



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee,
held at the James West Community Centre, Brunell Drive, Hailsham, BN27 3FY
On Wednesday 31st July 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

FBR/24/2/
12 **Public Forum** – One member of public present - Cllr M. Laxton

Cllr Laxton as chair of the Neighbourhood committee, requested to speak on the Neighbourhood Plan and current direction of the plan in the current year and into 2025-2026. The Neighbourhood plan will be an agenda item at the next Full Council meeting in September 2024. There have been many changes due to the change of Wealden District Council Local Plan, and as such HTC Neighbourhood plan requires further funding in the current financial year and to include in the budget setting process of 2025-2026. Discussion ensued regarding the Neighbourhood plan, and it was advised to the committee that an additional budget of £13,500.00 to be included in the budget for 2025-2026.

13 **Present:** Cllr G. Blake-Coggins, C. Mitchell, P Holbrook, G.White

14 **Officers Present:** Mr J. Harrison and Mrs M. Webber (RFO)

15 **Apologies For Absence:** Cllr. K.M. Blundell-Smith

16 **Declarations of Interest:** None

17 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

RESOLVED to accept the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of the Finance & Governance Committee held on the 24th July 2024, as a correct record.

18 **Accounts and Audit – Budget for 2025-2026**

The RFO explained the detailed reports provided with the papers for the meeting.

In addition to the report, the RFO explained that the Neighbourhood plan budget increase of £13,500.00 will be added to the budget.

On the item in the report relating to the website the RFO stated that one quote had been received to date and this was in the region of £25,000, this amount had not been added to the budget papers at the time of meeting.

The Youth Service budget is now under the remit of both the Communities and Asset Management Committee – A meeting with the Youth services Manager and Deputy Manager will take place over the summer and the draft budget will be presented to both of these committees in the Autumn as per the budget setting programme.

Cllr Mitchell raised the following points in relation to the budget and the report.

- What rate of inflation do we use? RPI, CPI etc
- Horticultural/Grass Cutting contract – when are these due to be renewed?
- Will the newsletter be sent out in A5 rather than A4? For ease of delivery?

- Does the council need to renew the website currently?
- Is the overlay of the council site Car Park necessary in 2025-2026? as the gates are priority for the coming year.
- 1 Market Square needs to have a basic budget in place due to ongoing running costs of the empty building until the future of the building is decided.

The RFO will investigate these points raised and feedback at the next budget stage. The committee was satisfied at this time with the current budget and understood that it's in the early stages and it will change before the next budget setting meeting in December 2024.

The Annual review of the hire fees was discussed, and the committee noted the RFO report and no changes to the fees for 2025-2026.

The Communities Costed Plan for events in 2025-2026, was looked at and the committee agreed with this at the current time, this will be confirmed by the communities committee in September 2024.

Cllr White noted that any events which the council contributes to and supports should provide details of Hailsham Town Council sponsorship in their promotion information.

RESOLVED to note the budget for 2025-2026 at the current time.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT