

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, 20th October 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Peter Gane, Dylan Jeffrey, Mary Lawes, Connor McConville (Chair), Tim Prater and Belinda Walker.

ABSENT: Councillors Dan Brook, Jonathan Graham and David Horton.

OFFICER PRESENT: Phil Cross (Finance Officer)

1502. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly and Ray Field.

1503. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dylan Jeffrey declared a personal interest in item 12 – Tree Planting Schedule 2022/23.

1504. MINUTES

1) The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1st September 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1st September 2022 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Mary Lawes

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

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

2) The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 17th February 2022 and 1st September 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 17th February 2022 and 1st September 2022 be received and noted.

Proposed: Councillor Mary Lawes

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

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

1505. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Committee considered the schedule of payments made between 1 August 2022 and 30th September 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period 1 August 2022 to 30 September 2022 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor Dylan Jeffrey

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

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

1506. BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2022/23

The budget monitoring statement to the 30 September 2022 was received by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Budget Monitoring Statement to 30 September 2022 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes

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

1507. BANK RECONCILIATION

The bank reconciliation statement as at 30 September 2022 was noted by the Committee.

1508. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The Committee noted that the external auditor had approved the Folkestone Town Council Accounts and Annual Return for 2021/22 without qualification and thanked the Finance Officer for his efforts in this regard.

1509. WARD GRANTS

A list of ward grants approved by the Town Clerk between 1 August 2022 and 30 September 2022 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

1510. WARD GRANT BALANCES 2022/23

A list of ward grant balances available to each Councillor as at 30 September 2022 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

1511. MOBILE CCTV UNIT – CHERITON RECREATION GROUND

Following concerns from Police and local residents, Councillor Peter Gane had requested that the Town Council consider the installation of a mobile CCTV camera to be placed at Cheriton Recreation Ground. The cost of this would be in the region of £6,000 and funding was available from the CCTV Reserve.

RESOLVED: That, in view of the concerns of Police and residents in the area, the Council should proceed with the installation of a mobile CCTV camera at Cheriton Recreation Ground.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Tim Prater

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

1512. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES

1) Personnel Sub-Committee 29th September 2022

At the Extraordinary meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 29th September 2022, it was resolved to recommend a temporary pay increase for posts F07 and F09 during the absence of the Town Clerk, with the overspend being met from the General Reserve at the end of the year if necessary. The Committee was asked to approve the payments.

RESOLVED: That payments be made in line with the Personnel Sub-Committee's recommendations.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

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

2) Community Services Committee 6th October 2022

At its meeting of 6th October 2022, the Community Services Committee resolved that £1,000 from Local Projects and £8,000 from Youth Facilities be vired to the Parks budget to facilitate urgent work required at three Folkestone Town Council parks, subject to approval from the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: That the proposed virements be approved and implemented.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Tim Prater

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

1513. TREE PLANTING SCHEDULE 2022/23

Following the cancellation of the Climate & Environment Committee meeting on 6th October, which was inquorate, the Committee was asked to consider the following urgent matter, as work was due to commence imminently:

Having sought suggestions from Councillors, Tree Wardens and members of the public, the Tree Working Group has compiled a draft tree planting schedule in partnership with Kent County Council. The schedule proposes planting for highways and footpaths, utilising the 2022/23 budget allocation of £20,000.

The Committee was asked to approve the Tree Planting Schedule for 2022/23 and release the £20,000 budget for this purpose.

Considerable discussion took place, with all members of the Committee unhappy with the distribution of the proposed new tree planting. Concerns were also raised about how tree stumps were dealt with by KCC.

RESOLVED: That the schedule be referred back for a more evenly distributed list covering more wards, or the £20,000 budget be rolled forward for use next year.

Proposed: Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

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

1514. BUDGET 2023/24 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS

The Committee was asked to give thought to possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for next year. The Committee will receive and discuss the full list of proposals put forward for growth/savings by all Committees at its meeting in December.

No proposals for growth items were put forward at this stage.

1515. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 15th December 2022 at 7.00pm

The meeting concluded at 8.05pm

Chairman.....

Date.....