

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**
FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
Held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD,**
BEXHILL-ON-SEA
On **Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 6:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Crotty, Cllr El, Cllr Huseyin, Cllr Peters, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: M Webber, Deputy Clerk; L Muhilathithan; One Videographer; Zero members of public.

00447 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

00448 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reason from Cllr Rustem.

00449 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Peters declared an interest in Item 7.

00450 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

00451 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the following meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee:

a) Wednesday 14th January 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 14th January 2026.

00452 GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

a) To receive bank reconciliation as of 31st January 2026.

Initial.....

It was **RESOLVED** to approve bank reconciliation as of 31st January 2026.

- b) To consider budget position as of 31st January 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve budget position as of 31st January 2026.

- c) To receive payment listing as of January 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment listing as of January 2026.

- d) To receive the balance sheet, including ear-marked reserves as of 31st January 2026.

Cllr Wilson proposed the motion to increase the amount of money being transferred into the CCLA account from £500,000 to £600,000.

It was **RESOLVED** to increase the amount of money being transferred into the CCLA account to £600,000.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the balance sheet, including ear-marked reserves as of 31st January 2026.

- e) To receive CCLA update. – This item was not discussed.

00453 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS (PREVIOUSLY ITEM 10)

It was **RESOLVED** to move the discussion of this item forward on the agenda due to its relation to the Grants Policy and grant applications.

- a) Cllr Peters

That the Town Council amends its Grant Policy to permit grant applications for events or activities scheduled to take place within the first three months of a new financial year to be submitted, considered, and approved during the final quarter of the preceding financial year, subject to the following conditions:

1. All standard grant criteria remain applicable, including submission of required evidence and documentation.
2. Funding for such applications, if approved, shall be allocated from the grant budget of the upcoming financial year.
3. Applications may be considered at any Finance & Audit Committee meeting held during the final quarter of the

preceding financial year, ensuring applicants have adequate opportunity to seek support without being disadvantaged by meeting schedules.

4. The prohibition on retrospective applications shall remain in force, except where an application has been submitted and approved in advance under this provision.

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 18:56pm.

Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 18:57pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to not approve the motion to amend the grant policy to permit grant applications for events or activities scheduled to take place within the first three months of a new financial year to be submitted, considered, and approved during the final quarter of the preceding financial year subject to conditions.

00454 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

a) To consider the following grants as per Appendix F:

- I. Bexhill Art Society - £2,476.

Cllr Winter proposed to grant Bexhill Art Society £1,000 instead of the requested £2,476.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant Bexhill Art Society £1,000.

- II. ESSPA - £8,000.

Cllr Winter proposed the motion to give a grant of £2,000 to ESSPA instead of the requested £8,000.

Cllr Wilson put forward a countermotion of £4,000. – This motion fell.

Cllr El put forward a countermotion of £1,000, to create fairness and consistency following the previous approval.

Cllr Winter removed his previous motion.

It was **RESOLVED** to give a grant of £1,000 to ESSPA.

- III. Bexhill Choral Society - £475.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant of £475.

- IV. 1st Sidley brownies - £400.

Initial.....

Cllr Wilson declared an interest in this applicant; therefore, will not be taking part in the vote.

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 19:46pm.

Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 19:47pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant of £400.

V. Bexhill Primary care Network (PCN) – £5,000

Cllr Peters declared an interest in this applicant; therefore, will not be taking part in this vote.

Cllr El proposed the motion to give Primary Care Network the opportunity to come to the next Finance and Audit Committee meeting and for the Deputy Clerk to remind them of our Policy.

It was **RESOLVED** not to approve the grant of £5,000.

VI. White Label CIC – £5,000

Cllr El proposed motion to amend the new Grants and Donations Policy to include if applications do not coincide with the policy requirements, that the application will not make it to the Committee meeting. To review policy as item in next agenda. To add this motion to the March agenda.

Cllr Wilson proposed motion to recommend that White Label CIC re-apply for a grant in May under the new Council Grants and Donations Policy.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend White Label CIC to re-apply for a grant in May under the new Grants and Donations Policy.

It was **RESOLVED** to not grant White Label CIC £5,000.

00455 TO REVIEW CIL POLICY FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

a) To review the Community Infrastructure Levy Policy for community groups.

It was noted that the Responsible Financial Officer recommends that the Committee amend the Community Infrastructure Levy

Policy to include “All CIL expenditure to be approved by Full Council”.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this discussion and for the Deputy Clerk to investigate which Committee this discussion should be held in.

00456 RECCOMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There was none.

00457 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

There was none.

00458 RISK REGISTER

a) To consider any new risks for future mitigation.

There was none.

00459 OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL INTERNAL CONTROL TASKS OF THE COUNCIL

January	Submit Precept to Rother District Council
February	Review Standing Orders/Financial Regs and policies for Full Council AGM, obtain three quotes for insurance policy renewal
March	Review annual financial risk assessment
April	Complete year end accounts and AGAR, produce annual report, insurance policy renews,
May	AGM – adoption of policies, internal audit, review asset register
June	Approval of AGAR, review internal controls, complete internal audit
July	Electors rights period, Annual VAT return
August	RFO to begin budget drafting
September	Committees prepare budget forecasts, F&GP review salary budgets
October	Committees prepare budget forecasts
November	F&A review committee forecasts and prepare budget for full council review
December	Full council approve annual budget

00460 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2026

All motions for the next meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee on 11th March 2026 must be received by the 28th February 2026.

The meeting was closed at 20:25pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

Initial.....