

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL
ON THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.00PM

Councillors: Councillor D Willey in the Chair

R J L Boase
F N E Boase

T Grattan-Kane
M Kenchington (Town Mayor)

M P Andrew

Officers: Miss P J Lavelle – Town Clerk

172. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Benyon.

173. Draft Budget 2025/26

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) that contained the draft 2025/26 Budget and the 2024/25 Schedule of Fees and Charges. The Town Clerk advised that employee related costs had been adjusted to allow for the impact of the increases to employers national insurance contributions announced in the Government budget. The Town Clerk further confirmed that a formula error on the forecast budget for employee related costs had also been corrected. Each budget section was then discussed and the Town Clerk answered Members' questions.

The Committee made the following amendments to the draft budget:-

- Employee Related Costs – it was agreed to remove the balance of the contingency fee following the Government's budget announcement;
- Insurance – it was agreed to increase this budget by £880 to allow for additional cover following an updated valuation for the Guildhall; and
- Bank Interest (Forecast Budget) – it was agreed that the forecast budget for bank interest be kept at a zero inflationary increase to allow for anticipated reduction of interest rates over future years.

Members then considered the creation of a budget to underwrite the production of the Discover Helston Magazine by Helston CIC which had been deferred by Full Council on 17th October 2024. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and

RECOMMENDED – that Council create a £5,000 Ear Marked Reserve to be used to underwrite the Discover Helston Magazine, if required, from 1st April 2025 and not create a new budget heading in 2025/26.

Members then considered the Schedule of Fees & Charges and it was agreed to make no changes for 2025/26.

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On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by the Chair, it was

RESOLVED – that this item be deferred to the November Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting for final consideration once the impact of the taxbase and second homes council tax premium were known.

Meeting closed at 7.56pm

Confirmed

Chair