



Seaford Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Seaford Town Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee on Tuesday, 20th December 2022.

Held at the **Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG** on **Tuesday, 20th December 2022** at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Councillors M Brown (Chair) and B Payne (Vice-Chair)

Councillors D Argent, J Edson, O Honeyman, R Honeyman and L Wallraven.

Adam Chugg, Town Clerk

Karen Singleton, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

Lucy Clark, Finance Manager

There were no members of the public present

F25/12/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Boorman and J Meek (Councillor J Edson substituted for Councillor J Meek).

F26/12/22 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests.

F27/12/22 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

F28/12/22 Receipts, Payments and Bank Reconciliation Reports for August, September, October, and November 2022

The Committee considered report 124/22 advising the Committee of Receipts, Payments and Bank Reconciliations for August, September, October and November 2022.

The Chair confirmed that the November accounts had now been viewed and verified.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

F29/12/22 Finance Report to 30th November 2022

The Committee considered report 125/22 informing the Committee of the Income and Expenditure to 30th November 2022 and highlighted significant variances from budget.

Members asked for clarity on certain items.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

F30/12/22 External Auditor / Conclusion of Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Update

The Committee considered report 128/22 updating the committee on information received from the External Auditors prior to their Conclusion of Audit and confirmation of the External Auditors appointment for the next 5 years.

The RFO updated the Committee that the Conclusion of Audit had still not yet been received and clarified certain queries on the audit process.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

F31/12/22 Energy Cost Update

The Committee considered report 128/22 updating the committee on the Town Council's Energy costs.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

F32/12/22 National Joint Council Pay Deal 2022

The Committee considered report 142/22 updating the committee on the impact of the nationally agreed pay deal 2022 - 2023.

The RFO advised that due to a various changes within the year, it is likely that this additional cost will be absorbed within the current salary, pension and national insurance budgets as a whole.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

F33/12/22 Finance & General Purposes Committee Draft Budget 2023 – 2024

The Committee considered report 141/22 presenting the Committee with the Finance & General Purposes Committee Draft Budgets to 2027 – 2028.

Members discussed certain items.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council the Seaford Town Council Draft Budget for 2023 - 2024 and projected budgets to 2027 – 2028

F34/12/22 Seaford Town Council Draft Budget 2023 – 2024

The Committee considered report 141/22 presenting the Committee with the Finance & general Purposes Committee Draft Budgets to 2027 – 2028

The RFO gave an overview of the budget. Members discussed certain items and thanked the Finance Team for their work on the budgets.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council the Seaford Town Council Draft Budget for 2023 - 2024 and projected budgets to 2027 – 2028 and to **RECOMMEND** setting a Precept of £1,061,609 with a 0% increase in Band D Council Tax.

F35/12/22 Exclusion of the Press & Public

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public **BE EXCLUDED** from the meeting during the discussion on the next two items of business for the reasons as set out below.

The Proper Officer considers that discussion of the following items is likely to disclose exempt information as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 and Data Protection legislation and may therefore need to take place in private session. The exempt information reasons are shown alongside each item below.

Furthermore, in relation to paragraph 10 of Schedule 12A, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

F36/12/22 East Sussex Pension Fund – Draft Funding Strategy Statement EXEMPT

To consider exempt report 139/22 presenting details of the opportunity for the Town Council to comment on East Sussex Pension Fund's draft Funding Strategy Statement.

It was **RESOLVED** to **COMMENT** to East Sussex Pension Fund the following points:

- The document was difficult to understand.
- It would be helpful to have an executive summary.

F37/12/22 Receipts Due for Payment at 12th December 2022 EXEMPT

To consider exempt report 130/22 informing the Committee of unpaid receipts due on 12th December 2022 (exempt pages).

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

Councillor M Brown

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Chair of Finance & General Purposes