



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE, BUDGET and RESOURCE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY given of a meeting of the Finance, Budget and Resource Committee, to be held at the Fleur-de-Lys Council Chambers/Meeting Rooms, Market Square, Hailsham, on

Wednesday 8th July 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

1. **Election of Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

Prior to commencement of the remainder of formal business of the meeting, a period of not more than 15 minutes will be assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public to address the assembly, or ask questions on matters relevant to responsibilities of this committee, at the discretion of the Chairman.

The order of formal business to be transacted will thereafter be as follows:

2. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence of appointed members.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive notice of declarations of personal or prejudicial interests in respect of items on this agenda.

4. **Minutes of previous Meeting**

A) To note that the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of the Finance, Budget and Resource Committee (Ref: FBR/14/6/60-85) held on 21st January 2015 were confirmed as being a correct record and adopted by the Town Council at a meeting held on the 28th January 2015.

B) To consider any matters arising.

5. **Accounts and Audit**
Budget for 2016/2017

To discuss budget modeling approach for the 2016/2017 budget.
(Report to follow)

Date this 2nd July 2015

Committee Membership:

Councillor F. Berry

Councillor N. Coltman

Councillor R. Grocock

Councillor Mrs. M. Laxton

Councillor M. Pinkney

Councillor J. Puttick

Councillor P. Soane

Councillor Mrs. A. Triandafyllou

Councillor C. Triandafyllou



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE, BUDGET AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT (Minutes)

of the meeting of the Finance, Budget and Resources Committee,
held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Street, Hailsham
on Wednesday 8th July 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

FBR/15/2/1 Election of Chairman:

Cllr N. Coltman proposed Cllr C. Triandafyllou, seconded by Cllr R. Grocock

Councillor C. Triandafyllou received 5 votes for and 2 votes against.

Councillor C. Triandafyllou was elected as Chairman

Election of Vice Chairman:

Cllr F. Berry nominated Cllr R. Grocock, seconded by Cllr Mrs. M. Laxton

Councillor R. Grocock received 7 votes

Councillor R. Grocock was elected as Vice-Chairman

Prior to commencement of formal business, a period of not more than 15 minutes was assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public to address the Committee or ask questions (on matters relevant to the responsibilities under the direction of this committee).

None Presented

2 **Present:** F. Berry, N. Coltman, R. Grocock (Vice Chairman), Mrs. M. Laxton, M. Pinkney, J. Puttick, Mrs A. Triandafyllou & C. Triandafyllou (Chairman)

3 **Officers Present:** Michelle Hagger (Finance Officer)

4 **Apologies For Absence:** P. Soane

5 **Declarations of Interest:** None presented

6 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

RESOLVED to note that the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of the Finance, Budget & Oversight Committee (Ref: FBR/14/6/60-85) held on the 21st January 2015 were confirmed as being a correct record and adopted by the Town Council at a meeting held on the 28th January 2015.

7 **Matters Arising :** None

8 **Accounts and Audit – Budget for 2016-2017**

- 8.1 The chairman opened the meeting, be explaining the working papers, and that they are based on the current years budget (base line).
The Finance Officer explained the factors that make up the precept, tax base and the council tax support grant received from Wealden District Council, that is reducing every year by 15%.
The Finance Officer advised that the tax base information will be available from December 2015.

Discussion ensued in relation to the following areas of the budget papers.

- 8.2 Twinning – Civic Events £250.00

Cllr Puttick queried this amount, and when it was last used and if it should be removed, The Finance Officer advised that it's used when the Mayor visits from Gournay-en-Bray.

Cllr Coltman advised that the Mayor is due to visit this year and the budget would be needed for such an event.

RESOLVED to review this in the next meeting.

- 8.3 Allotment – Income £4,796

Cllr Mrs. Laxton, would like it noted that the Strategic Projects Committee plans to revisit the rent increase undertaken in 2014/15.

Cllr Coltman advised that the committee treats the Allotments as one entity, rather than separate areas, to have continuity.

- 8.4 Hellingly Parish Subsidy

Cllr Coltman requested an update on this item, Cllr C. Triandafyllou advised that an agreement with Hellingly had been undertaken in 2014 for 2 years.

- 8.5 Festive Lighting - £11,000

Cllr Mrs. Laxton queried the amount budgeted for Festive Lighting, Cllr Triandafyllou explained the breakdown of the budget.

Cllr Berry enquired if local shopkeepers contribute? The Finance Officer advised that the Chamber of Commerce and St Marys Walk traders do contribute to the lighting.

Cllr Pinkney advised that the Council should have a sign/plaque stating that they fund the festive lighting.

RESOLVED to recommend that the Communities Committee looks into the possibility of further income and signage.

- 8.6 Cllr Laxton enquired about replacing the fencing around the Town Council site. The Finance Officer advised that it is the plans for the future.

- 8.7 New Burial Ground

Cllr Berry enquired why there is not any expenditure budget for 2016/17.

Cllr C. Triandafyllou advised that the last Finance Committee resolved to not add into this budget due to budget constraints and the fact the cost would be more than what has previously been built up.

8.8 Election Cost - £10,000

Cllr Pinkney enquired why there is a budget in there when elections have been carried out.

The Finance Officer advised that we have not received any costs for the election to date. That it's possible to hold the balancing figure and carry forward to coming years.

RESOLVED to recommend that the election budget be reduced to 0.00 for 2016/17 and carry over the balance figure from 2015/16.

8.9 Masterplan

Cllr Puttick enquired about the money allocated in the Masterplan and if there would need to be a further budget added.

Cllr Coltman advised that the Masterplan/Neighbourhood Plan is to be on the agenda for the next full council meeting.

8.10 Rent/Hire Fees/Letting

Cllr Mrs Laxton enquired if rent reviews are carried out. The Finance Officer advised that they are usually in line with Rent Agreements.

Cllr Berry enquired about the review of Hire Fees. The Finance Officer advised that it would be the Strategic Projects Committee that would need to review them.

8.11 Cllr A. Triandafyllou enquired about Hailsham Works!. Cllr Puttick explained the scheme.

8.12 Cllr A. Triandafyllou enquired about the Square Youth Café. Cllr Coltman explained and Cllr Berry advised that he had visited Andy Joyes at the Youth Café and recommended that new Councillors arrange to meet him to get an understanding of the work undertaken.

8.13 Bus and Rail Concessions

Cllr Berry enquired what these were. Cllr Triandafyllou explained that the Bus Concession is for the Cuckmere Bus for the early user with Bus passes. The Rail Concession is for the senior railcard users to get a refund of £12.00.

Cllr Puttick advised that Stagecoach have a joint Bus and Rail card, and is this something that the Council could offer, in the line of a joint bus and rail concession.

RESOLVED that the Finance Officer is to investigate the Stagecoach scheme and report back to the next budget Meeting.

8.14 Western Road Cricket Pavilion

Cllr Grocock, enquired what the situation was with the Cricket Pavilion and it was advised

that this is still in progress.

8.15

Churchyard CCTV

Cllr Berry enquired what this budget covered. Cllr Coltman advised that it was an agreement made by the Council with the Church to help with cost of CCTV to prevent damage to the lights at the church.

8.16

Cllr C. Triandafyllou spoke to the Committee in regards how the budget process will progress and the issues facing the financial issue facing the council in the coming year. Cllr Triandafyllou advised that, if there are areas which a committee member would like further analysis of, to contact the Finance Officer prior to the next meeting so that the relevant information can be gathered ready to report at the next Budget meeting on 9th September 2015.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

CHAIRMAN