

Minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting of Faversham Town Council
15th January 2024, 7pm
The Guildhall, Faversham

Cllr T Martin (Chair)	Present	Cllr Golding	Present
Cllr Rowlands	Present	Cllr Jones	Apologies
Cllr Coniam	Present	Cllr BJ Martin	Present
Cllr Cook	Present	Cllr C Martin	Present
Cllr Crayford	Present	Cllr Newman	Present
Cllr Eyre	Present	Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Gibson	Present	Cllr Saunders	Present

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)
 Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

160. Apologies for Absence

Apologies, with reasons, were accepted from Cllr Jones.

161. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None

162. Draft Budget

The budget, as drafted in the sum of £723,441 and £36,120 from general reserves, was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Gibson. Cllr Saunders proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr Golding:

To increase the Grants budget (4500) by £30,000 and ring fence this additional funding for a Grants programme aimed at protecting existing Youth Service provision in the Town.

Cover the budget gap by

Increasing Income: Adding Newsletter Income (1212) of £4,000 into the budget, increasing Guildhall lettings (1300) by £100, increasing Market Place lettings (1311) by £400.

Reducing expenditure and drawing more one off expenditure from the General Reserve: Councillors training and expenses (4120) reduce by £1,000, Creek Bridge and Dredging (4271) reduce total allocation by £16,280 and only budget for the restoration of a Creek Bridge EMR, funding this through the General

Reserve during 2024/25, Neighbourhood Plan (4815) draw all 2024/5 expenditure from the General Reserve. Increasing the Precept: By £5,930, less than 1% over the budget proposal.

Allocating additional General Reserves: £38,720 rather than £36,120 an increase of £2,600.

The vote for the amendment as follows:

Cllr T Martin (Chair)	ABSTAIN	Cllr Golding	FOR
Cllr Rowlands	ABSTAIN	Cllr BJ Martin	AGAINST
Cllr Coniam	AGAINST	Cllr C Martin	AGAINST
Cllr Cook	AGAINST	Cllr Newman	FOR
Cllr Crayford	FOR	Cllr Perkin	AGAINST
Cllr Eyre	AGAINST	Cllr Saunders	FOR
Cllr Gibson	AGAINST		

4 FOR, 7 AGAINST, 2 ASBSTENTIONS

The amendment fell.

The vote for the original motion as follows:

Cllr T Martin (Chair)	ABSTAIN	Cllr Golding	AGAINST
Cllr Rowlands	FOR	Cllr BJ Martin	FOR
Cllr Coniam	FOR	Cllr C Martin	FOR
Cllr Cook	FOR	Cllr Newman	FOR
Cllr Crayford	AGAINST	Cllr Perkin	FOR
Cllr Eyre	FOR	Cllr Saunders	AGAINST
Cllr Gibson	FOR		

9 FOR, 3 AGAINST, 1 ABSTENTION

It was therefore *RESOLVED* that the Draft 2024-2025 budget be agreed

163. Earmarked Reserves

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Cook and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED To note the current Earmarked Reserves at 31st December 2023 and agree that unspent 2023-2024 budgets be recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee for virement.***

164. Precept

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr B J Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to set the Precept for 2024-2025 at £666,741***

165. Private Session

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr B J Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk left the meeting.

166. Salaries

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree the draft salary budget of £250,000.**

The meeting closed at 8.12pm