



ADDITIONAL FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Additional Full Council Meeting of Newhaven Town Council
held at Meeching Hall, 2 Fort Road, Newhaven
on **Tuesday February 12th 2026**, at **7.15pm**

PRESENT: Councillors: Kim Bishop (Town Mayor/Chair)
Mark Wardle (Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chair)
Shaun Boniface (Chair Regen., & Strategic Dev., Committee)
Lesley Boniface (Chair Environment & Amenities Committee)
Jessa Chapman
Jo Pettitt
James Harrison
Jan Woodling
Graham Amy
Pinky McLean-Knight
Sarah Hale

ALSO ATTENDING: Ken Dry (Town Clerk)
Stephen Honey (Executive Officer)
Alison Campbell (RFO)
X8 Members of the Public
X3 Member of Public (On-Line)

C100/26 The Chair opened the meeting and stated that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be made publicly available on the Newhaven Town Council website for 28 days followed by its removal and deletion.

C101/26 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Cllrs. Carr, Cook, Macleod, Saunders, Watts, Young, and Taylor.

C102/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - DISCLOSURE BY COUNCILLORS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA, AND WHETHER THE COUNCILLOR REGARDS THEIR INTEREST AS PREJUDICIAL UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT.**

None declared.

C103/26 **TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2026 ARE AN ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING.**

RESOLVED:

That these minutes be signed by the Chair as a true record of the proceedings.

C104/26 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

None received.

C105/26 TO FURTHER CONSIDER ITS PREVIOUS RESOLUTION TO SELL MEECHING HALL.

The Town Clerk summarised his report.

Individual Councillors then spoke in turn to convey their specific opinions on the matter at hand.

The Chair then opened the meeting for a 15-minute period for members of the public to voice their opinions on the matter for a maximum of 2 minutes per speaker.

The meeting heard from; Ms. Diets Verschuren, Ms. Donna Lonsdale-O'Brien, Ms. Lisa Fairfield and Mr. Nick Pynn regarding their views being against the sale.

Cllr. L. Boniface, **PROPOSED**, That Meeching Hall be immediately placed on the open market for freehold sale and that officers update the Council on all salient developments as this progressed.

Cllr. McLean-Knight requested that should the council resolve to put Meeching Hall up for sale, then ideally any sale should be to some form of community group or for a community purpose.

The Town Clerk explained the potential ramifications of such caveats upon the sale, though indicated that he would seek further advice from those Commercial Agents already contacted who could be engaged to effect the same.

Cllr. L. Boniface agreed with this, and the following substantive **PROPOSITION** was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Wardle, that,

1. The Town Clerk seek the comments and observations from Commercial Agents regarding potential caveats surrounding the mode of sale for councillor consideration via email, and resultant of this,
2. That Meeching Hall be immediately placed on the open market for freehold sale, with officers providing updates to the Council on all salient developments as this is progressed.

Prior to a vote by those councillors present Cllr. Hale requested that the vote be recorded.

The result of the vote was as follows;

In Favour (8) – Cllrs Wardle, L. Boniface, S. Boniface, Chapman, Pettitt, Woodling, Amy and Bishop.

Against (2) – Cllrs Hale and McLean-Knight

Abstained (1) – Cllr. Harrison.

As a result of this vote, it was **RESOLVED** by majority that,

1. The Town Clerk seeks the comments and observations from Commercial Agents regarding potential caveats surrounding the mode of sale for council consideration via email, and resultant of this,

2. Meeching Hall be immediately placed on the open market for freehold sale, with officers providing updates to the Council on all salient developments as this is progressed.

C106/26 TO CONSIDER THE ENGAGEMENT OF A SUITABLE COMMERCIAL AGENT REGARDING THE SALE OF MEECHING HALL SHOULD THE PREVIOUS MATTER BE RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY – ORAL REPORT BY THE TOWN CLERK.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that he had already been in contact with x4 reputable Commercial Agents regarding the sale of Meeching Hall. Of these four, one has yet to reply or make contact.

As part of these discussions all have indicated a fee of 1.5% of the sale value of the Hall and therefore the Town Clerk will be seeking further information on each via their websites etc., and following the preceding resolution (C105/26), their respective professional views regarding any caveats/restrictions surrounding the sale would be sought and disseminated to councillors for consideration.

C107/26 TO AUTHORISE AN INVOICE FROM LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE BY-ELECTION FOR A NEWHAVEN TOWN COUNCILLOR ON OCTOBER 9TH 2025.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that he had sought clarification from the Democratic Services Manager at Lewes District Council concerning the total invoice amount of £14,232.62 for the By-Election held on October 9th 2025.

The Town Clerk was informed that it was the costs surrounding Postal Ballots and their postage costs (Royal Mail) as well as that of the Polling Cards that significantly contributed to this cost.

Following discussion it was,

RESOLVED

That the Invoice from Lewes District Council of £14,232.62 in respect of the By-Election of October 9th be paid.

C108/26 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC - TO RESOLVE THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 1(2) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960, IN VIEW OF THE COMMERCIAL SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED.

RESOLVED.

C109/26 TO FURTHER CONSIDER THE RECEPTION OF ASSETS & SERVICES VIA DEVOLUTION.

The Executive Officer re-appraised councillors of their previous selection of assets as part of this ongoing exercise and informed the meeting that nomination papers for each were required by Lewes District Council by March 31st 2026.

The council **RESOLVED** by a majority, that the three listed car park assets be removed from their preferences and that the three listed Denton Island Yard, Mooring and Chandlery areas be added.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:28pm.

Date:

Town Mayor

DRAFT