

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 18 May 2026

Agenda item 15.0

TO NOTE MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES AND ANNUAL FEES

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 In line with the Town Council's standing orders, this report presents an annual review of the Town Council's membership and subscriptions to other bodies, and associated fees.
- 1.2 Many of the subscriptions will have already commenced for the financial period April 2026 to March 2027, but it enables members to have full view of the Town Council's subscriptions and memberships, and to advise the Clerk and RFO, if they wish to make any changes at the point of renewal.

2.0 Annual memberships and subscriptions

2.1

NAME OF COMPANY	PERIOD OF SUBSCRIPTION	ASSOCIATED COST
Advisory bodies on legislation, guidance, best practice, training and conferences		
LGA (Local Government Association)	April 2026 – March 2027	£640.00 Paid
Solace (Chief Officers in Local Government)	August 2026 - July 2027	£250.00
NALC (National Association of Local Councils)	April 2026 – March 2027	£1048.34 Paid
SLCC Enterprise (Society of Local Council Clerks)	June 2026 – May 2027	£480.00
East Sussex Association of Local Councils (ESALC)	April 2026 – March 2027	£1,925.00 Paid
WDALC (Wealden District Association of Local Councils)	April 2026 – March 2027	£76.83
Specialist memberships		
Grounds Maintenance Association	April 2026 – March 2027	£184.07 Paid.
Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM)	April 2026 – March 2027	£105.00
National Allotment Society	June 2026 – May 2027	£55.00
Other		
Parish Online (mapping software used for Neighbourhood Plan mapping)	April 2026 – March 2027	£450.00 Paid.
Uckfield Chamber of Commerce (membership for Civic Centre as a local business)	April 2026 – March 2027	£120.00 Paid.
Rural Services Partnership (Rural Market Town Group Membership)	April 2026 – March 2027	£151.04 Paid

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the subscriptions and memberships obtained by the Town Council.

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026-27

<p>May-26</p> <p>5 General Purposes (Tues)</p> <p>11 Plans</p> <p>18 Full Council (Annual Stat)</p> <p>26 Environment & Leisure (Tues)</p>	<p>Nov-26</p> <p>9 All Member Workshop</p> <p>16 Plans</p> <p>23 General Purposes</p> <p>30 Environment & Leisure</p>
<p>Jun-26</p> <p>1 Plans</p> <p>8 General Purposes</p> <p>22 Plans</p> <p>24 Full Council (Audit) (Wed)</p>	<p>Dec-26</p> <p>7 Plans</p> <p>14 Full Council (Draft Budget)</p>
<p>Jul-26</p> <p>6 Environment & Leisure</p> <p>13 Plans</p> <p>20 General Purposes</p>	<p>Jan-27</p> <p>4 Plans</p> <p>11 Environment & Leisure</p> <p>18 Full Council (Budget)</p> <p>25 Plans</p>
<p>Aug-26</p> <p>3 Plans</p> <p>24 Plans</p>	<p>Feb-27</p> <p>1 General Purposes</p> <p>15 Plans</p> <p>22 Environment & Leisure</p> <p>24 Finance Sub-Committee (Wed)</p>
<p>Sep-26</p> <p>1 Environment & Leisure (Tues)</p> <p>7 Full Council</p> <p>9 Allotment Conference (Wed)</p> <p>14 Plans</p> <p>21 General Purposes</p>	<p>Mar-27</p> <p>8 Plans</p> <p>15 General Purposes</p> <p>22 Full Council</p> <p>30 Plans (Tues)</p>
<p>Oct-26</p> <p>5 Plans</p> <p>12 Environment & Leisure</p> <p>19 Full Council</p> <p>26 Plans</p>	<p>Apr-27</p> <p>5 Environment & Leisure</p> <p>14 Annual Town Meeting (Wed)</p> <p>19 Plans</p> <p>26 General Purposes</p>
	<p>May-27</p> <p>10 Plans</p> <p>17 Full Council (Annual Stat)</p> <p>25 Environment & Leisure (Tues)</p>

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 18 May 2026

Agenda item 17.0

TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMPLETE AUDITS UNTIL THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING IN MAY 2027

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report sets out the rota for member audits for the coming municipal year.

2.0 Background

2.1 In order to obtain all the relevant background information relating to the completion of the monthly audit, Members are asked to refer to the 'Members' Audit Policy No. 63' which states:

2.1.1 At each Annual Statutory Meeting, the Clerk will provide a schedule of Members who will be required to undertake the Members' Audit for a particular month. Such Audit will be required to be completed within the first two weeks of the following month and individual Members will be required to make an appropriate appointment with the Responsible Financial Officer accordingly.

