



## 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 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.00pm

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### Present:

Cllr David Donaldson (The Chair)  
Cllr Clive Veck (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Scott  
Cllr Tom King  
Cllr Mike Livesey  
Cllr Alice Mulinya  
Cllr David Wallin  
Ms Nabila Yakub (Town Clerk)  
4 Members of Public

### FC/25/92 Welcome from the Chairperson

Cllr Donaldson opened the meeting with a brief review of the recent Annual Town Meeting, describing it as a success, while praising its keynote presentations and the excellent catering supplied by Bethany's Buffet. Cllr Donaldson referred to the feedback from residents collected on post-it notes, with a commitment to consider the recommendations in a future meeting. The Chair emphasized the evening's primary focus: the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), describing it as the Council's most critical statutory responsibility.

### FC/25/93 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Worrow, Cllr Thomason and Cllr Fenning.

### FC/25/94 Members' Interests

Cllr Wallin declared a potential interest given that he resides on a road mentioned in the Highway Improvement Plan. Cllr King declared a non-pecuniary interest given his involvement with a transport union.

### FC/25/95 Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Full Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 were received and approved as an accurate record.

### FC/25/96 Councillors' Reports

Cllr Donaldson reported that the Council Surgery would be held on Saturday from 10.30 to 11.45am and requested Cllr Livesey attend with him.

Cllr King questioned the relevance of Town Council surgeries, arguing that they duplicate District Councillors' work and offer limited value given the Town Council's limited authority in addressing resident concerns, particularly in areas such as planning. Cllr King suggested encouraging TDC Councillors to attend surgeries to ensure direct engagement with community issues.

Cllr Scott requested to be sent an email to his TDC address to check availability for surgeries.

Cllr Wallin mentioned that he had been present at most surgeries during the past year and that public attendance amounted to an average of less than one per day.

Cllr King requested an update on the new play area and the Library. Cllr Donaldson replied that, regarding the Library, Kent County Council is currently undergoing a change of administration and that, in relation to the play area, he is still working with TDC.

### FC/25/97 County and Thanet District Ward Councillors' Reports

Cllr Donaldson reported that a TDC walkabout is due, involving officers from Thanet District Council touring Westgate to examine local issues, and that he was currently planning the route.

Cllr Donaldson noted that these ward walkabouts were previously a regular occurrence but were likely discontinued during the pandemic.

Cllr Scott reported that he too had been invited to the Ward visit and that Cllr Braidwood had put a post on social media about it. Cllr Scott indicated the day and time of the visit which, unfortunately, conflicted with his work schedule, preventing his attendance.

Cllr Donaldson specified that the purpose of the walk is to go around the ward with the three Thanet District Council directors, who are providing support to the ward councillors, i.e. Cllr Donaldson, Cllr Scott and Cllr Braidwood, to look at issues such as rubbish, traffic enforcement and so on.

#### **FC/25/98 Report(s) from Steven England, Beat Officer for Westgate and Birchington, and/or Jason Gordon, Community Warden**

None.

#### **FC/25/99 Public Right to Speak**

A resident enquired when the suggestions made at the Annual Town Meeting would be discussed, requesting that this take place at the next Council meeting, which Cllr Donaldson committed to doing. A resident requested that papers be posted online prior to meetings. The Clerk noted the request, without committing to do so.

A resident commended the minutes of the public right to speak section, noting however that they did not capture the positive reception to community engagement proposals or the suggestion to increase council membership, particularly in light of anticipated future developments. The concern was that this proposal is not overlooked but remains an agenda item for future consideration.

#### **FC/25/100 Highway Improvement Plan**

Cllr Veck presented a Highway Improvement Plan developed through community feedback, detailing 10 priority areas focusing on traffic management and pedestrian safety.

Cllr King recommended specific modifications, including 20 mph speed limits in shopping areas, parking solutions especially on Station Road and enhanced road markings. Cllr King mentioned that some of the parking issues come from the shopkeepers themselves, who park in front of their businesses. Cllr King also mentioned the need for double yellow lines from Harold Avenue to Westbury Road and his preference of zigzag lines adjacent to the Cinema. Cllr King emphasised the need for more traffic enforcement from TDC.

Cllr Veck requested a copy of Cllr King's suggestions, while recognising that Kent County Council might not execute all recommendations. Cllr Veck proposed that the Highway Improvement Plan be submitted to KCC, which the Council unanimously agreed to.

#### **FC/25/101 Local Transport Sub-Committee**

Cllr Donaldson introduced the item saying that the proposal by Cllr King was that the Local Transport Sub-Committee became a stand-alone Committee.

Cllr King emphasised the importance of transportation issues, even in a small town, and proposed a closer integration between the Highways Improvement Plan and the Local Transport Committee. Cllr King also mentioned the short-lived Community Safety Partnership, viewing it as a missed opportunity for community engagement, and proposed reviving such a working group to allow local residents to contribute more directly to Council work.

The motion to convert the Sub-Committee to a Committee was proposed and unanimously agreed, with the addition of Cllr Wallin as member.

#### **FC/25/102 Finance and Annual Governance**

- a. The Statement of Internal Controls for the year ended 31.03.25 was considered and approved.
- b. The Annual Internal Audit Report was received and noted.
- c. The nine assertions comprising the Annual Governance Statement (Section1) for the year ended 31.03.25 were considered and approved.
- d. The Accounting Statement (Section2) for the year ended 31.03.25 was considered and approved.
- e. The year-end bank reconciliation was received and approved.
- f. The arrangements for the exercise of public rights were noted.

**FC/25/103 Clerk's Correspondence**

The Clerk provided a review of Councillor attendance records for the past year. The Clerk informed the Council that a record of attendance will be kept going forwards, which will include apologies received and absences without apology.

The Clerk read out an email received from Cllr Worrow who tendered his resignation with immediate effect as Town Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, due to significant changes in his private life.

**FC/25/104 Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_