



Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting
Held at the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Office
78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RF
on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr David Wallin (Chairman)
Cllr Clive Veck (Vice Chair)
Cllr David Donaldson
Cllr Tom King
Cllr Charlotte Thomason

Nabila Yakub (Interim Town Clerk)

FC/25/19 Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone and requested introductions from the Councillors present. The Chairman also addressed criticism on social media directed towards the Town Council, including claims about a requested budget extension and confusion over meeting times. The Chairman clarified that no extension had been requested and that the meeting time in question was for Annual, not Council, meetings. These misleading claims were addressed, with some considered defamatory.

FC/25/20 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mulinya, Cllr Scott and Cllr Worrow.

FC/25/21 Members' Interests

Cllr King declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the Unite Union and Bus nr. 35.

FC/25/22 2025-26 Budget

Cllr Veck, the Chair of Finance, presented the proposed 2025-2026 budget, explaining the need to finalize it and the proposed precept increase of 85.7%, from £209,000 to £388,000. This would result in an increase in the Band D rate for Westgate residents from £81.90 to £144 per year, a 75.8% increase. In the Band D rate, the increase is equivalent to an extra £62.10 a year, or to £1.19 a week, or 17 pence per day. Cllr Veck detailed the reasons for the increase, including staffing and administration costs, the library acquisition, and the purchase of a new van.

The council is proposing a significant increase in the Band D rate due to three main factors: an additional £101,000 for Staffing and Administration, driven by an increase in office staff and

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operatives, rising National Insurance and pension costs, and a 5% statutory staff pay increase; £42,000 for the acquisition of Westgate Library, covering valuation, surveys, and estimated mortgage payments; and £32,000 for a new tipper van, which has reduced reserves from £100,000 to £65,000, requiring a one-off increase in the precept to restore them.

Cllr Veck proposed that the Council approve the 2025-26 budget as presented and Cllr Wallin seconded the motion. The proposal was unanimously agreed upon, and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the 2025-26 budget.

FC/25/23 Precept Request

Cllr Veck proposed to agree to the precept increase, which was seconded by Cllr Wallin. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree to the precept increase from £81.90 to £144.00.

FC/25/24 Public Right to Speak

No members of public were present.

FC/25/25 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, the 12th of February 2025 at 7pm.

Signed: 

Date: 12/2/25