



**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 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

FBR/23/2/ **Election of Chair**

1

Councillor C. Mitchell nominated

Councillor G. Blake-Coggins nominated

On being voted on by a show of hands, Cllr G. Blake-Coggins was elected by 4 votes to 3.

2 **Public Forum**

2 members of the public, 1 being Cllr M. Laxton as a visiting Councillor to the meeting.  
Cllr P Holbrook attended the meeting.

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

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

5 **Apologies For Absence:** None

6 **Election of Vice-Chair**

Councillor C. Mitchell nominated by Cllr G. Blake-Coggins and seconded by Cllr Miss. F. Clarke

On being voted on by a show of hands, Cllr C. Mitchell was elected unanimously.

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

8 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of the Finance, Budget & Resource Committee held on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023, as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

Cllr S. Potts abstained from voting.

9. **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 Town Clerk explained the detail behind the tax base and that this information will be unknown until early December 2023. The tax base will have a big influence on the required increase of % in precept.

Visiting Cllr. M. Laxton was invited by the Chairman to put forward her points to the committee in relation to the budget for 2024-2025. These are as follows.

. Reinstatement of the Changing place cleaning and maintenance budget of £13,792

. A budget allocated to the Neighbourhood Plan due to it needing updating as part of the amendments to the Wealden Local plan, the amount put forward was £5,000, providing over £15,000 in total to complete the plan.

**NB. The RFO will add these additional expenditure amounts to the 2024-2025 budget papers.**

The Chairman requested that any further information into the discussions with Wealden District Council in relation to the Changing places facility be shared with the Council via the correct committee.

The Chairman discussed the three items that had been reinstated from 2023-2024 budget.

£22,100 Maintenance Plan  
£11,000 Annual Grants to local organisations  
£10,079 Urban grass Cutting

It was agreed by the committee that it's necessary for these three items to be included in the budget for 2024-2025, as they each have impact on the community of Hailsham.

The RFO explained that the wages and salaries budget is yet to be updated and pending information from central government and unions for the current year pay changes, at this time cannot update current wages and build in the provision for the outcome of the current staffing review process.

The RFO advised that as soon as the scale point information is available the detailed provision will be calculated and forwarded to the committee at that point.

Cllr Mitchell mentioned the need for a water quality survey in the area and the outcome of this report will bring possible expenditure. The Town clerk advised that the survey has been agreed as the cost is within the professional fee budget, the outcome will go to the Assets Management committee for further discussion.

Cllr Mitchell inquired about looking to move at least one of the outdoor work vehicles to electric, The RFO advised that the outdoor works manager had started doing some work on this last year and will request him to continue to acquire up to date figures and whether it would be possible/feasible for the Council and report this to the Assets Management committee for further review.

The RFO advised that Councillors must bear in mind that budget will shift and change many times between this first meeting and the final budget meeting in December 2023. As per the budget setting process the RFO will attend Autumn committee meetings to discuss the budget in detail with the committees, so that any future projects or required expenditure is considered.

The committee agreed with the budget at the present time and will be reviewed in more detail at the next budget meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT