

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance Sub-Committee**,  
on Wednesday 22 February 2023 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:**

32 members of the public

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 were 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.

Councillor J. Edwards arrived at 6.34pm.

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, in particular where members were aware that other Town Councillors held the role of Chair in organisations such as Manor Park & Hempstead Fields Residents' Association, Uckfield Theatre Guild, Uckfield Bonfire & Carnival Society, The Luxford Centre, Uckfield Green Partnership, Ridgewood Village Hall Committee. Dispensations would allow the members to

participate fully in both the discussion and vote, and for the meeting to be able to continue where possible.

**2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

**3.0. MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on the 20 April 2022.

**FS.03.02.23**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee of the 20 April 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4.0 TO REVIEW THE POSITION OF THE UCKFIELD FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**

The Uckfield Festival Association had taken the difficult decision to bring the festival to a close with the current association standing down and the associated accounts and affairs being closed. In order to put their finances in order, they wished to clarify that the grant funding they were awarded in 2022 was spent in line with their application and no funding was required to be returned to Uckfield Town Council. Uckfield Festival Association were awarded £3,500 in 2022/23 for the July 2022 Festival. The purpose of the grant was *‘to partially offset the costs of the annual Festival in 2022, in particular the Children’s Parade and insurance.’*

Members were provided with a copy of the application, the association’s project costs, accounts and associated information to review the way in which the funding was utilised.

**FS.04.02.23**

On reviewing the purpose of the grant application, the funding spent by the Association on the Children’s Parade, as well as the Uckfield Festival Association’s account with the Town Council, for the hire of the Civic Centre or sports facilities, members of Finance Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** that there were no monies outstanding or due to be returned. They therefore confirmed that their account with the Town Council could close, and the funds remaining in their bank account could be distributed within the town for the benefit of the community.

**5.0 RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM APPLICANTS FOR THE COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME 2023/24**

**FS.05.02.23**

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

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

Committee members asked a number of questions to which the representatives responded during this part of the meeting.

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.06.02.23**

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 enable 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 27 February 2023 for review and ratification.

**6.0**  
**FS.07.02.23**

**CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

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.

6.1

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, to what amount. The figures and recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee would be reviewed and ratified by General Purposes Committee at their next meeting on 27 February 2023.

**FS.08.02.23**

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:

<b>Community Grant Funding under the General Power of Competence</b>	
1. Family Support Work	£2,000
2. Children with Cancer Fund	£591.30
3. St Peter & St James Hospice	TBC
4. Ashdown Radio Limited	£1,500
5. Uckfield & District Preservation Society	£1,100
6. Uckfield Community Orchestra	£400
7. Uckfield Allotment Bee Club	£1,224.80
8. Manor Park & Hempstead Fields RA	£250

9. Uckfield Housebound & Friendship Club	£224
10. Royal British Legion – Uckfield Branch	£300
11. Uckfield Foodbank	£2,160
12. Uckfield Theatre Guild	£1,000
13. Uckfield Bonfire & Carnival Society	£3,000
14. The Luxford Centre	TBC
15. Brighter Uckfield	£1,500
16. Uckfield College Counselling Service	TBC
17. Uckfield Rotary Club (Kit Car Grand Prix)	£1,800
18. Uckfield Green Partnership	£500
19. Ridgewood Village Hall Committee	£1,250.96
20. Sussex Support Service CIC	£1,500
21. Uckfield Millennium Green Trust	£800
22. Proms on the Pitch	£2,500
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>£23,601.06</b>

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 23 January 2023 at Full Council:

Wealden Citizens Advice: £19,000 for 2023-24 (Section 142 funding)  
Uckfield Volunteer Centre £8,000 for 2023-24 (SLA)

The meeting closed at 9.37pm.