2.1.2 Should any Member not be able to make the date set out for them in the schedule, it will be their responsibility to make alternative arrangements with another Member to fulfil their obligations for that month.

2.2 All member audits for 2025/26 were completed on schedule, and those members listed were able to support us with their conclusion. March 2026 is in the process of being undertaken. Thank you to those members who assisted us with this procedure.

2.3 Staff will contact members when they are ready to arrange the audit. A new schedule has been prepared for 2026/27. Audits are undertaken after the full month has ended. For example, the audit for the month of May 2026 can usually be undertaken from July once all of the bank reconciliations have been processed.

Month 2026/27	Councillor
April	Cllr. D. French
May	Cllr. S. Mayhew
June	Cllr. B. Reed
July	Cllr. P. Ullmann
August	Cllr. D. Ward
September	Cllr. K. Bedwell
October	Cllr. K. Butler
November	Cllr. D. Bennett
December	Cllr. A. Smith
January	Cllr. D. Manvell
February	Cllr. P. Selby
March	Cllr. M. McClafferty

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to approve the proposed schedule of member audits for the financial year of 2026/27.

Background Papers: Members' Audit Policy No. 63

Contact Officer: Sarah D'Alessio/Holly Goring

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 18 May 2026

Agenda Item 19.0(i)

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM FULL COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS: UCKFIELD EVENTS WORKING GROUP

Weald on the Field – Saturday 8 August 2026

Preparations are underway for this year's event.

All facilities have been booked – in terms of staging, generators, marquee, hay bales, toilets, security and first aid.

Temporary event notices have been placed and purchased.

The line up for live music between 12noon and 7.00pm has been arranged, and interval acts have been secured. Bookings are coming in fast for street food, pop up bars, local produce, local crafts and children's entertainment.

The working group have been discussing and planning the following matters:

- reconfiguration of the field layout, to assist with accommodating numbers and safety around the marquee. This will see a specific area for food created;
- requirements on stallholders specifically street food stalls to accommodate new regulations such as Sophie's Law (i.e. allergens);
- confirmation of music line up and interval acts;
- work to strengthen our existing event management plan;
- accessibility;
- liaison with and involvement of the Big 100 Hundred Project (Trigger);
- sustainability and management of waste;

Interest in our business sponsorship opportunities are starting to come in. Contact has been made with former sponsors, and support is being provided by Uckfield Chamber of Commerce. Please help to spread the word.

Town Clerk

WEALD ON THE FIELD

Saturday 8 August 2026
11:00am - 7:00pm

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PREMIER SPONSORSHIP
£500 - SPONSOR HEADLINE ACT
(includes banner space and numerous mentions on stage)

GOLD SPONSORSHIP
£250 - SPONSOR A BAND
(includes banner space and two mentions on stage before and after performance)

SILVER SPONSORSHIP
£100 - PUT A BANNER ON THE HERAS FENCING
(banner not included)

PLUS MANY OTHER BENEFITS!

EMAIL: townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 18 May 2026

Agenda Item 20.0

TO NOTE THE ENGAGEMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the engagements of the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor between 16 March and 18 May 2026.
- 1.2 Please note that Councillor K. Bedwell was elected as Mayor and Councillor S. Mayhew elected as Deputy Mayor on 19 May 2025.

TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

- 27.03.26 Iris Camera Event. Barracloughs, High Street, Uckfield.
- 28.03.26 Attend Mayor of Seaford's Charity Lunch. Seaford Baptist Church Hall, Seaford.
- 17.04.26 Attend Mid Sussex Weald Cluster vision review. Nymans, Haywards Heath.
- 23.04.26 Attend Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Event. Trading Boundaries, Fletching.
- 24.04.26 Attend Newhaven Mayor's Charity Quiz Night. Hillcrest Centre, Newhaven.
- 26.04.26 To take salute at Scout and Guide St George's Day Parade. High Street, Uckfield.
- 29.04.26 Meeting with Cllr. Williams. Civic Centre, Uckfield.
- 01.05.26 Attend a Freedom of the Town Award, Goldsmiths Recreation Ground, Crowborough.
- 04.05.26 Judging of Dog Show. Holy Cross Spring Festival, Uckfield.
- 06.05.26 Attend Mayor of Polegate's Afternoon Cream Team Gathering. United Reform Church, Polegate.
- 09.05.26 VIP Guest at Family2Family Fundraising Gala. Ashdown Park Hotel, Wych Cross.
- 10.05.26 Attend Mayor of Peacehaven's Mayoral Reception. Peacehaven.
- 14.05.26 Attend Grand Opening of Good Oaks Care at Home. High Street, Uckfield.
- 15.05.26 East Sussex Women of the Year Lunch 2026. Brighton and Hove Albion, Amex Stadium, Brighton.

