

## Folkestone Town Council

**MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting of the Folkestone Town Council held at the Town Council Offices on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Ann Berry, Paul Bingham, Ray Field, Peter Gane, Jonathan Graham, Nicola Keen, Michelle Keutenius, David Horton, Dylan Jeffrey, Mary Lawes, Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Belinda Walker, Richard Wallace and Roger West.

**ABSENT:**

**In attendance:** Phil Cross (Finance Officer), Georgina Wilson (Executive Assistant)

**1821. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Danny Brook and Tim Prater, and the Town Clerk.

**1822. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**1823. MINUTES**

The Full Council was asked to receive the Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign them as a correct record.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor David Horton

Voting: F: 15, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

**1824. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

**1825. MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the events that she had attended since the last Council meeting and thanked the organisers of these events.

**1826. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

Voting: F:15, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

## 1827. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

**RESOLVED:** To approve the amended schedule for 2021/22 and the provisional schedule for 2022/23 with the provision of amending meetings held during the purdah period.

Proposed: Councillor Jonathan Graham  
Seconded: Councillor Paul Bingham  
Voting: F:16, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

## 1828. FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2022/23

Councillors discussed the merits of restricting the precept to an increase of 2% or 3% due to the current financial pressures on residents and the increasing costs of living. It was also stressed how important it was to ensure that the Town Council continues to provide services, including the play parks, which the Town Council has recently taken on, without depleting its reserves for future years.

**RESOLVED:** To receive report C/22/302, to approve the budget of £941,550 for 2022/23 with a Precept of £915,510 (being a 3% increase for a Band D property) and using £26,040 from the General Fund and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign the Precept demand on the District Council.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville  
Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Graham  
Voting: F:9, Ag: 7, Ab: 0

**PROPOSED:** To receive report C/22/302, to approve the budget of £941,550 for 2022/23 with a Precept of £906,620 (being a 2% increase for a Band D property) and using £34,930 from the General Fund and to authorise the Town Mayor to sign the Precept demand on the District Council.

Proposed: Councillor Dylan Jeffrey  
Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

This motion was lost.

## EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The press and public are to be excluded for the remainder of this meeting under Section 1, sub-section 2, of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

Proposed: Councillor Michelle Keutenius  
Seconded: Councillor Ann Berry  
Voting: F:16, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

**1829. TOWN GRANTS**

**RESOLVED: To amend the award to Music and Arts for the Shepway Community to £1,875 (i.e., 75% of the requested amount rather than 50%) as the percentage scored was higher than others within the same grouping.**

Proposed: Councillor Belinda Walker  
Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Graham  
Voting: F: 10, Ag: 1, Ab: 5

There were discussions around the way to proceed with the grants process in the future. An additional round of town grants will be held at the Council meeting on 17th March to ensure all organisations get time to apply if they missed the previous deadline due to the Christmas period.

**RESOLVED: To approve all grants as set out in the exempt table (subject to the above resolution) and to hold another round of grants at the Full Council Meeting on 17th March 2022.**

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly  
Seconded: Councillor David Horton  
Voting: F: 15, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

**1830. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.00pm

The meeting ended at 7.40pm

.....Town Mayor