

THE CINQUE PORTS MAYOR'S ASSOCIATION

VICE CHAIRMAN'S Report to AGM on Saturday 6th September 2025

As you will see from the Minutes of our last AGM in Sandwich on Saturday 1st June 2024, Rochelle Saunders was inaugurated as Chair and myself, Paul Carey of Rye, as Vice Chair.

However, on Monday 29th July 2024, Rochelle resigned as Chair. Having consulted with the other Officers of the Association, I have been acting in the Chair role ever since, initially as a surprise to our Members at our lunch in Folkestone on Saturday 7th September 2024, when the situation had to be explained.

Our next lunch at Tenterden on Saturday 1st March 2025 was well attended from afar with healthy regalia sales, especially as our Secretary was in hospital undergoing a hip replacement and our Social Secretary Janet was multi-rolling both the event, being a sub agent to regalia items, and carrying out secretarial functions.

Incredibly, only a few days later our Hon Sec was able to service a Quorate Executive Meeting in Faversham on Wednesday 26th March 2025.

Some of the key decisions from that meeting were as per that meeting minutes circulated,

- a) Rochelle Saunders of Lydd be recognised as the elected chair 2024/25 year.
- b) Myself Paul Carey of Rye “see out” the year as Vice Chair.
- c) Chair's Collar had become rather out of date with missing Bars mostly due to Covid. Mike Melvin had previously initiated a quote from Peter Farrow of Rye as previous supplier and I have picked up on this. Currently the price of the bare bar plus the engraving (as there are a different number of letters per name) works out at £50 per Bar. You will see in the Executive Minutes that The Association have agreed to fund this but would be grateful if any member who can, be invited to pay for their own Bar. My own count of ‘Missing Bars’ is 2021 Robin Edwards of Margate, 2021 Judy Rodgers of Hastings, 2023 Michael Melvin of Winchelsea and 2024 Rochelle Saunders of Lydd. If anyone else would like to check this and that the spellings are correct we would be grateful.

“NOT THE AGM IN JUNE” in Hastings

Our Hon Secretary Paull Thomas and Social Secretary Janet Thomas have worked extremely hard to ‘get this off the ground’.

- a) Finding a venue on a Saturday in June clashes with the Wedding season and more importantly
- b) Being quorate

In initially we had a booking with the Victoria Hotel, later to be told that it had been double booked and we had been ‘bumped’ but Paul and Janet were able to get a booking with the adjoining Masonic Hall on the same date. The arrangement with most venues is

currently to pay up front for the room hire and then for meals separately i.e. should numbers be low, the venue is not the loser.

Despite several reminders there was sparse response and even less positive in that we would not have been quarante. Therefore, we had to cancel and lose our deposit.

We realise that Hastings was a long way from North Kent let alone Brightlingsea. Also that to avoid competing with Weddings we might have to consider some weekend meetings/lunches?

Several of you have questioned how we run the Association?

It's simple, just as in most Town Councils the Clerk is the anchor, in our case that is the Hon Sec and often plus that persons partner has filled the role as Social Secretary. We are thankful for 20 plus years that the Deardens gave to the Association. Paul plus Janet team have been admirable successors, willingly giving their time and incurring personal expense, especially as Paul is also a Town and District Councillor with heavy portfolios.

I give heart filled thanks and I'm sure that the Association do as well.