Broadstairs & St Peter's Town Council

BROADSTAIRS & ST PETER'S TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday 13 April 2026 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Pierremont Hall

Present: Councillors J Bright, Garner, Kemp, Leys, Orhan & Rusiecki (Chairman)
Town Clerk: Kirsty Holroyd

234. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies with reason were accepted from Cllrs Farooki, Jacobs and Roberts.

235. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bright declared a significant other interest in item 6 iv) 3 since she is a trustee of the Pavillion Café, the umbrella organisation for the Zone Youth Club.

236. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 December 2025.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

237. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF BROADSTAIRS AND ST PETER'S

A member of the public attended to comment on the reliance on digital media in everyday life. This can be considered an obstacle to some people engaging fully in the community and missing out on job and volunteering opportunities. The Chairman thanked him for his comments and assured him the Town Council will endeavour not to fall into this modern-day trap and provide all necessary documentation in hard copy as required.

238. BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

i) Members reviewed a summary of Council income and expenditure for 2025-26 by cost code. Members noted a surplus of £36,594 made up of additional income and larger than predicted underspend.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council consider in which reserve fund to place this additional sum.

ii) Members considered the effect of the end of year position on the budget forecasting for 2026-27.

RESOLVED: That certain budget headings which were overspent in 2025-26 will need to be carefully addressed when drafting the 2027-28 budget in October. These are training, licences, professional fees, business rates and staff costs.

iii) Members considered amending 2026-27 cost code budgets in light of the end of year position.

RESOLVED: That no amendments are necessary.

239. GRANTS 2026-27

i) Members received an update on grants already allocated.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

ii) Members undertook the annual review of the grant eligibility criteria and guidelines for applicants and noted that although they state "No grants or sponsorship will be awarded to individuals or projects where the applicant stands to gain financially", increasingly, as statutory funding for core costs decreases, organisations are looking to funders to pick up a certain percentage of their on costs as part of the project delivery.

RESOLVED:
ii) That consideration will be given to projects where a portion of the funds applied for will cover justifiable and reasonable expenditure for staff even if the applicant themselves is involved in delivering the project.

Members also noted the requirement for twelve months' worth of bank statements to be supplied with each application and considered whether this was onerous.

RESOLVED: that the request be reduced to the most recent three months' worth of bank statements.

iii) Members received and reviewed the monitoring requirements for successful applicants. The Town Clerk reported that the monitoring information offered on the completion of projects differs considerably in quality.

RESOLVED: that members are to receive each monitoring form electronically as it is received in the office.

iv) Members received and considered four new applications.

RESOLVED:

- **That £1706 be allocated to Grow Zone for equipment and tools for their community garden.**
- **That £6600 be allocated to Broadstairs Bowls Club for sponsorship of the annual tournament and continued improvements to the greens.**
- **That £12,1066.06 be allocated to the Zone Youth Club to fund two part-time youth workers.**

**Cllr Bright offered to leave the room but the chairman asked her to stay to answer questions about the project. Cllr Bright did not vote on this issue.*

- **That £2595 be allocated to Music4wellbeing for a community music event.**

240. RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY
Members received and considered the draft policy.

RECOMMENDATION: that the document is fit for purpose and can be recommended to Council.

241. INVESTMENT REVIEW
Members considered whether the Council's needs are being met by the current investment portfolio. The Town Clerk explained that the Nationwide account which holds the funds ringfenced for Phase III offers a reasonable rate of interest but, as a 95-day notice account, is not suitably accessible for when the project is up and running.

RESOLVED: that an appointment be booked with an adviser from CCLA which may be able to offer a suitable solution.

242. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - Monday 13 April 2026 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Pierremont Hall

Meeting closed at 19.53.

Signed ____________________________________ Date___________

draft