



HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL ON
21ST NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7:15 PM

PRESENT: Cllr T Attlee, Cllr Mrs L Evans, Cllr A Forbes (Acting Chairman), Cllr P Little and Cllr B Raymond.

IN ATTENDANCE: Carla Baverstock-Jones, Chief Officer (Minute Taker); Simon Ritson, Responsible Financial Officer.

**PUBLIC
ATTENDANCE:** None present

F&GP 024/22/23 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr David Alexander gave his apologies, and therefore Cllr Forbes as Vice Chairman chaired the meeting.

F&GP 025/22/23 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

F&GP 026/22/23 **TO OPEN THE MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None present.

F&GP 027/22/23 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 17 OCTOBER 2022**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 17 October 2022, are duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

All agreed.

F&GP 028/22/23 **TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2023/2024**

Two comprehensive reports were circulated by the RFO, who added that recent invoices received represent an increase from the previous year of 35.2%, which highlights the ongoing

uncertainty of the current financial situation, in terms of budget preparation. The RFO advised that in order to feel secure further consideration should be given to increasing the Reserves. The original proposed draft budget included a precept rise of approximately 16%, with which Members did not feel comfortable. The figures were consequently adjusted to reduce the precept to 8.6%. The financial climate remains unstable with inflation continuing to rise, and escalating costs regarding legal fees, fencing, trees and play areas. The forecast expenditure is £30k and at present the draft budget stands at 17K, which is insufficient for these items, and needs to be increased. The revised precept figure of 8.6% is likewise insufficient.

The Chairman of the Council commented that the Chief Officer and the RFO both being trained officers have given their opinion, and it would be a foolish Council to ignore their advice.

It was agreed for the RFO to adjust the budget to include a precept rise of between 12 – 16%, and for the matter to return to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes meeting on the 05 December 2022.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

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Chairman

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Dated