



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 14th September 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

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

FBR/16/3/4
3 **Present:** F. Berry, N. Collinson, N. Coltman, R. Grocock, Mrs. S Van Der Geyten (Substituting for Mrs M. Laxton), P. Holbrook (Substituting for M. Pinkney), C. Tasane & C.Triandafyllou.

44 **Officers Present:** Mr J. Harrison (Town Clerk) & Mrs M. Hagger (Finance Officer)

45 **Apologies For Absence:** Cllr M. Laxton, Cllr M. Pinkney & Cllr P. Soane

46 **Declarations of Interest:** None

47 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

RESOLVED to note and accept the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of the Finance, Budget & Resource Committee (Ref: FBR/16/2/31-32) held on the 13th July 2016 as being a correct record of this meeting.

48 **Accounts and Audit – Budget for 2017-2018**

48.1 The chairman opened the meeting, The Finance Officer explaining the working papers, and the summary showing the variances between the base line budget and revised budget.

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

48.2 Staffing Costs – The Finance Officer explained that the increase is due to changes imposed by central government to removed contracted out National Insurance contributions.

Administration – Cllr Collinson inquired what this covered, the Finance Officer explained that the budget line consist of Rates, Office Supplies/Equipment, Newsletter, photocopier, telephone etc.

Miscellaneous Provisions – Cllr Van Der Geyten requested what this covers The Finance Officer advised that it covers some of the annual grant cost provided by the Council.

Funded Services – The Finance Officer explained that this covers Hailsham Revitalization Fund, Hellingly P.C. Subsidy and CCTV Costs.

Street Lighting – Cllr Collinson questioned the increase in budget, The Finance Officer explained that the energy costs last year nearly exceeded the budget, so an increase was necessary.

Western Rd Cricket Pavilion – Cllr Berry requested an update on this, The Town Clerk stated that there was no change at this time, The Town Clerk is to contact the Cricket club for an update.

The Finance Officer stated that the waste collection costs may increase considerably next year due to the lorries having scales to weigh the bins, as the Council has no notion of the costs yet, an increase provision has been put in place.

The Town Clerk queried what the actual drawn from reserves would be at this stage and that the council has for the last few years needed to drawn from it's reserves to meet the shortfall in precept. The Finance Officer advised that as per the Summary sheet provided with the agenda, it is £22,779.00, and that the FBRC should be aware that the Council has and continues to draw from reserves for other projects not budgeted for in the year.

The next meeting is in December 2016, when the tax base figure from Wealden District Council should be available.

49 **Hailsham Town Council Investments**

The Finance Officer spoke in relation to the Investment Policy as per the regulation of the Governance and Accountability.

49.1 **RESOLVED** to note and agree the Investment Policy as circulated with the Agenda, and as Appendix FBR/16/3/49.1 to these minutes.

The Finance Officer spoke on the report regarding the Council investment of its reserves, it was noted that we continue with the current format due to the economic climate.

50. **Annual Grants Criteria**

50.1 **RESOLVED** to note and agree the revised Grants Criteria for the Annual Grants 2017/18, as circulated with the Agenda, and as Appendix FBR/16/3/50.1 to these minutes.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

CHAIRMAN