



## Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting

Held at the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Office

78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RF

on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.00pm

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### Present

Cllr Clive Veck (Chair)  
Cllr Stephen Fenning (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr David Donaldson  
Cllr Tom King  
Cllr Mike Livesey  
Cllr David Wallin  
Ms Nabila Yakub – Town Clerk

### F&GP/26/01 Welcome from the Chair

The Chair welcomed all present.

### F&GP/26/02 Apologies for Absence

None.

### F&GP/26/03 Members' Interests

None.

### F&GP/26/04 Public Participation Session

None.

### F&GP/26/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were received and approved as an accurate record.

### F&GP/26/06 2026 Budget and Precept

The precept for 2026/27 was confirmed as £425,591.58, a 9.5% increase on the previous year's budget. For a Band D household, the annual charge will be £159.84 (previously £144.00), an increase of £15.84 per annum. The increase was attributed to higher staff and IT costs, asset management requirements (including repairs to the existing playground) and loss of income from Barclays Bank. It was noted that £15,000 has been transferred from the library reserve to support playground repairs, that the figures have been submitted to Thanet District Council and that residents will be notified by TDC, with further explanation at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

### F&GP/26/07 Risk Matrix

A draft updated Risk Matrix was presented, prepared in response to an internal audit recommendation to strengthen the Council's risk management. It was proposed that the matrix be reported to Full Council on a regular basis, with particular focus on risks rated red or deep amber. A preliminary meeting had been held with Aimee Jackson, Risk Assessment Manager at Thanet District Council, who was broadly supportive and suggested improvements. It was agreed to invite Aimee Jackson to the next Full Council meeting to give a short presentation on risk management and use of the Risk Matrix.

**F&GP/26/08 Lymington Road Play Area Repair**

Three quotations for repair works to the Lymington Road play area, all based on the same inspection report brief, were reviewed. Members noted differences in proposed methods and raised questions regarding safety, scope, value for money and compliance with the Council's financial regulations, including whether a formal tender process was required. It was agreed to defer any decision and not to recommend a contractor until the procurement process has been reviewed and clarified for Full Council.

**Conduct of Meeting and Closure**

During consideration of Item 8, a motion was proposed, seconded and carried by majority to exclude Cllr King from further participation in the discussion due to concerns about conduct. The meeting subsequently became disorderly and the Chair brought proceedings to a close. The meeting was adjourned at 19:40.

**F&GP/26/11 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_