



Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting

Held at the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Office

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

on Friday 31st October 2025 at 7.00pm

Present:

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

Ms Nabila Yakub (Town Clerk)

PC Steven England
Jason Gordon, Community Warden

Mr Nic Powley
Mr Ted Cunningham

5 Members of Public

FC/25/157 Welcome from the Chairperson

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

FC/25/158 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mulinya, Cllr Thomason and Cllr Scott.

FC/25/159 Members' Interests

None.

FC/25/160 Introduction from Skatepark Working Party Lead

Cllr Veck outlined three options discussed at the working party: repair the park, hire Canvas for a rebuild or have Nic Powley of Margate Skateboard Club CIC take on the project with his alternative approach. Cllr Veck emphasized that the working party could not approve action alone and that Full Council approval was therefore required for the project to proceed.

FC/25/161 Proposal for Skatepark Rebuild

Nic Powley detailed preparations to commence Phase One of the skatepark project, stating that all required paperwork has been submitted to the Town Clerk. He explained that the current budget is around £17,000, with Phase One requiring approximately £7,000 to clear the site and construct a concrete mini ramp suitable for all ages and abilities. Phase One site clearance is scheduled to begin Monday the 3rd of November, with construction expected to last eight to ten days, weather permitting. Completion of Phase Two, projected for the spring with an additional £10,000, is timed for the school holidays in May. Nic confirmed attempts to secure an extra £5,000 grant from KCC.

Cllr Veck stated that the skatepark currently has £16,916 from crowdfunding, grants and Town Council match-funding, with an additional £5,000 expected from KCC. Cllr Veck also mentioned an application for a Common Ground Award, with up to £25,000 possible and a decision expected in January. The skatepark will be developed in phases, with possible additions like seating and lighting if further funding is secured. Any leftover funds could be used to support community events or coaching at the skate park.

FC/25/162 Proposal for VERT Ramp installation

Ted Cunningham gave strong support for the skatepark and vert ramp projects, arguing they would provide significant benefits for young people and the whole community. Mr Cunningham especially

highlighted the achievements of his son Tay, currently ranked number one in the UK and training for the 2028 Olympics, as well as the accomplishments of other young people in the area. Mr Cunningham described how improved skate infrastructure would inspire local youth, encourage inclusion, provide positive role models and help reduce antisocial behaviour. He also pointed out the economic benefits seen in other regions with successful skateparks and discussed both the site options for the vert ramp and the importance of Council backing to make the project a reality.

FC/25/163 Public Right to Speak

Community Warden Jason Gordon expressed strong support for the new skatepark project, highlighting its positive potential for Westgate. He raised concerns about possible vandalism and graffiti, referencing issues with the previous facility, and suggested that installing CCTV cameras be considered as a preventative measure in future planning.

A resident stressed that youth involvement and a community-led Crowdfunder are key to the skatepark's success, fostering real ownership and lasting care from local young people.

PC Steven England highlighted that CCTV at the skate park would help protect against vandalism and enhance the safety of young people, noting its usefulness in both prevention and responding to incidents.

FC/25/164 Skatepark

The Council **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to allow Nic to begin the skate park works and agreed in principle to support the vert ramp, pending final decisions on location and planning.

FC/25/165 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____