



## 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 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7.00pm

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### Present:

Cllr David Donaldson (Chair)  
Cllr Clive Veck (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Stephen Fenning  
Cllr Tom King  
Cllr Mike Livesey  
Cllr Alice Mulinya  
Cllr Matthew Scott  
Cllr David Wallin

Cllr Luke Evans (Kent County Council)

Ms Nabila Yakub (Town Clerk)  
Ms Ana Jagelo (Administration Officer)

3 Members of Public

### FC/25/185 Welcome from the Chairperson

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Cllr Donaldson reported that Cllr Charlotte Thomason had resigned due to increased workload and said that the Council must now follow the formal vacancy process with TDC electoral services. Cllr Donaldson expressed his thanks to Cllr Thomason for all her work and commitment to the Council during her period in office.

### FC/25/186 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jason Gordon (Community Warden).

### FC/25/187 Members' Interests

Cllr Donaldson declared that he lives in Ethelbert Square.

### FC/25/188 Minutes

- The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 were received and approved as an accurate record.
- The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were received and approved as an accurate record.

### FC/25/189 Public Right to Speak

A resident of Palm Court addressed the Council expressing strong opposition to the proposed play area on the green opposite.

A resident thanked the Council for the Community Centre Christmas tree and asked if the remaining nearby shops could also have lights, as only two of five currently do and the area feels dark.

### FC/25/190 Meeting Calendar Dates

The Clerk presented the draft meeting calendar for December 2025–May 2026 which, in particular, included:

- an Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for co-option,
- the Annual Council Meeting for 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026, and
- the Annual Town Meeting for 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026.



Hydrogen Project is still progressing despite rumours, and raised serious concerns about numerous dead swans, fish and now foxes along the River Stour, saying bird flu alone does not explain this and that he is pressing the Environment Agency for answers amid reports of sewer collapses and possible pollution. Cllr Evans remained sceptical about the North Thanet Link road scheme, though it may allow future improvements at the Westgate traffic lights and outlined KCC's plan for new Special Resource Provisions in schools (including several in Thanet) to increase local SEND places, cut expensive private placements and bring extra funding into host schools.

Cllr Donaldson reported that communication with Kent County Council in relation to acquisition of the Library was ongoing. Cllr Evans expressed his support for the project.

Speaking to Cllr Evans, Cllr King highlighted problems with the 35 bus service, which was reduced from an hourly to a two-hourly service when it was linked to the 37 route, leaving mainly elderly residents facing long waits and unable to walk back with shopping. He stressed the service is vital, noted new government funding to KCC for bus improvements, and asked that this be used to restore an hourly service. Cllr Evans agreed to make enquiries with KCC about the 35 service and explore whether the new bus funding could help improve it.

**FC/25/197 Report(s) from Steven England, Beat Officer for Westgate and Birchington, and/or Jason Gordon, Community Warden**


The Clerk read Jason Gordon's report as follows: the Westgate Christmas lights switch-on was very busy and successful, with Jason arranging removal of an obstructing vehicle for safety. He has stocked the Town Council office with emergency food supplies, supports weekly well-being coffee mornings and several local residents, has delivered talks to a Boys' Brigade on safety, alcohol and drugs using "beer goggles" activities, and helps a local church serve fortnightly roast dinners to around 60 residents.

**FC/25/198 Clerk's Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) will this year include a new Assertion 10, and that she has attended training and will bring guidance and supporting policies to a future meeting so the Council can sign it off correctly. She advised that the recently appointed Finance Officer chose not to confirm their post after nearly three weeks in role, so recruitment has been reopened for this position. She concluded by wishing Councillors and attendees a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**FC/25/199 Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7pm.

Signed: 

Date: 14/01/2026.