



Minutes of a meeting of Seaford Town Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee on Thursday, 19th December 2024

Held in the **Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG** at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillors F Hoareau (Vice Chair, in the Chair), S Dubas (Chair, acting as Vice Chair), S Ali, L Boorman, R Buchanan, O Matthews, L Stirton, L Wallraven and M Wearmouth
Steve Quayle, Interim Town Clerk

Lucy Clark, Responsible Financial Officer

Georgia Raeburn, HR & Governance Manager

There were no members of the public attendance

F21/12/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Stirton.

F22/12/24 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests.

F23/12/24 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

F24/12/24 Receipts, Payments and Bank Reconciliation Reports for September, October and November

The Committee considered report 127/24 the committee of Receipts, Payments and Bank Reconciliations for September, October and November 2024

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

F25/12/24 Finance & General Purposes Finance Report for 1st April 2024 to 30th November 2024

The Committee considered report 128/24 presenting the income and expenditure for 1st April to 30th November 2024 for the Finance & General Purposes Committee and to highlight significant variances from budget.

Members discussed the broad timeline for the External Auditors investigative work, monetary values being included with projected overspends in future reports, and Sussex

Police's progress with repairs and maintenance on the Church Street office building following the rental increase introduced.

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

(7.06pm – Councillor O Matthews joined the meeting)

F26/12/24 Members' Allowance Policy Review

The Committee considered report 125/24 enabling the Committee to review the Town Council's Members' Allowance Policy and make its recommendations to Full Council. Members discussed the percentage of allowance that is recommended for parish and town councils to offer their councillors, the perception of councillors receiving a monetary allowance funded by precept, the additional requirements and responsibilities held by the Mayor and compensation for this, the options of whether to back date or not, the policy of other local parish and town councils, the impact of not offering an allowance and this precluding potential councillor candidates, the future impact of the local government reorganisation on the role of town councillor, the option of deferring this for the next administration when taking office in 2027, and the allowance currently being included in the draft budget figures.

F26.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

F26.2 It was **PROPOSED** to **RECOMMEND** that Full Council agrees to defer any amendments to the Member's Allowances Policy for the Finance & General Purposes Committee to consider in December 2026 at the latest; this **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

F27/12/24 Finance & General Purposes Committee Draft Budget Report 2025 – 2026

The Committee considered report 132/24 presenting the Finance & General Purposes Committee Draft Budgets for 2025 - 2026 and projected budgets to 2029 – 2030.

Members confirmed the impact of the member's allowance not being included within the draft budget figures, having reviewed the budget lines to identify any areas where savings could be made, the breakdown of pitch hire fees being with the Community Services meeting paperwork, and the subscription fee to and service provided by East Sussex Association of Local Councils and the National Association of Local Councils.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** the draft Committee Budget for 2025 - 2026 (and the projected budgets to 2029 – 2030) to Full Council – subject to the removal of the members' allowance budget - as part of the overall Town Council budget.

F28/12/24 Draft Full Council Budget Report 2025 - 2026

The Committee considered report 133/24 presenting the draft Full Council Budget and Precept requirement for 2025 - 2026 and projected budgets to 2029 – 2030.

Members discussed the increase to the council tax base figure, the arrangement in place and budget for the Town Council's contribution to Seaford Head Swimming Pool, parish and town councils not having a percentage cap on a precept increase, the monetary value of the proposed precept increase, and public perception and expectations from a precept increase.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** the draft Full Council Budget and Precept requirement 2025 - 2026 (and the projected budgets to 2029 – 2030) to Full Council – subject to the removal of the members' allowance budget - as part of the overall Town Council budget.

F29/12/24 Policy Review Update – December 2024

The Committee considered report 131/24 providing the Committee with an update on the 2024 – 2025 work schedule with the Town Council's policies.

Members discussed the status of and review date for the Memorials & Donations Policy, requesting that officers review whether the Bad Debt Policy may need an earlier review, the confidential nature of the National & Local Mourning Policy, and appreciating the clear plan presented within the policy review schedule.

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

F30/12/24 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 item of business for the reasons as set out on the agenda.

F31/12/24 Receipts Due for Payment as at 10th December 2024

EXEMPT

The Committee considered exempt report 126/24 informing the Committee of unpaid receipts due on 10th December 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the Receipts Due for Payment list as of 10th December 2024.

The meeting closed at 7.54pm.

Councillor F Hoareau

Vice Chair of Finance & General Purposes