

DOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the DOVER TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Maison Dieu House, Biggin Street, Dover, Kent on WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

The Right Worshipful the Town Mayor, Councillor S Jones in the chair

Councillors

Councillor Bedi	Councillor Defriend
Councillor Bradley	Councillor Lamoon
Councillor Calder	Councillor Sawbridge
Councillor Collor	Councillor Verrill

Before the meeting started Councillor Verrill apologised for his inappropriate comments concerning the Mayor, Town Clerk and Town Council staff which were made at a recent Committee meeting. The Town Clerk accepted the apology on behalf of herself and the Town Council staff.

130. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Council noted apologies for absence from Councillors Biggs, Bird, Collins, Cowan & Shread (personal commitments) & Councillors Brivio, Kember, Mrs Wanstall & Wanstall (ill health).

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Collor made a VAIO declaration of interests as required by law concerning Agenda item 14 as he was a former Trustee of the Roman Painted House Trust and left the meeting before that item.

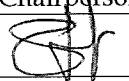
132. MINUTES

The Town Council approved the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

133. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The Town Council noted the Town Mayor's list of engagements since the last meeting.

Chairperson 
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134. PROGRESS SHEETS

The Town Council noted that there are no outstanding resolutions made by the Town Council.

135. MAISON DIEU

The Council considered the Chairperson's report of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, concerning the refurbishment of the Maison Dieu.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council provide funding of £100,000 in 2023/4 towards the restoration of the Maison Dieu taken from the Masion Dieu reserve, the General Reserve and the Town Regeneration budget; and to commit to a binding agreement to fund up to £20,000 of access benefitting Dover residents and businesses to the Maison Dieu per annum for five more years with a report back to Town Council after each year. All contracts, negotiations and agreements delegated to the Proper Officer in consultation with the Chairperson of Dover Town Council.

136. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Town Council considered the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, 23<sup>rd</sup> October & 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

RESOLVED: That Planning Committee Minute Nos. 80 to 90, 101 to 108 and 120 to 129 be accepted as a true record.

137. CIVIC & SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The Town Council considered the minutes of the Civic & Special Projects Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

RESOLVED: That Civic & Special Projects Committee Minute Nos. 91 to 100 be accepted as a true record.

138. FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Town Council considered the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

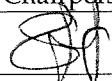
RESOLVED: That Finance & General Purposes Committee Minute Nos. 110 to 119 be accepted as a true record.

139. COMMUNITY & SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Town Council noted Urgent Decision UD23/24-003 of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023, concerning the cancellation of the Community & Services Committee Meeting scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

140. TOWN COUNCIL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Town Council approved the schedule of payments made by the Town Council for September & October 2023.

Chairperson


RESOLVED: That the Town Council approved the schedules of payments made for September & October 2023 and were signed by the Chairperson.

The Town Council considered the Town Council budget out-turn report to the end of October 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approved the budget out-turn report to the end of October 2023.

The Town Council noted that the 2024/25 budget process is currently underway. The Town Council budget will be resolved at the Full Town Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**141. COUNCILLOR WARD GRANTS**

The Town Council noted the out-turn of the 2023-24 Councillors' Ward Grant scheme (handed out at the meeting).

**142. TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE & EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION**

The Town Council noted Councillor Biggs' resignation from the Planning Committee and Councillor Brivio's resignation from the Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee.

The Town Council noted Councillors Bird & Sawbridge's report concerning the current position concerning City of Sanctuary accreditation.

The Town Council noted Councillor Brivio's report concerning recent meetings of the Dover Fairtrade Network Group, RV Coleman Trust and the White Cliffs Community Rail Partnership (handed out at the meeting).

The Town Council noted an update on Dover District Council from DTC's DDC Councillors (handed out at the meeting).

Councillor Collor left the meeting at 6.19pm


**143. ROMAN PAINTED HOUSE TRUST**

The Town Council considered the Chairperson's report of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, concerning an update on the Roman Painted House Trust from the current Trustees. The Trustees present gave a short presentation and answered Councillors questions after which, and the Mayor thanked the Trustees for their interesting and informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council to fund up to £5,000, conditional on the agreement and necessary safety and access works by DDC, to the Dover Roman Painted House Trust to enable the regular opening to the Public of the House and the provision of a programme of events for Friends of the RPH. This will be funded from the Events Facilitation provision, within the Civic & Special Project Committee's budget. All negotiations, agreements and contracts to be delegated to the Proper Officer in consultation with the Chairpersons of the Council.

**144. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Town Council considered a question from Mr. M Webster of the Dover Society pursuant to Standing Orders 1 (d) to (m) inclusive and 3b (v).

Chairperson


Q1: *Why was there next to no publicity or advertisement given to the unique, historic, once every seven years events? Why was there no subsequent press coverage or photos in the local newspapers? Sue Jones, Mayor, and current Speaker, in her speech to the assembled lunch company spoke of her desire that an event such as the one being celebrated should embrace the young folk of Dover, apart from all the other residents of the town, so they can all share in the ancient heritage and tradition which this ceremony engendered. I for one fail to see how that can ever be achieved if there is no wide publicity given. As it happens the few public witnesses were those who chanced to be on the streets as the procession passed by.*

A: I am tremendously proud to be Speaker of the Cinque Ports and hosting Speaker's Day in Dover for the second time was a source of enormous pleasure. It is of course always difficult in these digital times with endless events and demands for attention to reach every audience. The majority of people do not read local newspapers; no staff of journalists are maintained. Despite this we issued a press release on 22 August and again on 4 October to all the local press contacts; put an article in the edition of the Community Ad magazine with its 10,000 plus circulation in Dover published on 12th September; and listed the event on the DTC website and Destination Dover media on 12 September.

Billboards are hugely expensive and aimed at national campaigns booked up months if not years in advance. Local councils in addition to all this face at best indifference and at worst the overt hostility of most of the general public. Taking into account our experience of successfully reaching target audiences we focused our awareness raising to those interested in heritage and the young people of Dover who will hopefully carry on our traditions and civic pride. Invitations were sent to participate in the procession and witness the event to all the Dover cadet forces, the Scout and Guide Councils as well as the Girls Brigade and the senior schools in Dover. Most did not respond and many did not attend but we had almost 70 young participants on the day.

Invitations were sent to the 500 members of the Dover Society – through their memberships of other organisations and their friends and families, the event reached another 1000 + people. In addition to our 17 Councillors, we invited our honorary freemen and over 50 other community activists and leaders of all kind – in person – reaching via their word of mouth (always the most effective for of advertising) another couple of hundred people.

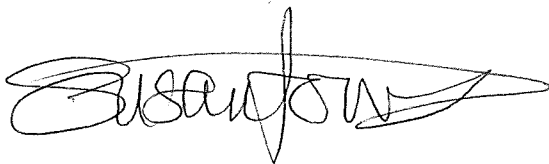
The local creative, swimming and LGBTQ+ communities were reached through working with Future Foundry and including the Mercedes puppet to lead the parade.

I recognise that there is always more that could be done but publicising the event was a priority – a campaign was planned and carried out and the event was a source of great enjoyment for all who took part and all who witnessed it.

145. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Town Council noted that the date of the next Town Council meeting will be Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The meeting finished at 6.52pm



THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE TOWN MAYOR & SPEAKER OF THE CINQUE PORTS  
(Councillor Sue Jones)  
CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson