



Working for the Community in Rotherfield, Mark Cross,
Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2019 AT 19:30
IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM, ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL TN6 3LX**

PRESENT

Cllr. L. Henrick (Chair)
Cllr. R. Harris

Cllr. D. Hiles
Cllr. A. Martin

Cllr. A. Moore
Cllr. G. Watson-Smith

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr. J. Richardson

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85):

None.

b) Declaration of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda, and updates to members' register of interests.

Section 10 (2) c (vi) of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct provides dispensation regarding Councillors setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Cllr. Watson Smith joined the meeting at this point.

c) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 9th April 2019 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** that these be confirmed and adopted as a true record and they were signed by the Chair of the Committee.

d) Update regarding matters arising and action items from previous meetings.

Nothing to report.

2. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS

2020/21 Budget and Precept

a) Review budgets presented by the Council's Committees.

Draft budgets for the Council's Committees were reviewed at the meeting and the following figures calculated based on anticipated expenditure to the financial year end.

| BUDGET HEADING | AGREED 2020/21 TOTAL BUDGET £ | Less ESTIMATED UNDERSPEND 2019/20 £ | ADJUSTED TOTAL FOR FUNDING £ |
|--|--|--|---|
| Council Administration | £46300 | 0 | £46300 |
| Communications and Social Media | £7900 | 0 | £7900 |
| Capital Projects – Highways | £16500 | £16500 | 0 |
| Lighting | £17750 | £5000 | £12750 |
| Highways | £15800 | £3000 | £12800 |

Clerk: Trevor Thorpe, 82 Fermor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3BJ

Tel: 01892 664245. **Email:** clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk **Twitter** [@rotherfieldpc](https://twitter.com/rotherfieldpc) and on **Facebook**

| | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Capital Projects - Recreation and Burial | £12000 | £0 | £12000 |
| Recreation Ground and other open spaces | £13550 | £2500 | £11050 |
| Burial Grounds | £8800 | £3000 | £5800 |
| War Memorial | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| Surgery | £12000 | £0 | £12000 |
| TOTALS | £150600 | £30000 | £120600 |

The detailed draft budget may be viewed in the document accompanying the minutes.

b) Review agree and adopt combined Parish Council total budget.

It was **RESOLVED** that the figures above be approved and that they be presented to Full Council for it to consider their adoption.

c) Agree Precept for 2020/21 to be considered for final agreement by the Full Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the precept figure required is £120600 and that this figure be presented to Full Council to consider approval and submission to Wealden District Council.

Clerk advised that, assuming that the Provisional Council Tax Base figure for Rotherfield Parish provided by Wealden District Council is adopted unchanged, there would be a modest decrease in the Council Tax paid by Parishioners. Details of these figures may be viewed in the document accompanying these minutes.

Clerk reminded the meeting that the final approval of the Precept can only be made at a meeting of the Full Council. The deadline advised by Wealden District Council for receipt of the Parish Council's signed official precept notification is Friday 17th January. It was therefore agreed that the 7th January 2020 Planning and Building Committee meeting is to be redesignated as a Full Council meeting to permit a decision to be made. **CLERK** to note.

3. Urgent issues for noting or inclusion on future agenda.

- Clerk advised that the ESCC Contracts Team had finally approved our chosen contractor to undertake the "urban cut" of grass verges in the Village. The Contractor has been requested to proceed with this once weather conditions are suitable.
- Cllr. Watson Smith advised that at the recent Village Hall Committee meeting he had been asked for the Council's response to their concerns raised regarding the fitness classes that are conducted in the rear car park area. **CLERK** to add an item to the agenda of the January 21st Meeting of the Recreation and Burial Committee to agree a response.
- Cllrs. Watson Smith and Wickenden are currently replacing the fascia and guttering at the Surgery. Whilst undertaking this work they were approached by a Wealden Planning Officer inspecting the War Memorial and surrounding fencing, this in response to a request by a Parishioner. Whilst the Officer considered that the height and spacing of the railings differed from the "artists impression" which had been provided to Wealden they advised that the work was allowed under Permitted Development Rights.

4. Date of next meeting

Thursday 16th April 2020 in the Parish Council Room at Rotherfield Village Hall and starting at 19:30.

The Chair declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 20:50.

5. Public forum.

.....Chair.....Date

Clerk: Trevor Thorpe, 82 Fermor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3BJ

Tel: 01892 664245. **Email:** clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk **Twitter** [@rotherfieldpc](https://twitter.com/rotherfieldpc) and on **Facebook**