

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held at Folkestone Town Council Offices, Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone on Thursday, 19 December 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors D Brook, P Gane, D Jeffrey, M Lawes, J Meade and T Prater.

OFFICERS PRESENT: P Cross (Finance Officer).

1317. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors P Bingham, R Field, N Keen and C McConville.

1318. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1319. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17 October 2019.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 17 October 2019 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor D Jeffrey

Seconded: Councillor D Brook

Voting: F:6 Ag:0, Ab:0

The Committee was asked to receive and note the Minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee meetings held on 12 September 2019.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 12 September 2019 be received and noted.

Proposed: Councillor D Jeffrey

Seconded: Councillor P Gane

Voting: F:6 Ag:0, Ab:0

1320. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Committee considered the schedule of payments for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 November 2019. It was noted that the petty cash payments listed consisted of large numbers of payments accumulated against expenditure codes. All receipts were held in the office and available for viewing.

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 November 2019 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor D Brook

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

1321. BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2019/20

The budget monitoring statement to 30 November 2019 was received by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Budget Monitoring Statement to 30 November 2019 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor D Jeffrey

Seconded: Councillor M Lawes

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

1322. BUDGET 2020/21

Report F/19/260 set out the draft proposals for the Town Council's budget for 2020/21, taking into account proposed growth items submitted by spending committees. Members were requested to make final recommendations for the budget/precept for presentation to the Full Council on 16 January 2019.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council had indicated that the property tax base was likely to be 14,445.85, a slight decrease on the previous year. The following explanation had been provided:

The overall tax base for Folkestone Town Council has reduced by 28.41 band D equivalents. This is due to the higher number of properties receiving council tax discounts and reductions.

The number of chargeable dwellings has increased by 100, but this is offset by an increase of 117 people receiving single occupancy discounts (which equates to a 29.25 reduction in the tax base), an increase of 106.34 properties receiving council tax reductions (due to changes in household income meaning they are now eligible for reductions) and a decrease of 10 MoD contributions in lieu. This gives a total reduction of 35.59 which when converted to band D equivalents for the tax base calculation equates to the overall reduction of 28.41 in the tax base.

During discussion the Committee requested that a report be presented to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting regarding the terms of the lease agreement with the Silver Screen Cinema.

The Committee went through the proposed budget in detail and took into account suggestions from Councillors N Keen and C McConville, who were unable to attend but had spoken to the Finance Officer in advance.

The following adjustments were agreed by the Committee:

Code	Description	Adjustment	Net Saving
4005	Agency Staff	Reduce to £1,000	£1,500
1190	Investment Interest	Increase to £3,000	£1,000
4849	Community Events	Delete Growth Item	£10,000
4850	Local Projects	Reduce to £4,000	£1,500
4851	Notice/Information Boards	Reduce to £1,000	£1,000
4884	Litter Bins, Bollards, Railings	Reduce to £3,000	£1,000
4718	Security – Town Hall	£12,900 to be taken from Museum/Heritage Reserve	£12,900
1035	Retail Sales	Increase to £3,000	£1,000

The total saving from the above adjustments is £29,900.

RESOLVED: That the above adjustments be made to the draft budget and that a budget and precept for 2020/21 of £873,950 be recommended to Full Council.

Proposed: Councillor M Lawes

Seconded: Councillor D Jeffrey

Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:1

1323. CCTV – THE STADE

At its meeting of 5 September 2019 (Minute 1299), the Committee's views were sought regarding a request from residents of the Stade and local PSCOs for a CCTV camera to be placed opposite the toilets to help deal with the issue of drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. A quote of £2,670 to install a camera had been received.

Following further investigation, it had now been established that three cameras would be required to cover the area, as KCC had declined permission to use the ornate columns. The quotation for carrying out the work was therefore £7,478 plus electrical cabling, which is likely to be around £500.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council had indicated that they may consider contributing to the overall CCTV service next financial year, subject to a structured plan being agreed with FTC. However, no contribution would be available for this specific installation.

There was some discussion regarding proposals from the Folkestone Regeneration Working Group for an overhaul of the CCTV system.

RESOLVED: That a decision be deferred until the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting, when a report on the CCTV service and its associated contracts would be presented.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor D Brook

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

1324. WARD GRANTS

A list of approved ward grants from 1 October to 30 November 2019 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

1325. WARD GRANT BALANCES 2020/21

A list of ward grant balances available to each Councillor at 30 November 2019 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

1326. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 20 February 2020

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The press and public were 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 M Lawes

Seconded: Councillor D Jeffrey

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

1327. STAFFING

In the absence of the Chair of the Personnel Sub-Committee, the Finance Officer updated the Committee on a staffing issue.

RESOLVED: That the matter be delegated to the Personnel Sub-Committee and necessary funding be made available from the Museum/Heritage Reserve.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor J Meade

Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:1.

Chairman.....

Date.....