TO NOTE THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

- 04.05.26 Judging of Dog Show. Holy Cross Spring Festival, Uckfield.
- 09.05.26 VIP Guest at Family2Family Fundraising Gala. Ashdown Park Hotel, Wych Cross.
- 26.04.26 To take salute at Scout and Guide St George's Day Parade. High Street, Uckfield.

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 18 May 2026

Agenda item 21.0

END OF PROGRESS UPDATE ON UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PRIORITIES FOR 2025-26

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a year end review on the Town Council's priorities for 2025/26 (at the end of March 2026).
- 1.2 The priorities identified for delivery in 2025/26 consisted of initiatives which are often additional to the day to day responsibilities of the Town Council, but demonstrate that by working together with colleagues and partner agencies, we can achieve a great deal for the town and its residents.
- 1.3 Organisations often spend time producing plans or lists of priorities, but do not review progress until the end of the year. With this paper, the Town Clerk provides a quarterly update to members to explain the progress being made to deliver these priorities. This report provides our end of year review.

2.0 End of Year progress update





- 2.1 Ten of the 11 work programmes for 2025/26 are now complete and the latter has commenced more fully in April 2026, with a number of workstreams underway utilising professional expertise – incident response, data protection, emergency planning, feasibility of major projects such as building extensions etc. Town Council officers have worked extremely hard during the past year to get these projects underway, and their dedication to both the Town Council and the town of Uckfield shines through. I am incredibly grateful for all that they have achieved and the positive outcomes they are delivering for our residents and service users.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to review this progress report, and note the work undertaken to date.



Appendices: Appendix A: End of Year 2025/26 Progress Update
Contact Officer: Holly Goring

Key:



 = Progress behind schedule	 = Some progress has been made
 = On schedule for completion	 = Completed

APPENDIX A: End of Year 2025/26 Progress Update

Priority	Status	Notes	Lead Committee	Lead Officer
<p>ROBUST APPROACH TO ARBORICULTURE</p> <p>We will address the remainder of ash dieback, and continue to record and map the results of our rolling tree surveying programme to ensure the safety of the public. We will re-plant trees and restock areas of our woodlands, alongside new community orchards where trees have been removed and disease has had an impact.</p>	✓	<p>UTC are currently funding a tree surgeon on a monthly retainer to assist with a frequent and detailed tree surveying programme of trees on the Town Council's land, and recording the results of these surveys on new software (OTISS) which sits alongside the Town Council's mapping system Pear technology. This has identified further works which have been completed by staff internally and by external contractors.</p> <p>A round of works to address Ash Dieback was undertaken in Boothland Wood this winter (2025/26) as the third year of a three-year woodland management plan.</p> <p>Tree planting has continued.</p>	Environment & Leisure Committee	Estates & Facilities Manager
<p>PROTECTING OUR NATURAL HABITS</p> <p>We will commission ecological appraisals and wildlife monitoring of our ancient woodlands and local nature reserves, and seek to separate areas from the public to preserve the flora and fauna and protect key species.</p>	✓	<p>Preliminary ecological appraisals commenced for the following areas - Boothland Wood, WPLNR and HMLNR. Alongside this, a dormouse survey and bat surveys have been carried out in Boothland Wood due to the amount of development occurring on the surrounding land.</p> <p>The Newt Conservation Partnership carried out some studies by Harlands Balancing Pond (near the Nightingales) and West Park Local Nature Reserve on. Detailed reports have been presented for all.</p> <p>Fencing has begun on the edge of Boothland Wood, along with dead hedging to the edge of pathways, to assist with the protection of flora and fauna.</p>	Environment & Leisure Committee	Estates & Facilities Manager
<p>EDUCATION AND CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>We will host an Eco EXPO to promote alternative technologies to local residents, and continue to consider alternatives in our purchases and management of Town Council land, with a continued focus on conservation and tree planting.</p>	✓	<p>An Eco EXPO was organised for 21 March 2026 with a range of organisations in attendance.</p> <p>Electric charging points were installed at Victoria Pleasure Ground and the Source Car Park to assist with charging two new Grounds vehicles.</p> <p>Conservation and tree planting remains a priority. The Tree Policy has been reviewed, and funding obtained to enable planting, which was completed Spring 2025. A further application was made to build on the existing community orchard work in March 2026.</p> <p>The Civic Centre's solar panels have been replaced to ensure greater efficiency.</p>	Environment & Leisure Committee	Estates & Facilities Manager

