



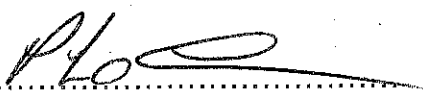
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General
Purposes Committee of**

Westgate-On-Sea Town Council

**Held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 6.30pm at 78 St
Mildreds Road, Westgate on Sea CT8 8RF**

Present	Cllrs O'Connor (Chairperson), Donaldson (Vice-chair) and Cornford Cllr Wallin joined the meeting at 6.50pm	
Also, in attendance	Mrs Chloe Wheatley (Finance Assistant) and Cllr King	
3609	To receive apologies for absence None	
3610	Declarations of Interest None	
3611	Minutes It was moved by Cllr Cornford and seconded by Cllr Donaldson and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of 18th October 2022 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
3612	Public Participation Session Cllr King attended to ask a question regarding staffing. He wished to confirm how many members of staff the Town Council employed. It was confirmed there were currently two officers with a third officer due to start in February, two operatives and a grounds maintenance person based at the Lymington Road Recreation Ground.	
3613	Budget 2023/2024 It was resolved at the Full Council meeting held on 10 th January 2023 that a total of £187,089 be requested as Precept which results in a Band D Council Tax of £74.78. This represented a 15.8% increase on the current year or £9.83 per annum on the average Band D property. At the Full Council meeting Cllr O'Connor informed members that a minor amendment may need to be made to the precept request amount after checking it against the Thanet District Council precept formula. Cllr O'Connor confirmed a slight amendment was required resulting in an increase of 15.01% and not 15.8%. This was achieved by rounding down the amount budgeted for Pancake Races 2024 as there would no longer be road closure costs. The approved Precept request is £186,560.00 for 2023/2024 with the tax base figure of	

	<p>2,527.89. This equates to £73.80 for a Band D equivalent figure which represents an increase of £9.63 on last year. The approved Budget figure for 2023/2024 is £204,069.00.</p> <p>A full article breaking down the budget will be printed in the next Town Council Magazine for residents.</p> <p>Cllr Cornford informed members she felt the £10,000 set aside to research the possibility of a second children's play area would not be well received by residents and believed the money would be better spent on the existing recreation ground.</p> <p>The football teams who currently use the recreation ground football facilities have raised concerns over the poor condition of the pitch. They informed the Town Council although the Pavilion/Changing facilities was one of the best in the area the poor quality of the pitch have forced them to start looking for alternative grounds.</p> <p>ACTION: Finance Assistant to obtain quotes for spiking and rolling the pitch to improve quality and to put on the agenda for the next Full Council.</p>	
3614	<p>Elections Cllr Wallin joined the meeting (18.50).</p> <p>Elections are due to take place on Thursday 4th May 2023.</p> <p>In 2019 the cost of the elections was £4734.26 excluding VAT. The 2023 costs were expected to be more, estimated £6000.</p> <p>There was currently £7265 in ear marked reserves and £2000 outlined for elections in the 2023/2024 budget giving a total of £9265. Any monies left over after paying for the 2023 elections would be used to start saving for the next election.</p>	
3615	<p>Next Meeting The next meeting is 18th April 2023</p>	
3616	<p>Meeting Closed at 19.10</p>	

Signed..... 

Dated..... 18/4/23.....