MINUTES of a **CIVIC & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING** held at **TOWN HALL, Felixstowe,** on **Wednesday 21 October 2026** at **7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr M Sharman (Chair)
Cllr C Franklin (Vice-Chair)
Cllr D Aitchison
Cllr S Bennett
Cllr J Candy
Cllr A Folley
Cllr D Rowe

OFFICERS: Mr A Tadjrishi (Town Clerk)
Mrs D Frost (Deputy Town Clerk)
Ms H Miles (Communications Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 Member of the public *(in the Chamber)*
1 Member of the public *(via Zoom)*

229. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

230. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from **Cllr N Barber** and **Cllr S Harkin**.

231. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Other Registerable Interests were noted. Where a specific item on the agenda was directly related to any Members' declared interest, their participation was restricted in accordance with the Code of Conduct:

Member(s)	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Cllr S Bennett Cllr J Candy Cllr A Folley	All	Other Registerable Interest (as Members of East Suffolk Council)
Cllr M Sharman	#235	Other Registerable Interest (as a Committee Member of Felixstowe Society)

Members were reminded that any further interests arising during the meeting should be declared at the appropriate time.

232. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

In relation to Minute 165(iv), the Chair clarified that acknowledgement of Felixstowe Town Council's support was a requirement attached to the award of grants, rather than a request made to recipients.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Civic & Community Committee meeting held on 9 September 2026 be confirmed as a true record, subject to the amendment to Minute 165(iv) as noted above.

233. CIVIC & COMMUNITY BUDGET REPORT

The Committee considered the income and expenditure reports for the Civic & Community budget to 30 September 2026.

The Committee discussed the position in respect of the Council magazine and Felixstowe in Flower, noting that performance in respect of the latter was below anticipated levels.

It was RESOLVED that the Budget Report to 30 September 2026 be received and noted with no further action required at this time.

234. DRAFT BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS 2027-28

The Committee considered its draft budget proposals for the 2027-28 financial year.

Members discussed the budget provision for Felixstowe in Flower, expressing concern about the implications of operating with a reduced budget. It was noted that a wholesale review of the initiative had previously been agreed by the Committee, and the need for an operational review during the forthcoming year was reiterated.

RESOLVED that the draft budget for 2027-28 be recommended to the Finance & Governance Committee as presented.

235. OCCASIONAL GRANTS ROUND 2 2026/27

Committee considered completed applications for funding received by the deadline of 30 September 2026 for the second round of Occasional Grants. The total funding requested was £16,558.40.

Those Members having declared interests in accordance with Minute 231 above absented themselves from the Chamber during consideration of the relevant applications and voting thereon.

It was RESOLVED that grants totalling £9,707.70 be awarded under Round 2 of the Occasional Grants scheme for 2026/27, as detailed below, and approved for payment:

i. **£250 to the 1st Kirton Squirrel Drey towards first term costs, badges and Christmas party (with the applicant encouraged to approach Kirton Parish Council);**

ii. **£1,113 to ActivLives towards the ActivKurling / Boccia Group – Felixstowe;**

iii. **£1,500 to Breast Friends towards their sewing group and other events;**

iv. **£539.70 to Citizens Advice East Suffolk towards the purchase of 10 noise-cancelling headphones;**

v. **£1,000 to Felixstowe Radio towards outside broadcast equipment;**

vi. **£440 to Felixstowe Sea Angling Society towards modernisation of its club hut, including the installation of LED lighting;**

vii. **£380 to Felixstowe Society towards restoration of the Fisons commemorative plaque in the Spa Gardens;**

viii. **£300 to Friends of Fairfield & Colneis towards Microbits for Colneis Junior School computing;**

ix. **£1,000 to Home-Start Suffolk towards volunteer recruitment and training;**

x. **£600 to Manna Pop Up Shop towards a Christmas event;**

xi. **£180 to Save the Children Fund towards the Santa's Ride around Town '26 tracker and sweets;**

xii. **£500 to Soul Salvage CIC towards lantern-making for the Felixstowe Lantern Parade in December 2026;**

xiii. **£1,000 to Suffolk Family Carers towards its Feeling Stronger to Care and Connect – Felixstowe sessions;**

xiv. **£905 to Suffolk Mind towards a sensory bench for GreenCare Felixstowe Allotment.**

At 9.29pm, Members agreed to extend the meeting, which was approaching two hours in duration.

236. FELIXSTOWE CULTURAL STRATEGY – PROGRESS UPDATE

Members welcomed the progress of the Felixstowe Cultural Strategy Working Group and the continued development of work arising from the UK Town of Culture 2028 Expression of Interest, including the exploration of potential funding and partnership opportunities.

It was RESOLVED that the progress reported be noted.

237. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 9.34pm. The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 16 December 2026 at 7.30pm.

Date: _____ Chairman: _____