

**Minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting of Faversham Town Council**  
**19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 7pm**  
**The Guildhall, Faversham**

Cllr Rowlands (Chair)	Present	Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr C Martin	Present	Cllr Jones	Apology
Cllr Coniam	Present	Cllr B Martin	Present
Cllr Cook	Apology	Cllr T 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)

**524. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies with reasons were accepted from Cllrs Cook, Golding and Jones.

**525. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None.

**526. Guildhall Works**

Cllr Crayford proposed an amendment to the motion to add lessons learned from the situation.

**527. Public Works Loan**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council seeks approval from the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a Public Works Loan Board loan of £200,000 over the borrowing term of 15 years for refurbishment works to the Guildhall, Faversham. The annual loan repayments will be not more than £20,000pa. It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.***

**528. Draft Budget 2026-2027**

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree the 2026-2027 Budget.***

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Crayford to create a fresh budget line in Grants 250 for Youth Support Grants totaling £20,000. To be funded by reducing the current Grants budget 4500 by £14,000 the overall Active

Travel budget 275 by £2,000, the overall Community budget 255 by £2,000, the overall Environment budget 270 by £1,000 and overall Heritage budget 241 by £1,000, with the relevant committees making decisions on how to manage these budget reductions. The amendment fell.

**2 FOR/9 AGAINST**

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Gibson to reduce Ham marshes funding (line 4826) by £10,000 to be put into Grants (line 4500) this would bolster our ability to support residents in line with our grants policies and the priorities of the Council. This could be offset by a fundraising push once the Council hears about the progress of the Ham Farm appeal whilst still maintaining the Council's commitment to do what we can to save the marshes. The amendment fell.

**4 FOR/5 AGAINST/2 ABST.**

**529. Earmarked Reserves 2025-2026**

The current Earmarked Reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that unspent 2025-2026 budgets be recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee for virement.***

**530. Precept 2026-2027**

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to set the precept at £973,600.***

**9 FOR/2 ABST.**

**531. Private Session**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands seconded by Cllr T 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.

**532. Staffing Budget**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the recommendation of the Staffing Committee.***

The meeting closed at 8:10pm.

