



EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk: Samantha Heynes BA (Hons), FSLCC

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FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2026

Committee Members: Cllr Farren (Chair)
Cllr M Belsey (Vice Chair)
Cllr J Belsey (Town Mayor)
Cllr S Barnett
Cllr L Gibbs
Cllr I Gibson
Cllr E Godwin*
Cllr S Ody*
Cllr S Reeves*

In attendance: Town Clerk
Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs Godwin and Ody, which were accepted.

47. MINUTES

RESOLVED: To accept and approve the minutes of the last meeting dated 20th January 2026.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

49. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Food Disposal and Recycling Policy would be deferred to a future meeting.

The Town Clerk's appraisal had been completed today and the incremental increase was recommended as budgeted. The Clerk was also congratulated on completing the Community Governance BA (Hons) degree with a first class result.

Finally, a date change regarding agenda item 56 had been advised, however this would be discussed in further detail as part of that item.

50. TO RECEIVE THE LIST OF APPROVED PAYMENTS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2026

The account entries for the dates above were noted.

51. TOWN COUNCIL FINANCES – POSITION STATEMENT

The committee noted the position. No queries were raised, the Head of Finance was thanked for his comprehensive report.

52. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE REVISED BUDGET STRUCTURE ALIGNED WITH THE NEW COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

There would be a year of the 2025-26 budget not matching the 2026-27 budget due to the changes to the budget structure being made, as a result of the changes to align the budget with the new staff and committee structures. This would only be an issue for the 2026-27 financial year.

One cost centre would be disappearing from the report as it was being amalgamated with the Central Administration cost centre.

This item was noted.

53. TO REVIEW AND ADOPT THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

Food Disposal & Recycling Policy

This policy was deferred to a future meeting.

Investment & Borrowing Policy

A change had been made to the legal framework and legislation quoted within the policy.

It was clarified that any changes to investments would require approval by the F&GP committee before proceeding.

Internal Privacy Notice Policy

It was clarified that this would include WhatsApp messages.

RESOLVED: The committee approved these policies for adoption effective immediately.

54. DELEGATED DECISIONS

The Committee noted the following delegated decisions:

- UK Town of Culture Bid Consultant (£5,912.50)
- Portable SID Purchase (£3,754)

55. ACTION LIST

The actions list was reviewed and noted.

Confidential Business

Committee resolved to exclude the press, broadcast media and public (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) during consideration of the following confidential business to be conducted

56. TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT THE A&T COMMITTEE ON 24th MARCH 2026 REGARDING THE AUCTION OF ST MARGARET'S LOOP

Committee resolved to approve all recommendations made by the A&T Committee together with the revised auction date, with bidding opening on 15th June and closing on 17th June 2026. This was to remain aligned with Railway Paths as they would list their section for sale at the same auction.

There being no other business the Chair announced that Mayor Making would take place on **Thursday 14th May 2026**, with the next meeting of this Committee scheduled for **Thursday 25th June 2026** and ended the meeting at 19:35.

SIGNED:

CHAIRMAN