Priority	Status	Notes	Lead Committee	Lead Officer
<p>UPGRADING OUR ASSETS We will seek professional expertise to explore and deliver options for key buildings in the Town Council's portfolio – Osborn Hall/Signal Box. We will continue to improve the condition, safety and decoration of buildings we manage day to day – Civic Centre, Foresters Hall and Victoria Pavilion.</p>		<p>Further fire door replacements have been completed for the main Town Council buildings, along with the completion of remedial works to the fire dampers within the Civic Centre. Further works have also been completed to the water tanks and air conditioning units within the Civic Centre, to ensure these remain safe and efficient. Foresters Hall has continued with redecoration. Annual fire risk assessment reports were positive for all three buildings. The Signal Box has been cleared and structural and compliance work undertaken to prepare for a new commercial enterprise. Professional expertise is being sought for support with the commencement of major projects and members have agreed to extend the current lease agreement for Osborn Hall for a further two years, whilst considerations are explored.</p>	<p>General Purposes Committee</p>	<p>Estates & Facilities Manager</p>
<p>UPGRADING OUR SPORTS PITCHES We will arrange for and fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the replacement of the artificial cricket wicket; - full pitch renovations of our football pitches between May and July; - the installation of maneuverable goal posts for the football pitches at New Barn and Harlands; - welfare facilities at Harlands Playing Fields. In addition we will also apply for grant funding to undertake more substantial improvements to the grounds and facilities, and explore options for a future upgrade of the Skate Park. 		<p>Works identified for delivery in 2025/26 have been undertaken:</p> <p>The artificial cricket wicket was replaced in April 2025.</p> <p>Full pitch renovations were undertaken between the months of May and July. The very wet winter season, followed by a very dry summer season, has not assisted those works. Additional fracturing and seaweed fertiliser was applied in July to further assist the ground, and further works are being undertaken in December. A review of existing grounds machinery was completed to understand how we can better access the pitches during the winter season. The new machinery arrived in March 2026.</p> <p>New manoeuvrable goal posts have been installed for Harlands and Victoria. Preparations have been undertaken to prepare for the installation of a temporary toilet and storage facility at Harlands Recreation Ground.</p> <p>Quotations have been obtained to assist with drainage issues at the Skate Park and initial repairs undertaken. Funding opportunities will be explored for improvements to our grounds maintenance and sports facilities, and further funding was allocated within the budget for 2026/27.</p> <p>Work also commenced with consultants to prepare a full application for a 3G pitch at Victoria.</p>	<p>Environment & Leisure Committee</p>	<p>Estates & Facilities Manager</p>

Priority	Status	Notes	Lead Committee	Lead Officer
<p>COMMUNITY GRANTS We will award up to £22,000 of community grant funding to local groups and charitable organisations for the period 2025/26, alongside the provision of £23,000 to Wealden Citizen's Advice and £9,000 to Wealden Volunteering through service level agreements.</p>	✓	<p>Both the first and second instalments have been paid to those awarded community grant funding in 2025/26. Instalments have also been paid towards the service level agreements for Wealden Citizen's Advice and Wealden Volunteering.</p>	General Purposes Committee	Assistant Town Clerk & RFO
<p>UPGRADING PLAY AREA FACILITIES We will see delivery of the upgrade to Victoria Play Area, and make mid-term upgrades to equipment at Hempstead Recreation Ground. Funding will also be put aside for future improvements to West Park play area.</p>	✓	<p>Following a detailed consultation and procurement exercise between the months of March and June, a decision was taken at the July meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee on which play area company to appoint to complete the upgrade of Victoria Play Area, and the replacement of the zip line at Hempstead Recreation Ground. Works were completed in September 2025, and the play area equipment received their ROSPA safety check. The play area was officially opened on 10 October 2025.</p>	Environment & Leisure Committee	Estates & Facilities Manager
<p>PUBLIC REALM Work with the Uckfield Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to review the contract for festive lighting for the town centre in preparation for Christmas 2025, and work with local contractors to provide a beautiful floral display in our town centre.</p>	✓	<p>The Estates & Facilities Manager has worked hard to identify a new and suitable contractor to bring more light to Uckfield High Street. This has been a detailed process and also required the involvement of contractors, including East Sussex Highways to undertake improvement works to the existing lamp columns and infrastructure to support this year's festive lights which were a success.</p> <p>An external contractor was commissioned to bring the town centre floral displays to the Tesco roundabout in addition to the usual location. It has provided a lovely bright colourful setting in this area of the town.</p>	General Purposes Committee	Estates & Facilities Manager
<p>PUBLIC EVENTS AND ANNIVERSARIES IN THE TOWN We will organise and deliver the annual day festival Weald on the Field, an event to mark VE Day and support the preparations for the annual Remembrance Parade and Services.</p>	✓	<p>We delivered an event on Bank Holiday Monday 5 May to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, at the Civic Centre.</p> <p>We hosted the most successful Weald on the Field day festival on Saturday 9 August 2025, yet.</p> <p>We hosted a moving beacon lighting remembrance service on Friday 15 August 2025, to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day at Victoria Pleasure Ground.</p>	Full Council /Environment & Leisure Committee	Town Clerk

		A large number of dignitaries, ex-military, emergency services, representatives of local community organisations, cadets, guides and scouts joined us for the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 9 November 2025 prior to and after the service at Holy Cross Church. We also gathered at the war memorial on Armistice Day at 11am for a short service followed by the laying of the wreaths.		
Priority	Status	Notes	Lead Committee	Lead Officer
PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE We will utilise the assistance of professional expertise to project manage major projects and assist with the review of specialist policies and procedures.		Initial conversations have been held with external consultants and contractors to explore the use of their professional expertise with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GDPR requirements; - incident response and Martyn's Law; - Reviewing HR policies; - the project management of major projects including the presentation of a report setting out high level options for a community facility. 	General Purposes Committee	Assistant TC & RFO/ Town Clerk
FORWARD PLANNING We will work with local partner agencies, residents and local businesses to understand the infrastructure requirements for Uckfield. We will also consider the future impact of growth on the Town Council's provision of allotment and cemetery space. This information will also be utilised to inform the finalisation of an Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan and our position in the midst of devolution at the higher level of local government.		This is an ongoing priority for the organisation. But in terms of the work undertaken in 2025/26: Meetings have been held with other Town Councils within Wealden DC, and updates been received from the Chief Executive of Wealden District Council to understand the latest developments on Local Government Reorganisation. The Town Council provided a response to the MHCLG consultation on the options for Sussex, in January 2026, and will await the next round of consultation in May/June 2026. Work has taken place for the preparation of a new area of Snatts Road Cemetery to be brought into use. An area of the new 'Y' section will be consecrated in September 2026. Discussions and prioritisation of the infrastructure requirements for the town, have continued, in-house with elected members, partner agencies and developers. Work is underway on the draft Neighbourhood Plan and steering group meetings back up and running.	Full Council	Town Clerk

Date: 07/05/2026
Time: 16:19:41

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
Balance Sheet

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From: Month 1, April 2025
To: Month 12, March 2026

Chart of Accounts:

UTC General [PARTIAL]

	<u>Period</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	
Fixed Assets			
Land & Buildings	0.00	3,017,008.00	
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	0.00	181,899.49	
Non-operational Assets	0.00	1,159,388.00	
Community Assets	0.00	19,284.00	
		0.00	4,377,579.49
Current Assets			
Stock	0.00	3,626.08	
Debtors	(7,947.14)	197,108.65	
Deposits and Cash	44,326.12	951,981.27	
VAT Liability	6,238.84	19,602.68	
Bank	0.00	201,167.92	
		42,617.82	1,373,486.60
Current Liabilities			
Creditors - Short term	21,330.34	76,190.94	
Taxation	(455.96)	(455.96)	
Wages/Pension Fund	(13,713.80)	(8,193.65)	
Bank Account	218.40	0.00	
		7,378.98	67,541.33
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:		35,238.84	1,305,945.27
Total Assets less Current Liabilities:		35,238.84	5,683,524.76
Long Term Liabilities			
Loans	(19,200.00)	384,000.00	
Lease	0.00	82,611.98	
		(19,200.00)	466,611.98
Total Assets less Total Liabilities:		54,438.84	5,216,912.78
Capital & Reserves			
Reserves	0.00	5,161,644.55	
P & L Account	73,338.48	73,338.48	
Previous Year Adj		829.39	
		73,338.48	5,235,812.42

Profit and Loss

From: Month 1, April 2025
To: Month 12, March 2026

Chart of Accounts: IJTC General [PARTIAL]

	<u>Period</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Sales		
Environment & Leisure	148,911.70	148,911.70
General Purposes	1,765,531.66	1,765,531.66
Luxfords income	257,429.08	257,429.08
	2,171,872.44	2,171,872.44
Purchases		
Environment & Leisure	734,280.45	734,280.45
General Purpose	1,045,965.86	1,045,965.86
Luxfords Expenditure	318,287.65	318,287.65
	<u>2,098,533.96</u>	<u>2,098,533.96</u>
Gross Profit/(Loss):	<u>73,338.48</u>	<u>73,338.48</u>
Net Profit/(Loss):	73,338.48	73,338.48

Profit & Loss

GP Sales Breakdown

Annual Budget for 2025/26

Total	1,765,531.66
Precept	(1,321,884.00)
CIL	(202,562.67)
Balance	241,084.99

	Proposed Income	Proposed Expenditure
	2025/26	2025/26
General Purposes		
Revenue	281,136	959,857
New Initiatives etc.		98,750
Earmarked Reserve Projects		12,500
Sub Totals		1,071,107
Environment and Leisure		
Revenue	128,284	483,589
New Initiatives etc.		81,420
Earmarked Reserve Projects		56,000
Sub Totals		621,009
Luxfords Restaurant		
Revenue	255,600	294,788
Earmarked Reserve Projects		0
New Initiatives		0
Sub Totals		294,788
Gross Income/Expenditure	665,020	1,986,904

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 18 March 2026

Agenda Item No. 23.0

TO CONSIDER A MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR D. MANVELL

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report sets out a motion submitted by Councillor Manvell in accordance with the Town Council's Standing Orders.

2.0 The motion for consideration

2.1 Councillor Manvell gave written notice of the following motion which was received on 5 May 2026 and before the required deadline:-

2.2 "This council notes:

- The murders of Jo Cox MP on 16 June 2016 and Sir David Amess MP on 15 October 2021;
- That the 10th anniversary of Jo Cox's murder will take place on 16 June 2026;
- That abuse and intimidation remains an ongoing issue for elected representatives including local councillors, with research finding that 72% of councillors have experienced abuse or intimidation in the last 12 months;

This council believes:

- That, as Jo Cox said in her maiden speech, "the truth is that we have more in common than that which divides us;"
- That abuse and intimidation should have no place in our politics;
- That we should follow the example of Jo Cox, who embraced working across party divides and modelled high standards of respect and civility in public office;

This council resolves:

- To mark the 10th anniversary of Jo Cox's murder by promoting the Great Get Together, associated events, and the spirit of coming together across political differences;
- To continue to support efforts to increase civility and reduce abuse in politics, including by reaffirming our support for the Local Government Association's Debate Not Hate campaign and the *Society of Local Council Clerk's civility and respect* campaign;"

2.3 For the purpose of members' reference, a copy of a resource pack issued by The Jo Cox Foundation has been attached as a background paper to the meeting's agenda papers.

2.4 Background information:

The Jo Cox Foundation will be marking the anniversary of Jo's murder over a two-week period from 14 to 28 June 2026, with the anniversary itself taking place on Tuesday 16 June 2026.

Ten years on, Jo's message that we have more in common than that which divides us matters more than ever. This anniversary is not just about remembrance - it is a moment of choice, and an opportunity to once again connect our communities.

During this period, the Jo Cox Foundation will mark the anniversary and celebrate Jo's legacy through a number of events and activities at different levels. Key to this will be the 10th annual Great Get Together, which will take place from 19 to 21 June 2026.

About the Great Get Together

The Great Get Together is an annual celebration of what unites us. This year, it will take place for 19–21 June 2026 - the weekend closest to Jo's birthday - and will once again bring people together across the country.

Over the past ten years, millions of people have taken part, sharing food, stories, and time with those they might not otherwise meet. A Great Get Together is a people-led event, big or small, formal or informal, designed to bring people together across lines of difference.

[Evidence from The Jo Cox Foundation](#) shows that these events help people feel more connected, increase belonging, reduce loneliness, and strengthen communities.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the motion and advise the Clerk of how they wish to proceed.

Contact Officer: Holly Goring