

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, 15th December 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Ray Field, Peter Gane, David Horton, Dylan Jeffrey, Mary Lawes, Connor McConville (Chair), Tim Prater and Belinda Walker.

ABSENT:

OFFICER PRESENT: Phil Cross (Finance Officer)

1516. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Jonathan Graham (illness).

RESOLVED: The Committee received and approved the apologies.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

1517. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point. See Minute 1525.

1518. MINUTES

1) The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20th October 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20th October 2022 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor David Horton

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

2) The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 29th September 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 29th September 2022 be received and noted.

Proposed: Councillor Belinda Walker

Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

1519. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Committee considered the schedule of payments made between 1st October 2022 and 30th November 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st October 2022 to 30th November 2022 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor David Horton

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

1520. BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2022/23

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

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

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Tim Prater

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

1521. BANK RECONCILIATION

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

1522. WARD GRANTS

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

1523. WARD GRANT BALANCES 2022/23

A list of ward grant balances available to each Councillor as at 1st December 2022 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

1524. ALLOTMENTS 2023/24 RENT REVIEW

Report F/22/324 made recommendations for allotments rent charges for 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That report F/22/324 be received and approved and allotment rents remain at £0.556p per m2 for 2023/24.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

1525. BUDGET 2023/24

Report F/22/325 set out the draft proposals for the Town Council's budget for 2023/24. Members were requested to make final recommendations for the budget/precept for presentation to the full Council on 11th January 2023.

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly spoke regarding the possible lease of a community room at the former Dance Easy site in The Bayle. Councillor Dylan Jeffrey declared an interest in this subject and did not take part in the discussion.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly be requested to compile a report for full Council in January, detailing full costs, estimated usage and staffing requirements.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes

Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:1

There was some discussion regarding possible levels of precept for 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That the draft budget be noted and agreed but the precept be deferred to full Council in January. The report should include options for proposed increases between 0% and 5%.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Mary Lawes

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

1526. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 17th February 2023 at 7.00pm

The meeting concluded at 7.45pm

Chairman.....

Date.....