

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance Sub-Committee**,
on Wednesday 25 February 2026 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield.

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

2 members of the public

Sarah D'Alessio – Assistant Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Linda Lewis – Administrative Officer

Minutes taken by Linda Lewis.

The Chair welcomed representatives from two organisations and set out the order of the meeting. It was explained that they would be invited to speak to answer queries to clarify details of their application under item 4.0. of the agenda.

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

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 or were members of organisations such as Uckfield Theatre Guild, The Luxford Centre & Ridgewood Village Hall Committee and where, for Proms on the Pitch Cllr. K. Bedwell's spouse sat on the committee.

Cllr. S. Mayhew declared a prejudicial interest in the Uckfield Theatre Guild and The Luxford Centre and during discussion of these applications the Assistant Town Clerk advised that he would need to leave the room.

Cllr. K. Bedwell declared a personal interest in Phab Club and Proms in the Park for which dispensations had been given to allow her to participate fully in both the discussion and the vote. Later in the meeting Cllr. Bedwell declared a personal interest in 'Instructions Not Required.'

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. P. Ullmann.

3.0. MINUTES

FS.17.02.26

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on the 3 February 2026. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee of the 3 February 2026 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4.0 RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM APPLICANTS FOR THE COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME 2026/27

The Chair stated that the committee had received in excess of £41,000 in grant requests, however had only £19,000 from which to allocate.

FS.18.02.26

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

Prior to the meeting, the Administrative Officer had collated and circulated information supplied from each of the applicants. Where members had queries, several organisations had responded to the questions posed to them via email.

Subsequently only two organisations had been invited to attend where the committee had not received responses to questions they had raised in advance of the meeting.

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

The Chair 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.19.02.26

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

The Chair 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 23 March 2026 for review and ratification.

5.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

FS.20.02.26

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 at 7.16pm.

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, 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 23 March 2026.

The Chair requested that the application criteria for the Grant Funding should in future state that the purpose of the grant be for a specific project or purpose, which would need to reach its completion within the financial year. To this end the

Committee requested that the Administrative Officer be included within the setting out of the application form and application process.

FS.21.02.26

Members of the Finance Sub-Committee worked through the allocations 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		
	Organisation Name	Total Awarded
1.0	New Town Action Group Agreed the Town Council to provide 2 x bags of woodchip	£500
2.0	Uckfield Concert Brass	£500
3.0	Family Support Work (FSW)	£750
4.0	Uckfield Foodbank	£500
5.0	Baby Umbrella	0
6.0	Uckfield Camera Club	£500
6A	St Wilfrid's Hospice	£1000
7.0	Origami Wings	£1500
8.0	East Sussex Vision Support	0
9.0	Uckfield Phab Club	£714.5
10.0	Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association With condition that advertising should clearly state that the event was intended for the wider community to enjoy.	£830
11.0	Children's Respite Trust	£1000
12.0	Uckfield Youth Trust	£990
13.0	Uckfield Music Club	£500
14.0	Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity	0
15.0	Uckfield Theatre Guild	£640
16.0	The Luxford Centre	0
17.0	Wealden Works	£1338
18.0	Sussex Support Service CIC	£1000
19.0	Uckfield Community Orchestra	£450
20.0	Uckfield & Area Community First Responders	£1000
21.0	Care for the Carers	£2338
22.0	Uckfield Chess Club	£274.75
23.0	Uckfield Proms on the Pitch	£500
24.0	4th Uckfield Scouts	£1074
25.0	Instructions Not Required	£750
26.0	Buxted Symphony Orchestra	0
27.0	Proud to be Ukrainian	0
28.0	The Royal British Legion (Uckfield)	£350
TOTAL		£18,999.25

FS.22.02.26

During discussion of the applications members **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders at 8.55pm, to extend the meeting, to enable all agenda items to be discussed in full.

The meeting closed at 9.14pm