



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE, BUDGET, & RESOURCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Finance, Budget, & Resources Committee,
held at the Fleur De Lys Council Chamber, Market Street, Hailsham, BN27 2AE
On Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

FBR/23/5/
37 **Public Forum**

Several members of the public from Environment Hailsham, Cllr M. Laxton and Cllr Nicholls as a visiting Councillors to the meeting.

The Town Clerk read out a letter received from Environment Hailsham in relation to annual grants.

Hugh Bell from Environment Hailsham spoke to the committee in relation to the letter and the financial situation of Environment Hailsham, and the need to grants and donations from businesses and Councils (including Hailsham Town Council over the years).

Environment Hailsham inquired if the Annual grants will be available in 2024-2025 and if so would they be provided the set amount agreed by the council some time ago.

Discussion ensued and the Chairman advised that it would be discussed in detail further into the agenda, as part of the budget setting.

38. **Present:** Cllr G. Blake-Coggins, C. Mitchell, S. Potts, A.M. Ricketts, D. Rusu and G. White

39 **Officers Present:** Mr J. Harrison (Town Clerk) & Mrs M. Webber (RFO)

40 **Apologies For Absence:** Cllr F. Clarke

41 **Declarations of Interest:** None noted.

42 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

RESOLVED to accept the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of the Finance, Budget & Resource Committee held on the 18th October 2023, as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

43. **Accounts and Audit – Budget for 2024-2025**

The RFO spoke to the report included in the papers of the meeting explaining the rationale behind each of the points.

The RFO stated that the tax base for 2024-2025 had been received from Wealden District Council and the increase was 37, meaning the tax base for 2024-2025 would be 7726.3 (Tax base in 2023-2024 7689.8).

The Town Clerk explained that the council is due to receive S106 for Welbury Meadow public open space land, which has been pending for some time. This impacts the budget as the maintenance, grass cutting and other costs relating to the public open space land would come from the S106 funds, and not be added to the expenditure budget.

Cllr Potts inquired that it would have been helpful to have the actuals for the current financial year as a comparative to the budget for 2024-2025. The RFO advised that the report will be circulated as part of the minutes to this meeting.

Cllr Potts inquired if the Hailsham BID request for funding had been added to the budget, The RFO advised it had not, as it had not been agreed by a council resolution that funding would be provided.

Cllr Blake-Coggins spoke to the committee regarding the budget as a whole and that it is necessary to set the budget as it is, with the inclusion of the Staff review costs. The committee was all in agreement.

44 **RESOVLED** to recommend to Council the budget is £1,552,581, which would be £200.95 per year for a band D house, which is an increase of £34.30 per year to Band D household.

The committee discussed the Annual Grants fund which had been reinstated for 2024-2025 at £11,000.

45 **RESOLVED** to increase the annual grants fund to £16,000 for 2024-2025.

The RFO stated that the budget papers would be updated with the increase of the Annual Grants fund and circulated as part of the minutes of the meeting.

The committee discussed the grant to Environment Hailsham be allocated, Cllr Blake-Coggins suggested increasing the grant from £4,000 in 2021-2022, (no grants fund in 2022-2023) to £7,000.

46 **RESOLVED** to allocated £7,000 of the £16,000 grant fund to Environment Hailsham.

The remaining grants fund will be allocated at a Grants meeting after the precept and budget is agreed.

It was advised that this will be finalised on 23rd January 2024 meeting of Full council when the council agrees the budget and precept for 2024-2025.

The RFO advised the committee that the budget will change still until it's set in January 2024, as there are a couple of items still pending, such as Members Allowances.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.09pm.

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT