

CONFEDERATION OF THE CINQUE PORTS

**Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Joint Committee held at
the Guildhall, Sandwich, on
Monday, 22 May 2017 at 12:00 noon.**

PRESENT

HASTINGS	Mayor, Councillor Judy Rogers Deputy Mayor, Councillor Nigel Sinden
SANDWICH	Mayor, Councillor Paul Graeme (Speaker in the Chair) Ms Laura Fidler
DOVER	Mayor, Councillor Neil Rix Deputy Mayor, Councillor Roger Walkden Town Clerk, Ms Allison Burton
NEW ROMNEY	Mayor, Councillor Peter Coe Deputy Mayor, Councillor Patricia Rolfe Town Clerk, Mrs Catherine Newcombe
HYPHE	Mayor, Councillor Paul Peacock Councillor Mrs Ann Maine Town Clerk, Nick Hilditch
RYE	Deputy Mayor, Councillor Michael Boyd Councillor Bernie Fiddimore (past Mayor)
WINCHELSEA	Mayor, Jurat Cynthia Feast Deputy Mayor, Jurat John Rodley Town Clerk, Mrs Angela Hill
DEAL	Mayor, Councillor David Cronk Deputy Mayor, Councillor Marlene Burnham Ms Lorna Crow
RAMSGATE	Mayor, Councillor Trevor Shonk Town Clerk, Richard Styles
FAVERSHAM	Mayor, Councillor Mrs Shiel Campbell Deputy Mayor, Councillor Trevor Abram Town Clerk, Ms Louise Bareham
FOLKESTONE	Mayor, Councillor Roger West Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ann Berry Town Clerk, Mrs Jennifer Childs
MARGATE	Mayor, Councillor Rosamund Dixon Deputy Mayor, Councillor Julie Dellar Hon. Town Clerk, Alan Miles
LYDD	Mayor, Councillor Bob Jones Town Clerk, Mrs Angela Alexander
TENTERDEN	Mayor, Councillor Justin Nelson
ALSO PRESENT:	Mayoress of Sandwich, Mrs Sue Graeme Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, Brig Matthew Bazeley Registrar, Ian Russell Mrs Marcia Russell Admiralty Judge Surrogate, Peter Sherred Mrs Mary Sherred Lord Warden's Cadet, L/C Olivia Moroney SLt (SCC) Sarah Butler

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

The Town Clerk of Hastings (Joint Solicitor)
The Deputy Mayor of Sandwich
The Town Clerk of Rye

The Deputy Mayor of Ramsgate
The Deputy Mayor of Lydd
The Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk of Tenterden

The Speakership having passed the previous day, by *septennial revolution*, to the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Sandwich, Councillor Paul Graeme, he took the oath of office before opening the meeting and welcoming delegates and guests.

The Speaker informed the meeting that Peter Sherred had recently completed 25 years service as Admiralty Judge Surrogate of the Cinque Ports. He thanked Peter, on behalf of the Confederation and presented him with a gift. A bouquet was also presented to Mary Sherred.

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2016 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

2 ACCOUNTS 2016-17

The audited accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 had been circulated with the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts be approved.

3 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2017-18

It was **RESOLVED** that the subscription for the current year be set at £250.00

4 PROMOTION WORKING GROUP

A report on the activities of the Working Group during the last year had been circulated with the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

5 SPEAKER'S DAY

The Speaker distributed a note on proposed arrangements for Speaker's Day, 7 October 2017, and said that he looked forward to welcoming everyone again on that occasion.

6 “CIVIC UMBRELLAS”

The Deputy Mayor of New Romney reported that, following the extreme wet weather conditions during last year's Speaker's Day, she had been exploring the possibility of a supply of umbrellas, with the Ports' arms on the canopy, being made available for purchase by member towns. In addition to offering protection for delicate and expensive mayoral robes etc. at future Confederation events (which would be preferable to a variety of dissimilar umbrellas being carried in procession), they could also be used, as necessary, for local civic events.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Joint Solicitors be requested to investigate further the cost of purchasing a supply of good quality umbrellas, for re-sale to member towns, for use at Confederation and civic events when necessary, and to circulate details to member town clerks, with a view to their being made available in time for Speaker's Day 2017, subject to the minimum order quantity being achieved.

7 BOOKS OF CONDOLENCE

Faversham reported that they were considering local arrangements in the event of the death of a senior member of the Royal family and enquired whether other member towns would be interested in securing, in advance, a supply of suitable books of condolence featuring the Port's arms, so that these could be made available quickly, as the need arose, for signature locally.

The Mayor of Hastings reported that the Borough Council had already made appropriate arrangements and she was asked to share the details with the Registrar.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Joint Solicitors be requested to investigate further the cost of purchasing a supply of suitable books of condolence, for re-sale to member towns, and to circulate details to member town clerks.

8 MAYOR MAKING AND THE ROTATION OF THE SPEAKERSHIP

A report by the Registrar had been circulated to town clerks, before the meeting.

The Cinque Ports Mayors' Association had asked the Confederation to consider the proposition that member towns should seek to avoid the creation of short-term holders of the office of Speaker, to avoid devaluing the role for the incumbent and the expense of acquiring an additional past-Speaker's badge. To obviate this situation, Hythe had incorporated the following provision in their standing orders:-

'In a year in which the Town holds the Speakership of the Cinque Ports the Annual Meeting will be held on the Thursday following the passing of the Speakership to the next Town, unless it coincides with an election year.'

Other head ports had addressed the issue less formally, by adjusting the date or time of their annual meeting, in years when they held the Speakership, to fall after the formal transfer to the next town or by re-electing the sitting Speaker for a further term as mayor.

Councillor Fiddimore (Rye) spoke as one who had held office as Speaker for only 16 days, before handing-over to the Mayor of New Romney. She felt honoured to have held the office, albeit briefly, and had paid for her own badge.

It was **RESOLVED** that head ports be advised of the concerns expressed by the Cinque Ports Mayors' Association and the terms of the standing order adopted by Hythe in an attempt to avoid such a situation.

9 HMS KENT

The Registrar reported that the Confederation's affiliated ship, HMS Kent, was currently 4 months into her "deep maintenance" at Devonport dockyard. Most members of the Ship's company had dispersed to other ships or establishments leaving five, under the command of Lt Cdr Dominic Andrews, to oversee the work being undertaken by Babcock International and Royal Navy engineers. In addition to a thorough overhaul of all systems, major upgrades would include installation of a completely new galley and the latest missile defence system. A new Ship's company is due to be formed next March, to be followed by a period of intensive training and sea trials, before Kent returns to operational duties, towards the end of 2018.

Lt Cdr Andrews had offered representatives of affiliates, including Cinque Port mayors, the opportunity to visit HMS Kent next month, while she is in dry dock. Numbers would be restricted. The Registrar would circulate details shortly via town clerks, asking those mayors interested in taking part in such a visit to respond by the end of May.

10 ROYAL GARDEN PARTIES

The Deputy Mayor of Deal enquired whether Cinque Port mayors (as such) received invitations to attend Royal garden parties at Buckingham Palace. This appeared not to be the case, but the Registrar agreed to make enquires as to whether it might be possible for an invitation to be extended to the Speaker, each year.