

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance Sub-Committee**,
on Tuesday 6 January 2026 at 6.30 pm
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield.

PRESENT: Cllr. D. Ward (Chair) Cllr. S. Mayhew
Cllr. D. Manvell (Vice-Chair) Cllr. P. Ullmann
Cllr. K. Bedwell

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Minutes taken by Sarah D'Alessio

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.
None received.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

3.0 MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on the 14 October 2025.

FS.13.01.26

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee of the 14 October 2025 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4.0 DETAILED REVIEW OF DRAFT BUDGET PAPERS FOR 2026/27 AND PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF EARMARKED RESERVES

The Town Clerk asked for it to be noted that the Consolidation of Earmarked Reserves was actually completed last year and this was just to review as of December 2025.

Members were provided with a revised draft of the working budget papers for 2026/27, for members to discuss and consider.

The Assistant Town Clerk & RFO and Town Clerk explained the detailed changes in the draft version of the working budget to which Members reviewed,

going line by line through the income and expenditure for 2026/27 by committee areas. During this detailed exercise, members highlighted the following key points:

- Play Equipment Repairs/Maintenance - members understood the increase in spend was needed to ensure safety & compliance continued due to ongoing vandalism and age/deterioration. It would ensure ongoing repairs to all play areas and vandalism were covered;
- Tree Works - the Town Clerk explained the need to continue to invest in the works needed to ensure tree safety and conservation throughout the town despite the Ash Dieback programme reducing;
- Contingency – it was agreed to continue to recognise the importance of having funds set aside for contingency as per the Internal Auditor's recommendation;
- Service Level Agreements – after discussion it was recommended to renew these agreements for 12 months with Wealden Volunteering at £9k, and for Wealden Citizen's Advice to increase to £24.5k due to their rent increase. General Purposes Committee had already agreed the allocation for Uckfield Bonfire & Carnival Society's service level agreement. It was then recommended that the main Community Grant funding allocation. (General Power of Competence) be set at £19,000 – totalling £56,000 for all.
- Professional Fees - due to the number of major projects, and ongoing expertise required to support matters surrounding GDPR and Martyn's Law going forward, it was agreed to increase Professional Fees to ensure these would be covered.

FS.14.01.26

Members **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council, to:

- (i) increase the Section 142 SLA for Wealden Citizens Advice to £24,500, due to their rent increase; and;
- (ii) set a proposed annual budget of £2,121,082 with a precept of £1,432,188, subject to any final alterations or amendments. Subject to those final calculations, it would result in an increase of £16.62 (7.55%) per annum for the average Council Tax Band D household (approx. £1.66 per month).

5.0

MATTERS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIR

The Chair asked how soon would we be able to get the new till system in Luxfords Restaurant. The Town Clerk explained that there were two preferred companies from three identified and that the Assistant Town Clerk would be meeting with them shortly to see how they would engage with our current accounting package. A decision would be made then on how it would be implemented. It was agreed that it would be highly beneficial to all parties involved to ensure the smoother running of the restaurant and ensure the accuracy of stock levels.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.