

## 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, 15<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 was received by the Committee.

**RESOLVED: That the Budget Monitoring Statement to 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 was noted by the Committee.

**1522. WARD GRANTS**

A list of ward grants approved by the Town Clerk between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00pm**

The meeting concluded at 7.45pm

Chairman.....

Date.....