

Meeting: **Council**
Date: **20 September 2023**
Time: **7.00 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone**

To: **All Members of the Council**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of the Council on the date and at the time shown above.

Anyone who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the Agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to give notice prior to the meeting to the Chairman or appropriate officer.

This meeting will be webcast live to the council's website at <https://folkestone-hythe.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>.

Please note there will be 37 seats available for members of the public, which will be reserved for those speaking or participating at the meeting. The remaining available seats will be given on a first come, first served basis.



Dr Susan Priest
Chief Executive

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest (Pages 7 - 8)**

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Jemma West – Tel: 01303 853369
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our
website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Members of the Council should declare any discloseable pecuniary interest or any other significant interests in any item/s on this agenda.

3. **Minutes (Pages 9 - 14)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the council held on 26 July 2023 and to authorise the Chair of the Council to sign them as a correct record.

4. **Chair's Communications**

5. **Petitions**

There are no petitions to be presented.

6. **Questions from the Public**

1. **From Mr D Turner to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Portfolio holder for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

How will the new boundary changes effect the council in particular with regards Otterpool? Westenhanger and the old race course now fall into Ashford Parliamentary constituency.

2. **From Mr P Gane to Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of the Council and Portfolio holder for Otterpool Park and Planning Policy**

The White Lion Public House building on Cheriton High Street has long been an iconic part of Cheriton's street scene. However, over the last 15 years it has been unused and fallen into disrepair and is now seemingly at risk of collapse. Most residents would like to see any development keep the previously impressive frontage of the building. The Cheriton Town Ward Councillors believes that any such redevelopment should retain the historic frontage if technically feasible, be of an appropriate scale, utilise the ground floor for a community or retail use and the upper parts for social housing to help the community at large.

Cheriton West Town Councillors on behalf of Local residents therefore ask will Folkestone and Hythe District Council use compulsory purchase powers, or any other powers available and appropriate, to buy the building and redevelop the site?

3. **From Mrs M Lawes to Councillor P Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Transport, Regulatory Services and Building Control**

Please can all 1 hour parking be reduced or removed in Burrow Road (none), Southbourne Road (none), Dudley Road (bottom of

road), East Cliff (none) Penfold (2 spaces top and 2 spaces bottom of road) and Warren Road (none), with 1 hour to remain in other roads and enforced?

7. Questions from Councillors

(Questions can be found on www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk from noon 2 days before the meeting, on Modern.gov, under the agenda for this meeting).

Up to 45 minutes is allowed for questions from councillors.

8. Announcements of the Leader of the Council

To receive a report from the Leader of the Council on the business of the cabinet and on matters that the leader considers should be drawn to the council's attention. The leader shall have 10 minutes to make his announcements.

The opposition groups will have an opportunity to reply to the leader's remarks. The opposition group leaders shall each have 5 minutes to respond after which the Leader of the Council will have a right of reply. Any right of reply will be for a maximum duration of 5 minutes.

9. Portfolio Holder reports to Council (Pages 15 - 22)

10. Opposition Business

The Labour Group has raised the following matter:

Council Notes:

The dumping of sewage into the sea continues to be a matter of grave concern. Unless you have checked in advance on the internet, there is no public information at the main beaches in our District telling people whether the sea is safe to swim in on a given day.

Annual information regarding the quality of bathing water is provided by the environment agency and available on the council's website.

Information about the bathing water must be actively disseminated and promptly made available to the public during the bathing season in an easily accessible place in the near vicinity of the bathing water. As required by law.

Council believes:

That all the main coastal bathing areas across the district should have prominent signage displaying:

- The current status of the seawater, and pollution incidents; and

- The bathing water quality in general.

Council Resolves:

To make it known to full council what, if any, system is currently in place across the District to provide information about bathing water – including pollution incidents, both on the councils digital platforms and in an easily accessible place in the near vicinity of the bathing water.

If no system is currently in place, then to refer to cabinet to approve a system which delivers these outcomes.

This system should consider but not be limited to: Digital displays in the vicinity of bathing sites which access real time data from Southern Water's Beachbouy software. A system of flags which is clearly identifiable.

Before implementing this proposal, funding would need to be agreed and secured for this initiative.

To refer this to cabinet to determine a report looking at options to deliver this outcome. Either through:

- Solely council funded
- In partnership with Southern Water, the Environment Agency or a collaboration of all parties.

Debates on opposition business shall be limited to 30 minutes. If the time limit is reached or the debate concludes earlier, the leader of the group raising the item shall have a right of reply.

The Council shall:

- a) Note the issue raised and take no further action;
- b) Refer the issue to the cabinet or relevant overview and scrutiny committee, as the case may be for their observations before deciding whether to make a decision on the issue;
- c) Agree to examine the matter as part of a future scrutiny programme;
- d) Adopt the issue raised by opposition business provided that the decision so made is within the policy framework and budget.

11. **Motions on Notice**

The following motions have been placed on the agenda in the order received; up to 60 minutes shall be allowed for debates on motions on notice:

1. **From Councillor McConville, Leader of the Labour Group**

Council Notes

- Since 2010, toilet twinning has been providing sanitation assistance to communities in countries in extreme poverty, often affected by conflict and/or natural disasters.
- Many residents, businesses and organisations across the UK have twinned toilets to generate funds to provide facilities in these communities.
- Many councils of all levels across the UK have twinned their public toilets within this scheme.

Council Believes

That by leading by example, many more residents, business and organisations within the district may be open to making a similar commitment.

Council Resolves

- To twin the 3 new changing places toilets with the charity “Toilet Twinning”.
- To pay £180, £60 per toilet, to achieve this.
- To display the certificates received within the changing places toilets once opened

12. **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) (Pages 23 - 64)**

This report sets out the Council’s policy on the use of directed surveillance and covert human intelligence sources under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

13. **Members' Allowances - Independent Remuneration Panel (Pages 65 - 68)**

This report recommends that the term of the current three Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) be extended a further four years to November 2023, and also that recruitment be commenced to fill the vacant fourth IRP position.

14. **Transformation - 2023-25 (Pages 69 - 76)**

This report sets out an approach to transformation spanning a two-year period. The transformation seeks to reduce management duplication, improve efficiency, ensure that organisation capacity is focused on the Council’s priorities, and deliver financial savings by making the best use of IT, Premises, Asset & Contract Management and reducing the overall number of staff across the Council.