



Agenda

Meeting: **Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee**
Date: **24 September 2020**
Time: **7.00 pm**
Place: **Remote meeting**

To: **All members of the Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils Joint Committee**

The committee will consider the matters, listed below, at the date and time shown above. The meeting will be open to the press and public and will be streamed live at bit.ly/YouTubeMeetings.

Members of the committee who wish to have information on any matter arising on the agenda which is not fully covered in these papers are requested to give notice prior to the meeting to the Chairman or appropriate officer.

1. **Appointment of chairman**

The committee must appoint a district councillor to chair the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

3. **Declarations of interest (Pages 3 - 4)**

Members of the Council should declare any interests which fall under the following categories:

- a) discloseable pecuniary interests (DPI)
- b) other significant interests (OSI)
- c) voluntary announcements of other interests

4. **Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2020.

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Kate Clark – Tel: 01303 853267
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

5. **Community Safety Partnership Plan 2020/21**

A presentation will be provided to members.

6. **Government Consultation on the Planning White Paper - 'Planning for the Future'**

Overview and impact on the changes to planning policy and regulations.
A presentation will be provided to members.

Declarations of Interest

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

Note to the Code:

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

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Minutes

Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee

Held at:	Remote meeting
Date	Thursday, 16 July 2020
Present	Councillors Graham Allison, Laszlo Dudas, Frank Hobbs, Neil Matthews, Terence Mullard, Martin Sweeney and Paul Thomas
Apologies for Absence	None
Officers Present:	Kate Clark (Case Officer - Committee Services), Gavin Edwards (Performance and Improvement Specialist), Ewan Green (Director of Place), Sue Lewis (Committee Services Officer) and Tim Madden (Director of Transformation and Transition), Dean Pratt (Programme Manager) and Steve Weakley (Business Support Manager)
Others Present:	None

1. **Appointment of chairman**

Proposed by Councillor Paul Thomas
Seconded by Councillor Graham Allison and

RESOLVED:
Councillor Frank Hobbs is appointed Chairman for the meeting.

Affirmation received from all members.

2. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2020 were submitted, approved. The Chairman agreed that his electronic signature could be added to the minutes.

4. **Covid-19 Recovery Plan**

Cabinet report C/20/13 was attached to the agenda which provided an overview of the Council's response to date in relation to COVID-19 and sought approval of an overarching framework which will guide the development and delivery of the Council's COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

Mr Ewan Green, Director of Place, introduced this report which had been agreed at Cabinet on 24 June 2020 with an additional key theme added 'Environment and response to Climate Change' to the recovery framework.

Mr Green pointed out various successes during lockdown; the processing of top-up grants for small businesses; the successful achievement of staff working from home; set up of Community Hubs which has meant valuable contact with the district's vulnerable residents. He also mentioned that the financial position of the Council will be challenging.

Members heard about the five key themes of the Recovery Plan which will lead to the 'new normal' going forward linking in with the new Corporate Plan.

Members were keen to offer help and support in contributing to the success of the Recovery Plan. They felt that networking is a big priority ensuring all councils within the district work together. Mr Green was happy to provide information to all Parish/Town Councils on a regular basis.

The One Stop Shop in New Romney was mentioned, a valuable weekly service that has ceased at present due to COVID-19. This service will be looked at as part of the Customer Access Strategy with assurances that services will be available for all.

Members congratulated staff on the Community Hubs set up and the smooth and efficient processing of the various grants available to businesses.

5. **Update on re-opening of High Streets within the District**

Mr Green gave a presentation which looked at the safety aspects of re-opening the High Streets and the next steps. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Members noted the following:

- The introduction of Pavement Licences for the hospitality sector which will allow bars/restaurants to place tables and chairs outside their premises. Mr Green will provide further information.
- The mandatory introduction of face masks in all shops. It was noted that the district council can offer guidance to shoppers and retailers however they cannot enforce this new rule.

- There is some concern that shoppers are fearful when shopping, however face coverings may allay some fears.

In summing up this item, members agreed that the Council had carried out High Street re-opening in an excellent manner, however it is important to remember the smaller retail areas for example, Dunes Road in Greatstone. The Parish and Town Council members were all keen to help in any way they can.

6. **'My Account' demonstration and launch details**

As part of the Customer Access Strategy, a presentation was given to members detailing the introduction of an online self-service customer account called 'My Account'. This new service pulls a customer's council service activities into one place, providing real time information and transactional ability.

Members were given a live test system presentation and taken through some of the processes that will be available to customers. The planned launch of 'My Account' is 3 August 2020.

Further development enhancements will be released thereafter ensuring customer usage improvements.

Members noted the following:

- Percentage uptake is expected to be up to 80% and hopefully higher.
- Some customers will require 'educating' on the new system with the help of Customer Services, Comms and Social media.
- There are residents who do not have internet access and would be unable to use this new service
- Although there are no plans to develop an App, the service is mobile responsive.

Members thought this was an excellent addition to the Council's services and thanked officers for the insightful presentation.

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