026 at 6.00pm

Present:
Cllr David Donaldson (Chair)
Cllr Clive Veck (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Donna Carr
Cllr Stephen Fenning
Cllr Sarah Jarman
Cllr Tom King
Cllr Mike Livesey
Cllr David Wallin

Ms Nabila Yakub (Town Clerk)
Cllr Luke Evans (Kent County Council)

3 Members of Public

FC/26/124 Welcome from the Chair
The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

FC/26/125 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mulinya and Cllr Scott.

FC/26/126 Members' Interests
None.

FC/26/127 Public Right to Speak
A resident thanked Councillors Carr and Jarman for their support with waste issues affecting local traders, saying this had been a great relief, and urged councillors to watch the recent TDC scrutiny meeting, which she said clearly set out the real causes of local waste problems and highlighted constructive work with officers, noting there would be follow-up work for parish councils.
A resident thanked those who attended the Monday meeting about the proposed play area, expressing appreciation for their presence and for the clear information provided about what had taken place.

FC/26/128 Minutes
The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 3rd June 2026 were received and approved as an accurate record.

FC/26/129 Working Party Terms of Reference
Cllr Livesey stated that the existing working party terms of reference were overly complicated, restrictive and largely unused, and that working parties work best as informal advisory groups. He said the amendments would relax the burdensome rules and allow full council to delegate detailed decisions to the relevant committee, and he therefore moved adoption of the amended terms of reference. The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the modified terms of reference.

FC/26/130 Tourism Working Party
Cllr Livesey briefly introduced the proposal to form a tourism working party, noting his enthusiasm for promoting tourism as beneficial for the town and its businesses (while acknowledging associated issues like rubbish). He proposed that a tourism working party be established under the Events, Tourism and Development (ETD) Committee as the approved committee, with the understanding that the working party would report back to full council via that committee. The Council **RESOLVED**

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to approve the formation of the tourism working party under the auspices of the Events, Tourism and Development Committee.

FC/26/131 Football Pitch Hire
The Clerk explained that, with the football season about to start and several teams already booked, the current system requiring an operative to attend each match to open and close the pavilion is inefficient and takes them away from other duties. She proposed that, instead, teams be provided with a key, with a written agreement and equipment inventory in place so that teams can open and close the pavilion themselves and be held accountable if the facilities are left in a poor state. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the new football pitch rental arrangements, under which teams would be responsible for opening and closing the pavilion themselves.
Cllr King objected that no written papers had been circulated for the proposed changes to the football pitch hire arrangements, Cllr Livesey pointed out that several motions that he had brought forward were also unsupported by written documentation. He apologised for this.

FC/26/132 Finance Update
The Council received and noted:
- Bank Reconciliation for April, May and June 2026;
- Quarterly Receipts and Payments for April-May-June 2026;
- Budget vs Spend Report – 1st Quarter 2026.

FC/26/133 Blooming Westgate
Cllr Livesey reported that the Blooming Westgate project has been very successful and widely supported but is close to exhausting its £1,500 budget because the work is seasonal and front-loaded, with volunteers using inadequate equipment and more signage and materials needed (including to display children's artwork). He therefore proposed that up to an additional £1,000 be drawn from reserves to support the project, noting this remained a very small proportion of the precept and that external funding was being pursued.
Council **RESOLVED** to approve the request that up to an additional £1,000 be drawn from reserves to support the Blooming Westgate project.

FC/26/134 Councillors' Reports
Cllr Donaldson reported attending a Road Safety and Active Travel seminar (including a Community Speed Watch presentation) and noted plans for a Speed Watch information day in September. He also updated members on the Thanet Area Committee meeting, including information on the North Thanet Link Road and its funding, and advised that he had been re-elected to the KALC executive for Thanet, with the outcome of local government reorganisation expected the following day.
Cllr Wallin commented on waste and other local issues, suggesting that changes to TDC's refuse collection (collecting more with fewer rounds) were a false economy because lorries fill up faster and spend more time travelling to and from the tip, contributing to missed collections. He also expressed support for opening meetings with the Lord's Prayer as KCC Cllr Evans had mentioned previously, and raised concerns about a reported HMO near the Kent Innovation Centre in Broadstairs, which he had heard might be used to house asylum seekers close to several schools, while noting this was based on information he had read rather than a confirmed planning application.
Cllr Jarman reported that only three members of the Working Party attended the recent play park site visit because it was arranged at short notice and poorly communicated. They added that the meeting was positive, that they learned a lot from the public who attended, and that the Working Party should now look at the suggestions made in more detail.
Cllr Carr reported working with TDC officers (including the head of cleansing, Matt Elmer), councillors and officers to address ongoing waste and recycling issues, particularly seagull-sack problems on Station Road, and said they were close to a solution involving a one-day amnesty to replace old sacks. She also outlined plans for a waste and recycling "surgery" on the 25th at the Town Council offices, where residents can clarify which collection system they are on, ask questions and collect items such as bags and caddies, especially for those living above shops.
Cllr Wallin reported that he had recently spoken to KCC Cllr Bridget Porter about the library; she has made enquiries, found there has been a change of responsible officer at KCC, and has agreed to chase the matter up further, alongside the ongoing work the Town Council is already doing with Cllr Luke Evans.

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Cllr Jarman reported that, in relation to the Number 35 bus, she had received a response from Surrey Hills Solicitors confirming that one of their solicitors is willing to spend about an hour to an hour and a half reviewing and advising on Cllr King's communication about the Equality Impact Assessment, though with no guarantees of outcome and some concern about the time that has elapsed, and has provided a rough cost estimate for this work.

FC/26/135 County and Thanet District Councillors' Reports
Cllr Evans (KCC) reported on several matters: he clarified that a recent media story about "fake" photos of cleaned village gates was caused by an AI camera app, confirming the gates were genuinely cleaned and well-received locally; he highlighted government-backed 0% interest business loans and drew attention to the live KCC budget consultation for 2026–27, encouraging residents to respond. Cllr Evans also reported that the Thanet Way is currently undergoing £3 million of repairs, but engineers have advised that, because the road was not built properly, it is likely to require major works again in around three years, making it the most expensive road in Kent to maintain and a particular concern in light of potential local government reorganisation.

FC/26/136 Reports from Steven England, Beat Officer for Westgate and Birchington, and/or Jason Gordon, Community Warden
None.

FC/26/137 Clerk's Correspondence
The Clerk reminded members and the public about Picnic in the Park on 18 July, including free children's activities and an art exhibition, and invited councillor support. She announced a ward surgery with PC England on Friday 28 August at 11:00 a.m. and a Community Speed Watch briefing on 8 September, an initiative which will be volunteer-led. She also reported on West Bay toilets, noting that while the structure is sound, roof and internal ceiling repairs are needed and external re-rendering and weatherproof painting are planned, with only the roof/ceiling works requiring closure and a timeframe still awaited.

FC/26/138 Date of Next Meeting:
Wednesday 9th September 2026, 7pm.

FC/26/139 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:

- The Confidential Report from the Closed Session of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting of the 1st of July 2026 was received and noted.
- Council noted the outcome of an HR meeting held on the 10th of July 2026.

Signed: David Donaldson Date: 9th Sept 2026.

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