HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES
of the meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee,
held at the Fleur De Lys Meeting Room, Market Street, Hailsham, BN27 2AE On Wednesday 21st October 2026 at 7.00pm.

FBR/24/ 7/171	**Public Forum** Mr P. Turner addressed the committee regarding the resolution from the Assets Management committee, regarding funding for the site drainage raised to £5,000.00. He also queried the process regarding reallocation of underspends to other projects.
171.2	Mr B. Barbour and Mrs A. Barbour attended, representing the Liberty Place Resident's Association regarding the Community Grant Application and advised that he was present to observe the relevant agenda item.
172	**Present:** Committee members Cllrs M. Laxton (Sub For K-M Blundell), P. Holbrook, C. Mitchell (Chair), A-M Ricketts (Sub for G. Blake-Coggins), D. Rusu and G. White (Deputy Chair).
173	**Officers Present** J. Harrison (Town Clerk) and K. Whiley (Locum Responsible Finance Officer)
174	**Apologies For Absence** Apologies were received and the committee **RESOLVED** to accept from Cllrs G. Blake-Coggins and K-M Blundell.
175	**Declarations of Interest** Cllr M. Laxton declared an interest in item 10 as she had been liaising with Mr Barbour regarding the Residents' Association.
176 176.2	**Minutes of Previous Meeting** The committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Governance Committee held on the 8th July 2026, as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.
177 177.1 177.2 177.3	**Accounts** **Periodic Statements and Committee Expenditure** The Committee **NOTED** the current income and expenditure against budget with committee variances. Cllr Laxton queried whether allotment rents had been reviewed and whether the allotments were covering their costs. The Committee unanimously **RESOLVED to agree** the payments made from June to September 2026 The Committee unanimously **RESOLVED to approve** the Bank Reconciliations from June to September 2026. It was agreed that Cllr Paul Holbrook would sign the Bank Reconciliations for September

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178.4	**Council's CIL and Reserves Statement**
178.5	Cllr Laxton queried that the current level of general reserves was lower than it had been and urged caution in that regard. J Harrison also reminded the committee that in the light of council elections in May, it would not be prudent to leave a new council with depleted reserves.
178.6	The committee **NOTED** the Earmarked Reserves Statement
178.7	The committee **NOTED** the expenditure of CIL Funds
178.8	The committee **NOTED** the CIL Payments received during 2026/27
179	**Investment Strategy**
179.1	The committee **REVIEWED** the current policy and unanimously **RESOLVED to recommend** to council that it is adopted.
179.2	The committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to transfer £300,000 to the high interest CCLA Account and £400,000 into the Unity Trust Deposit Account.
179.3	The committee **NOTED** the transfers from the deposit to the current account and one from current to deposit.
180	**Banking Arrangements** The committee **REVIEWED** the current banking arrangements and unanimously **RESOLVED to recommend** the arrangements to Council.
181	**Review of External Audit** There were no significant exceptions to note. The Fidelity Insurance rates had been increased, and the allotment rents brought up to date on the website. The committee **NOTED** the External Auditor's Report which concludes the accounts for 2025/2026.
182	**Budget Setting 2027-2028**
182.1	The Locum RFO presented the proposed budget for Finance and Governance Committee for 2027/2028 and five further years, to be considered as part of the whole council budget.
182.2	The Main points raised with the budget were: • That in the name of transparency, a new approach to charging of rents had been adopted. This would be shown in the Assets budget with market rents being charged and in the Finance and Governance Budget with grants being made. • The committee discussed Hailsham Boxing Club's previous grant of £15K rent. The Committee agreed not to include as an annual budget. Cllr Holbrook **declared an interest** in this item, at this point, as had been previously involved with Boxing Club. • That the council's overall Insurance costs have risen and also agreed that an

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	additional £1,500 for cyber insurance be included in the budget • £30K had been included in the budget for the forthcoming council elections. • Commercial rubbish disposal increased. • The Hellingly Parish contribution had also increased (£49K) • Sporting Grants had been added into the budget as a new line. Overall the budget for this committee had therefore increased by 37.4%, but that does not include rental income which would be shown in the Assets Management budget
182.3	The committee unanimously **RESOLVED** the budget for the Finance and Governance Committee for 2027/2028 and five further years with amendments as proposed.
183	**Grant Application Update and Review** The committee considered the Grant Application from The Liberty Place Residents' Association which it had been previously agreed could be reconsidered at this meeting in the light of clarifications. The committee noted that as a rule grants were not allocated for running costs, and in line with HTC's Grants Policy, should be awarded for a discrete project, and could only cover 50% of costs
183.1	The committee unanimously **RESOVED** to award £140.00 grant towards the Liberty Place Resident's Association.
184	**Policies** The committee were advised that the Staffing Committee had already approved the Recruitment and Selection Policy as presented and were asked to approve final sign-off of the policy. The committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the Recruitment and Selection policy as presented.
185	**Current Lease Information** The committee were presented with the information on current leases. The committee **NOTED** the information as presented. Cllr Laxton stated that this was a very valuable piece of documentation. It was also noted that for One Mkt Square, the new tenants will cover all additional costs, but also should be asked for a deposit/bond. The Cemetery Lodge would be let through an agent so all matters would be addressed by them.
186	**Current Contracts Log** The committee **NOTED** the current contracts log.
186.1	A query regarding the Tree Surgery contract was raised and it was suggested that this is considered by the Assets Management Committee.

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187	**Confidential Business** The committee unanimously **RESOLVED** that the press and public are excluded during the discussion on the next item of the agenda as it concerns the potential beginnings of legal proceedings. (In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E)
188	**Aged Debtors** The committee reviewed the Aged Debtors report as presented by the Locum RFO. The committee noted its thanks to Kim Lewis-Clements and Karen Whiley in the Finance team for the work in putting the information together, agreed that at this point the Finance team will follow the HTC Debtors Policy in recovery of outstanding amounts and therefore **NOTED** the debtor's report as presented.
189	There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.11pm.
	_____ CHAIRMAN

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