

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance Sub-Committee**,
on Wednesday 23 February 2022 at 6.30 pm
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield.

PRESENT: Cllr. B. Cox (Chair) Cllr. P. Sparks
Cllr. J. Edwards Cllr. D. Ward
Cllr. C. Macve (Vice-Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE:

12 members of the public
1 member of press

Sarah D'Alessio – Assistant Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Holly Goring – Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Sarah D'Alessio

The Chairman welcomed all those present and set out the order of the meeting. Applicants would be invited to speak and were advised that they could speak for up to two minutes and questions may be asked by members to clarify details of their application.

1.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members and officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this agenda

The Town Clerk read out the various declarations of interest submitted by members of the Finance Sub-Committee, and advised where they could speak but not vote, or not participate at all. This part of the meeting also set out the dispensations that had been given in respect of certain applications, where members may have had a personal interest through knowing another council member involved in an organisation. Dispensations would allow the members to participate fully in both the discussion and vote, and for the meeting to be able to continue.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

3.0.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on the 25 January 2022.

FS.14.02.22

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee of the 25 January 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.0

TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM APPLICANTS FOR THE COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME 2022/23

FS.15.02.22

Members of Finance Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow grant applicants to speak.

The various representatives attending the meeting were then asked to provide a summary of their application and any additional information which may support their application.

Committee members asked a number of questions to which the representatives responded.

Following the presentations from those attending and questions from Committee members, the Chairman reminded the representatives of the subsequent format of the meeting, and advised that they could leave if they wished to once they had spoken.

FS.16.02.22

The meeting then resumed and it was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

The Chairman advised that the meeting would now move into confidential business to able members of Finance Sub-Committee to discuss the applications in detail and recommend the allocation of grant funding. These recommendations would be presented to General Purposes Committee on 14 March 2022 for review and ratification.

5.0

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

FS.17.02.22

It was **RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

5.1

To consider the allocation of grants

Committee members worked through and considered each individual grant application on its own merits to consider whether funding should be provided, and if provided, how much. The figures and recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee would be

reviewed and ratified by General Purposes Committee at their next meeting on 14 March 2022.

FS.18.02.22

Members of the Finance Sub-Committee worked through the allocation of grant funding and **RESOLVED** to recommend to the General Purposes Committee that the following grants be awarded.

Community Grant Funding under the General Power of Competence	
Uckfield Theatre Guild	£600.00
The Royal British Legion – Uckfield Branch	£200.00
Uckfield Bonfire & Carnival Society	£1,278.75
St Wilfrid’s Hospice (Eastbourne)	£1,100.00
St Peter & St. James Hospice	£1,000.00
HM70 – Her Majesty 70 th Celebrations	£1,150.00
Manor Park & Hempstead Fields Residents’ Association	£299.00
Ridgewood Village Hall Management Committee	TBC at GP Committee
Uckfield Community Fridge CIC	£1,200.00
Sunflowers Mental Health & Wellbeing	TBC at GP Committee
Ashdown Radio Ltd (Uckfield FM)	£2,500.00
Uckfield Festival Association	£3,500.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	TBC

Representatives from both Ridgewood Village Hall Management Committee and Sunflowers Mental Health & Wellbeing were absent from the meeting. No contact had been received regarding attendance from Sunflowers Mental Health & Wellbeing but we have since heard from RVH Management Committee of the reasons for their unexpected absence. Some of the paperwork from Sunflowers Mental Health & Wellbeing was only provided by email on the day of the meeting, despite being chased in the period between the application deadline and date of the meeting. It was therefore thought helpful if the full committee of General Purposes consider the allocation of grant funding for these two applicants.

Funding provided to the Wealden Citizens Advice and Uckfield Volunteer Centre is now provided in association with a service level agreement. The amounts were agreed through the Town Council’s budget setting process and approved on 17 January 2022 at Full Council:

Wealden Citizens Advice: £19,000 for 2022-23 (Section 142 funding)
 Uckfield Volunteer Centre £8,000 for 2022-23 (SLA)

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.