



# Minutes

## Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee

- Held at: Remote Meeting
- Date: Thursday, 14 September 2023
- Present: Councillors, Michael Boor (In place of Beales), Anthony Burgess, Jane Darling, Frank Hobbs, Tim Prater, Kirsten Terry and Paul Thomas.
- Apologies for Absence: Councillors Graham Allison, Ann Beales, Mike Blakemore and Roger Joyce.
- Officers Present: Paul Butler (Elections Manager) and Jake Hamilton (Committee Services Officer).
- Others Present:

### 7. Appointment of Chair

The Chair alternates between a District Councillor and a Parish/Town Councillor every meeting. The Members must appoint a District Councillor as the Chair of this meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Paul Thomas,  
Seconded by Councillor Frank Hobbs; and

#### **Resolved:**

That Councillor Tim Prater be appointed as Chair for the Folkestone and Hythe District and Parish Councils Joint Committee held on 14 September 2023.

(As there was no dissent the nomination was approved by affirmation of the meeting).

### 8. Declarations of interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

9. **Minutes**

The minutes of the last Folkestone and Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee held on 27 July 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

10. **May 2023 Parish/Town Election reflections.**

Paul Butler, Democratic Services and Elections Lead Specialist delivered a presentation to the Committee, reflecting on the May 2023 Parish/Town Elections.

Members made several comments to points raised in the presentation, including, voter ID and ballot paper refusal list statistics, the Council's recharge policy, nominations and whether the duration and times (10:00hrs to 16:00hrs) could be more inclusive for those who work during the day. And whether parish//town clerks could be provided with more nomination literature, so that they can better support those who wish to stand for election.

It was noted that feedback from the Committee that is within the parameters of electoral legal framework would be considered by the Returning Officer in the forward planning of elections.

# Parish Elections 2023

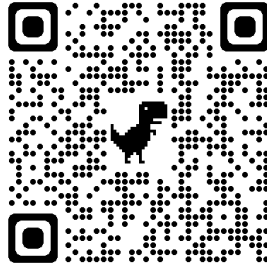
Statistics and reflections

# Some statistics

Statistics	Figures
Parish Council electorate	83,963
Parish Councils (and wards of)	39
Candidates	219
Contested elections	15
Uncontested elections	24
Average turnout	34.4%
Highest:	Harvey West 50%
Lowest:	East Folkestone 24.86%

# Voter ID & accessibility

## Voter ID



National promotion

Local comms

Greeters

New poll card / signage

Voter Authority Certificate

Paperwork: BPRL / VIDEF

## Accessibility



Magnifiers

Tactile Voting Device

Ramps

Large print ballot papers

Disabled polling booths

Pencil grips

Audio ballot paper

Phones at stations

FHDC Station Companion

# Processes

## Timetable

- 5 Candidate & agent events
- 12 days of nominations
- 7 notice deadlines
- 7 registration deadlines
- 7 data deadlines

## Printers

- 1 polling plan
- 11 extracts
- 8 sets of proofs
- 5 deliveries
- Countless comms!

## Royal Mail

- 2 polling plans
- 39 licences
- 39 postcodes

# Staffing & stations

- 444 staff roles
- 319 members of staff
- 5 core team members
- 2 deputies
- 21 training sessions

- 53 polling places
- 58 polling stations
- 870 hours of poll



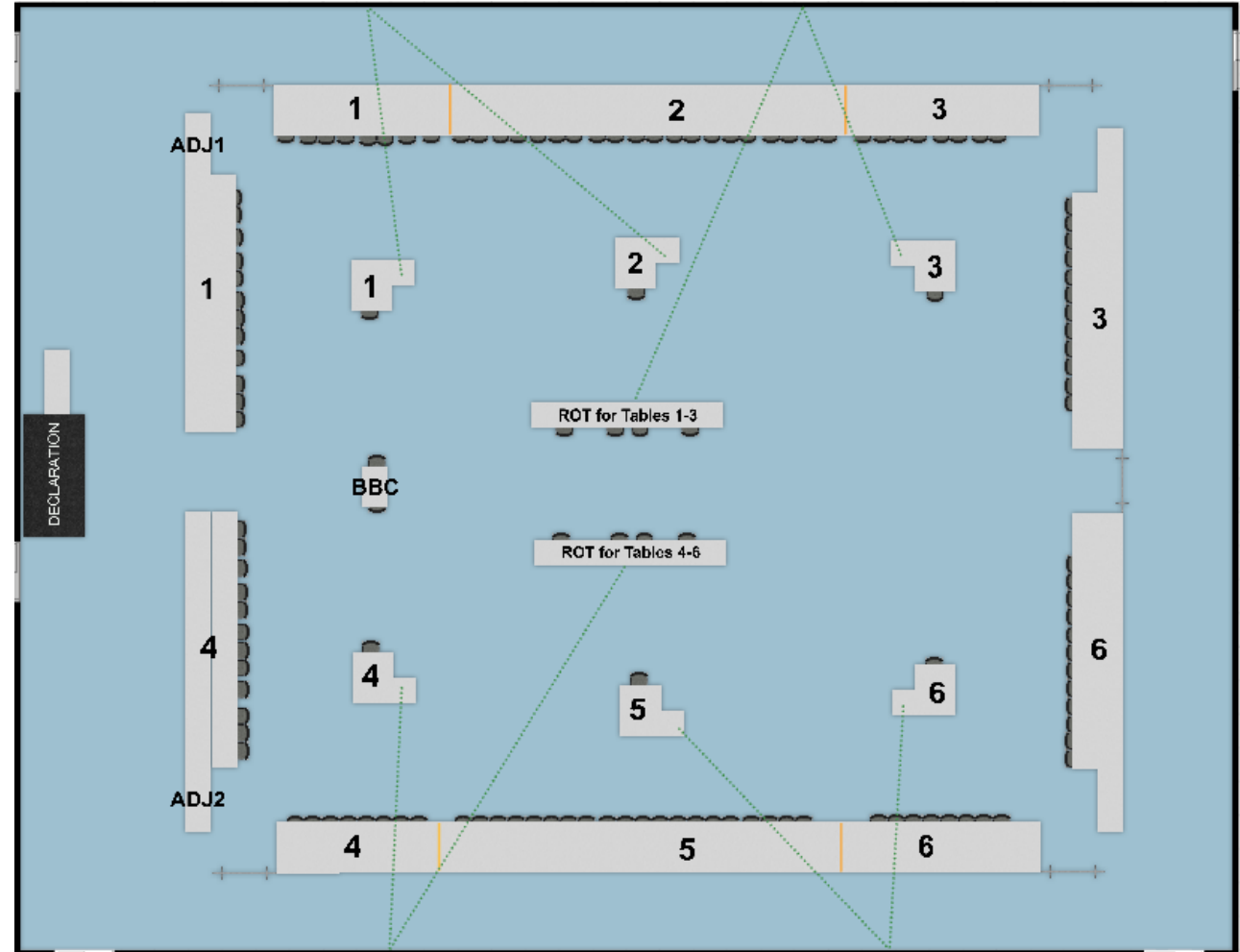
# Verification & count

- Three Hills Sports Park
- 120 counters + other staff
- 9am – 5pm

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## Order of events:

- District & Parish verification
- District counts
- Parish counts





# Reflections

- A lot of work!
- Voter ID and accessibility
- Processes
- Staffing & stations
- Verification & count
- Recharges

# Thanks for listening

- Is there anything we could have done differently?
- Were comms sufficient and timely?
- What worked well?
- To note: Polling district and station review