

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, 14th December 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Jane Darling, Christine Dickinson, Belinda Walker, Connor McConville (Chair), Adrian Lockwood, Nicola Keen, Bridget Chapman, Laura Davison, Kieran Leigh and Peter Gane.

ABSENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT: Toni Brenchley – Town Clerk,
Roland Domingo – Finance Officer.

1605. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor Tim Prater.

RESOLVED: The Committee received and approved apologies.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F: 10, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1606. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

1607. MINUTES

The committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 30th November 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 30th November 2023 be signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Christine Dickinson

Seconded: Councillor Adrian Lockwood

Voting: F: 10, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1608. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Committee considered the schedule of payments made between 1st November 2023 and 30th November 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period between 1st November 2023 and 30th November 2023 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F: 10, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1609. SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS

The Committee considered the schedule of receipts made between 1st November 2023 and 30th November 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Receipts for the period 1st November 2023 and 30th November 2023 be accepted.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F: 10, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1610. BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2023/24

The budget monitoring statement to the 30th November 2023 was received by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Budget Monitoring Statement to 30th November 2023 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor Laura Davison

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

Voting: F: 10, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1611. BANK RECONCILIATION

The bank reconciliation statement as at 30th November 2023 was noted by the Committee.

1612. MAYORAL CAR LEASE RENEWAL

Report F/23/349 provides information regarding the mayoral car lease ending in April 2024, the Committee is asked to consider four options for the new mayoral car on a three year lease.

RESOLVED: That option C – Kia XCeed be adopted from April 2024 on a three year lease at £4,659.87 per annum.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F: 9, Ag: 1, Ab: 0

1613. BUDGET 2024/25

Report F/23/350 sets out the draft proposals for the Town Council's budget for 2024/25, considering 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 11th January 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Air Show/Armed Forces Day be reduced to £25,000 for 2024/25 annual budget.

Proposed: Councillor Laura Davison

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F: 10, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: That the cost of renewing the Christmas lights be discussed by the Community Services Committee.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F: 10, Ag:0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: To keep the Flowerbeds budget at £35,000 for the 2024/25 annual budget.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Bridget Chapman

Voting: F: 9, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

RESOLVED: That the draft budget be noted and agreed but the precept be deferred to full Council in January when the new property tax base figures will be available.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Bridget Chapman

Voting: F: 9, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

1614. WARD GRANTS

A list of ward grants was provided for the Committee's approval.

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Power</i>
Pavement Pounders Community Interest Company	Crossings Remembered	£150.00	J Renshaw	LGA 72, Sec 145
Community Donation Station	Lighting and Heating in the shop	£882.00	J Darling	LGA 72, Sec 133
Ensor's	Christmas Community	£200.00	C McConville	LGA 72, Sec 145
Ensor's	Christmas Community	£100.00	A Lockwood	LGA 72, Sec 145
Ensor's	Christmas Community	£100.00	B Chapman	LGA 72, Sec 145
Ensor's	Christmas Community	£100.00	J Meade	LGA 72, Sec 145
Ensor's	Christmas Community	£100.00	L McGirr	LGA 72, Sec 145
Ensor's	Christmas Community	£100.00	B Walker	LGA 72, Sec 145

RESOLVED: To approve the listed ward grants received.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh

Voting: F: 10, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1615. WARD GRANT BALANCES

The Committee has noted the ward grant balances as at 30th November 2023.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC The remainder of the Agenda has classified item 12 (minute 1616) as disclosing exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) thereby excluding the press and public from the meeting whilst this item is debated. Press and members of the public should now leave.

RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public from the meeting whilst the next item is debated.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Bridget Chapman
Voting: F: 10, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1616. CINEMA RENT REVIEW

The Committee is asked to consider the current status of the cinema tenancy agreement.

RESOLVED: To instruct the Town Clerk to appoint a chartered surveyor to undertake a rent review and enter into negotiations with the tenant.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen
Voting: F: 10, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1617. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

25th January 2024 at 7.00pm

The meeting concluded at 07:54pm

Chair.....

Date.....