

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2023 IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Gilbert, Eichner, la Djoï, Hugo, Lewin & Waters

APOLOGIES: None

NOT PRESENT: Cllr. Jaffay

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk & Asst Clerk. Mr Keen, Brett Williams, Martyn Phillips, Kate Taylor-Smith, Patricia Patterson-Vanegas and Cllrs Scott & Summers as members of the public.

155/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Keen expressed his concerns about the potential large increase in the precept.

Brett Williams explained that he was attending to give some background to the grant application for the Forest Row Sports Ground Association.

Martyn Phillips would answer any questions regarding the grant application from Wildhart Radio.

156/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None had been received.

157/23 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
Cllr. Waters	165/23	Personal	Council representative on FRSGA

158/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th JULY 2023

Cllr. Gilbert proposed that the minutes of the meeting of 11th July 2023 be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Lewin and AGREED

There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

159/23 CLARIFICATION OF (NON-CONFIDENTIAL) ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING: None raised.

160/23 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. External audit for 2022-23 - NOTED
2. Interim internal audit – The Clerk reported that the AGAR needed to be re-posted on the website, Some of the Members' Register of Interests had still not been submitted to Wealden District Council, The up to date Financial Regulations needed to be put on the website, Cllr. gov.uk email addresses were under consideration, invoices would be scanned and sent with requests for authorisation of payments and the updating of the asset register was in hand. NOTED
3. Timetable for 2024-25 budget - NOTED
4. Affordable housing presentation – NOTED
5. Possible neighbourhood plan - NOTED

161/23 FINANCIAL REPORT – to month 7

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

162/23 LIST OF PAYMENTS

The List of Payments had been circulated in advance and was APPROVED.

Unity Trust from 1 st July to 14 th November 2023	£203,464.37
Pockit Card – David O'Driscoll 1 st July to 14 th November 2023	£ 119.87
Pockit Card – Carolyn Coomber 1 st July to 14 th November 2023	£ 1,317.07
Pockit Card – Gages 1 st July to 5 th November 2023	£ 4,705.92
Pockit Card – Youth 1 st July to 14 th November 2023	<u>£ 992.89</u>
Total	£210,600.12

163/23 BANK RECONCILIATIONS & COUNCILS INVESTMENTS

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

164/23 CONFIRMATION OF STAFF PAY AWARD FOR 2022-2023

Cllr, Gilbert proposed that this increase be ratified. This was seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED.

165/23 GRANT APPLICATIONS

There was discussion regarding the grant applications and representations from Brett Williams and Martyn Phillips.

Cllr. Lewin proposed that Wildhart Radio be awarded a grant of £ 1,523.40. This was seconded by Cllr. Hugo and AGREED

Cllr. Eichner proposed that Victim Support be awarded a grant of £ 300.00. This was seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and AGREED

Cllr. la Djoï proposed that St John Ambulance be awarded a grant of £ 300.00. This was seconded by Cllr. Lewin and AGREED.

Cllr. Waters proposed that St Peter & St James Hospice be awarded a grant of £ 500.00. This was seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and AGREED.

Cllr. Lewin proposed that the Forest Row Sports Ground Association grant application should be considered once the appropriate paperwork had been received, at an extra-ordinary meeting or added to another meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Hugo and AGREED

166/23 DRAFT FINANCE & POLICY BUDGET FOR 2024-2025 & PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF RESERVES

The draft budget was discussed and amended where suggested. Cllr. Lewin proposed that the draft budget for the Finance & Policy Committee be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

It was agreed that ‘Star Chamber’ – where all Committee draft budgets would be further discussed by Chairs of those Committees – would be held on Monday 27th November at 4.30pm.

The current & proposed allocation of reserves was NOTED.

167/23 TO NOTE ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL

A list of issues & Ideas for the Finance & Policy Committee were read out for potential consideration at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

SIGNED:..... (Chairman) DATE.....

